

The Minor Prophets

Lesson 9

Zechariah

Babylon conquered Judah and destroyed Jerusalem in 586 B.C. The surviving Jews were taken away into captivity in Babylon. During this exile, Zechariah was born in Babylon (Nehemiah 12:1). He was both a prophet and a priest, and when King Cyrus allowed about 50,000 Jews to return to rebuild Jerusalem about 536 B.C., Zechariah returned to Jerusalem. According to Ezra 3:8-13, the foundation of the Temple was laid two years later, but then the rebuilding was halted. In 520 B.C., God raised up the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the people to rebuild the Temple. Zechariah encouraged the people to spiritual renewal, and motivated them to rebuild the Temple by revealing God's plan for Israel's future.

1. What was God's message to Zechariah's generation concerning their forefathers (Zech 1:1-6)?
2. Zechariah had eight night visions from God in Zech 1:7 – 6:8. The essence of the visions can be found in the first one in Zech 1:8-17. What was the meaning according to the angel in Zech 1:11-17?
3. If Israel was to be restored, the Temple rebuilt, and Israel was to become a light to the world; how would it happen according to Zech 4:6?
4. Alexander the Great conquered the Middle East in 333 B.C., but left Jerusalem alone. In 519 B.C., what did Zechariah prophesy about Israel's enemies that came true in 333 B.C. (Zech 9:1-8, 13)?
5. In Zechariah 12-14, the prophet gives an oracle about Israel's role in the end times. What city and nation will come under siege by Gentile nations (Zech 12:1-3)?

6. Will God protect Jerusalem (Zech 12:4-9)? What prophecy of John 19:37 will take place at that final battle described in Zech 12:7-10?

7. If “a foundation will be opened” means cleansing by God, what will God do “in that day” in Jerusalem (Zech 13:1-2)?

8. Will the remnant of Israel be restored in that day and be called God’s people again (Zech 13:9)?

9. According to Zechariah 14:1-3, will many armies come to fight in the Middle East and almost take Jerusalem? Will Messiah the Conquering King arrive just in time at the Mt. of Olives, and bring the heavenly host with Him (14:4-5)?

10. What will be unique about that day concerning the glory of the Lord (Zech 14:7-9)? Compare this to Jesus’ teaching of His second coming in Matthew 24:29-31?