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The Chapters of Zechariah

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Zechariah

SECTION OUTLINE ONE (ZECHARIAH 1-6)

Zechariah encourages Judah's repentance, receives eight visions from God in one night, and is told how to reward Joshua (Judah's high priest).

I. JUDAH'S REPENTANCE (1:1-6)

A. In the past God's people have been chastened for their corruption (1:1-2).

B. Now God's people will be cleansed by their confession (1:3-6).

II. JEHOVAH'S REVELATIONS (1:7-6:8): The eight visions

A. First vision-the man among the myrtle trees (1:7-17): He is seated upon a red horse, accompanied by other horses and riders. Two questions are now asked and answered.

1. By the prophet (1:7-11)

a. The question (1:7-9a): "What are all those horses for?"

b. The answer (1:9b-11): They have been sent by the Lord to patrol the earth.

2. By the angel (1:12-17)

a. The question (1:12): "How long will it be until you again show mercy to them?"

b. The answer (1:13-17): God will indeed someday bless his people abundantly.

B. Second vision-the four horns and the four blacksmiths (1:18-21)

1. The four horns (1:18-19): Israel and Judah are scattered by these four world powers.

2. The four blacksmiths (1:20-21): God will use them to destroy the four horns.

C. Third vision-the man with the measuring line (2:1-13)

1. The plan to measure Jerusalem (2:1-3): How wide and long is it?

2. The promise to magnify Jerusalem (2:4-13)

a. Great crowds will live both within and outside its walls-in safety (2:4-7, 10-13).

b. Judah's enemies will be totally defeated (2:8-9).

D. Fourth vision-the cleansing and clothing of Jeshua (Joshua), Judah's high priest (3:1 -10)

1. The prejudice (3:1): Satan is seen in heaven, accusing Jeshua of many things.

2. The person (3:2): God himself now rebukes the Devil.

3. The purifying (3:3-5): Jeshua is cleansed from his sins and clothed in divine righteousness.

4. The promises (3:6-10)

a. To be a steward in God's building (3:6-7): Jeshua will be put in charge of God's Temple.

b. To be a symbol for the Branch of God (3:8-10): He will become a type of the Messiah himself, God's Branch and the Foundation Stone.

E. Fifth vision-the gold lampstand and the two olive trees (4:1-14)

1. The gold lampstand (4:1-2, 10)

a. The information (4:1-2): Zechariah sees a gold lampstand holding seven lamps, each supplied with olive oil from a reservoir at the top.

b. The interpretation (4:10): The seven lamps represent God's eyes that search all around the earth.

2. The two olive trees (4:3-9, 11-14)

a. The information (4:3): Zechariah sees two olive trees carved upon the lampstand, one on each side.

b. The interpretation (4:4-9, 11-14): The two olive trees represent God's two anointed servants who will, through divine power, complete the Temple building.

F. Sixth vision-the flying scroll (5:1-4)

1. The size (5:1-2): Zechariah sees a flying scroll, 30 feet long and 15 feet wide.

2. The symbol (5:3-4): This scroll represents God's curse upon every home in the land whose occupants use God's name in a false or blasphemous way.

G. Seventh vision-the woman in the basket (5:5-11)

1. The transgressions (5:5-8)
 - a. The scope (5:5-6): The basket contains the sins of all those living in Judah.
 - b. The symbol (5:7-8): A woman who represents the wickedness of the people sits inside the basket.
2. The transporters (5:9): He sees two women with wings like those of a stork.
3. The terminal point (5:10-11): The destination is Babylon, where a temple will be built to house the basket.

H. Eighth vision-the four chariots (6:1-8)

1. What he sees (6:1-3): Zechariah sees four chariots coming from between two bronze mountains, each pulled by a different team of colored horses.
2. What it symbolizes (6:4-8): The four heavenly spirits sent from God to do his work on earth.

III. JESHUA'S REWARD (6:9-15)

A. What Zechariah is to do (6:9-11): Collect the gifts of gold brought to Jerusalem by four Jewish exiles who arrive from Babylon and make a crown of gold for Jeshua the high priest, setting it upon his head.

