



# The Minor Prophets

**ZECHARIAH:** *“Prophet of Israel’s Comforting Words”*  
520—480 B.C.

## AUTHORSHIP AND DATE

The book is named after its prophetic author Zechariah (1:1). Zechariah dates his prophecies beginning with the second year of Darius (520 B.C.), two months after Haggai’s ministry began. His work seems to continue up to the introduction of Greece as the world power (9:13) which occurred about 480 B.C.

## PURPOSE OF ZECHARIAH

Zechariah’s prophecies were given to the people who had returned from Babylon. These people had already responded to Haggai’s message and had resumed the construction of the Temple. Now Zechariah ministered encouragement to them (cf. Ezra 5:2). The prophet told of God’s abundant future blessings on the nation. This filled the people with courage and hope.

## IMPORTANT DATA ABOUT ZECHARIAH

- Key word: The coming Messiah
- Key chapter: 14 – Messiah’s advent
- Key verses: 12:10; 14:1-4
- Key characters: Zechariah and the people of Israel
- Geography of Zechariah: Judah

## BACKGROUND

- ❖ Zechariah’s background
  - Zechariah lived in the same time period as Haggai, during the period of reconstruction of Jerusalem’s temple.
  - He was of a priestly background born unto Berechiah in Babylon, returning to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel (Neh. 12:14, 16).
  - He was the younger of the two prophets who preached to the remnant in Jerusalem.
- ❖ Content of book
  - Zechariah began his ministry about two months after Haggai spoke to the people about their neglect of the Temple.
  - His messages extended way beyond the local, historical setting being eschatological and universal in scope.
  - The central message is to show that all the promises to Israel’s kingdom are still yet to come and will be fulfilled in the Messianic kingdom.
  - Contains more Messianic prophecies than any other Old Testament book, except Isaiah.

## SUMMARY

Zechariah is often called the “Revelation” of the minor prophets. It speaks of the two varied comings of the Messiah, first in His role as suffering Messiah and then in His future glory as ruling Messiah. The scope of subject matter makes Zechariah fit the pattern of the “major prophets.” He speaks of the times of the Gentiles, the period of the great Tribulation, the coming of Israel’s Messiah, and the glorious days of the kingdom. To a people recently returned from captivity, who were powerless, these messages were messages of hope. God was not finished with them. They still had a future.

# OUTLINE

- I. Series of visions (1:1-8).**
  - A. Call to repentance (1:1-6)
  - B. The horses (1:7-17)
  - C. The horns and carpenters (1:18-21)
  - D. The measurer (2:1-13)
  - E. Cleansing of the priest (3:1-10)
  - F. Candlesticks (4:1-14)
  - G. The flying roll (5:1-4)
  - H. The flying ephah (5:5-11)
  - I. The flying chariots (6:1-8)
- II. Symbolic crowning of priest (6:9-15).**
- III. Problem concerning fasting (7).**
- IV. Promise of restoration (8).**
- V. Future of the Kingdom (9-11).**
  - A. Rejoicing of Jerusalem (9:1-17)
  - B. Restoration of Jerusalem (10:1-12)
  - C. Revelation to Jerusalem (11:1-17)
- VI. Future of the King (12-14).**
  - A. Punishment by Jerusalem (12:1-14)
  - B. Purification of Jerusalem (13:1-9)
  - C. Plague of Jerusalem's enemies (14:1-21)

## ZECHARIAH'S MESSAGE FOR TODAY: "THE KING IS COMING"

**LESSON: REJOICE!** (Sound like a modern day apostle Paul?)

Why rejoice? Because of the promises of God. Three-fold promise:

- I. Promise of \_\_\_\_\_ (Zech. 9-12)**
    - A. God's promise of \_\_\_\_\_ should not be confused with \_\_\_\_\_ (9:9 f).
    - B. God's promise of \_\_\_\_\_ is based upon a \_\_\_\_\_ (12:10).
  - II. Promise of \_\_\_\_\_ (Zech. 13)**
    - A. What had polluted the city? What had caused corruption? (13:2) \_\_\_\_\_
    - B. What fountain cleanses the pollution? (13:6-9) \_\_\_\_\_
  - III. Promise of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Zech. 14)**
    - A. Rulership of Christ will be \_\_\_\_\_ (14:16).
    - B. Rulership of Christ will be \_\_\_\_\_ (14:17-19).
    - C. Rulership of Christ will be \_\_\_\_\_ (14:20-21).
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