B. Why Zechariah is to do it (6:12-15)

1. By this action the high priest represents the future reign of the Messiah over Israel (6:12-13).
2. By this action the four exiles represent the future return of the Jews to Israel (6:14-15).

SECTION OUTLINE TWO (ZECHARIAH 7-14)

Zechariah asks for clarification about God's law, predicts conquests in battle, and addresses the first and second comings of Christ.

I. THE CLARIFICATION (7:1-14; 8:9-19)

A. Judah's request (7:1-3): The people want to know if they should continue their traditional custom of fasting and mourning during the fifth month as they have done in the past.

B. Jehovah's reply (7:4-14; 8:9-19)

1. He chastens them for what they have done (7:4-7, 11-14).
 - a. Their hearts are insincere when they do observe the fifth-month fast (7:4-7).
 - b. They are proud and rebellious (7:11-12).
 - c. Their sin has led to their dispersion among the nations (7:13-14).
2. He challenges them to do what they must do now (7:8-10; 8:9-19).
 - a. Be honest, merciful, and kind (7:8-9).
 - b. Don't oppress the helpless (7:10).
 - c. Complete the Temple building, and you will be blessed (8:9-15).
 - d. Always tell the truth (8:16-18).
 - e. Turn the fifth-month fast into a godly celebration (8:19).

II. THE CONQUESTS (9:1-8, 11-13): These verses seem to predict the successful warfare of some Gentile pagans and Jewish patriots.

A. The Gentile pagans (9:1-8): Here is the record of the conquests of Alexander the Great in 333 B.C.

1. The destruction of Phoenicia, Syria, and Philistia (9:1-7)
2. The deliverance of Judah (9:8): Alexander does not destroy Jerusalem.

B. The Jewish patriots (9:11-13): This passage probably refers to the victory of the Maccabean Jews over the Syrians in 165 B.C.

III. THE COMINGS (8:1-8, 20-23; 9:9-10, 14-17; 10:1-14:21): Zechariah gives graphic details about the first and second comings of Christ.

A. The first coming (9:9; 11:4-14; 12:10; 13:7)

1. His role as a shepherd (11:4-7)
2. His triumphal entry (9:9)
3. His twofold rejection (11:8-14; 12:10; 13:7)
 - a. Israel rejects the Messiah (11:8, 12-13; 12:10; 13:7).
 - (1) He is hated (11:8).

- (2) He is betrayed (11:12-13).
 - (3) He is abandoned (13:7).
 - (4) He is crucified (12:10).
 - b. The Messiah rejects Israel (11:9-11, 14).
- B. The second coming** (8:1-8, 20-23; 9:10, 14-17; 10:1-11:3; 11:15-13:6, 8-9; 14:1-21)
1. Pre-appearance events (11:15-17; 12:1-8; 13:8-9; 14:1-2, 12-15)
 - a. The Antichrist's reign (11:15-17)
 - b. The Jewish remnant's survival (13:8-9)
 - c. The battle for Jerusalem (12:1-8; 14:1-2, 12-15)
 2. Appearance events (8:1-8, 20-23; 9:14-15; 10:4-5; 11:1-3; 12:9-14; 14:3-5)
 - a. Christ's return (14:4-5)
 - b. The Battle of Armageddon (9:14-15; 10:4-5; 11:1-3; 12:9; 14:3)
 - c. Israel's recognition of Christ (12:10-14)
 - d. Jerusalem's salvation (8:1-8, 20-23)
 3. Post-appearance events (9:10, 16-17; 10:1-3, 6-12; 13:1-6; 14:6-11, 16-21)
 - a. Unfaithful Israel's judgment (10:2-3)
 - b. Faithful Israel's regathering (10:8-12)
 - c. Israel's cleansing (13:1-6)
 - d. Jerusalem's elevation (14:10-11)
 - e. The lifting of nature's curse (10:1)
 - f. Wondrous changes in the heavens (14:6-7)
 - g. Living waters proceeding from Jerusalem to purify the land (14:8)
 - h. Christ's universal reign (9:10)
 - i. Universal joy (9:16-17; 10:6-7)
 - j. Universal worship (14:9, 16-19)
 - k. Universal holiness (14:20-21)