

ZECHARIAH

Conversional Version

1:¹The Eighth Month, Second Year of Darius

A Message from the LORD to the Prophet Zechariah Son of Berechiah Son of Iddo

A Call to Return to the LORD

²*"I was angry with your ancestors. ³So tell the people, 'The LORD of Hosts says, "Come back to me so I can come back to you. ⁴Don't be like your ancestors that former prophets told to come back from their sinful ways and deeds, but they didn't pay any attention. ⁵Where are those ancestors? Prophets don't live forever, ⁶but my message commanded through them did come to bear on your ancestors. As a result, they repented and said, 'The LORD of Hosts has dealt with us the way he intended, according to our ways and deeds.'"*""

Zech 1:1-6

⁷The Twenty-Fourth Day, Eleventh Month (Shebat), Second Year of Darius

A Message from the LORD to Zechariah

A Man Among the Myrtle Trees

- ⁸During the night I saw a man on a chestnut horse among some myrtle trees in a ravine. Behind him were chestnut, sorrel, and white horses and their riders. ⁹I said, "Sir, *what do those horses mean?*"
- The angel said, "I'll show you."
- ¹⁰The man *on the horse* among the myrtle trees said, "The LORD has sent them to patrol the earth."
- ¹¹They answered the angel of the LORD, who was standing among the myrtle trees, "We've patrolled the earth. It's peaceful and quiet."
- ¹²The angel asked, "LORD of Hosts, how long will you not have mercy on Jerusalem and the towns in Judah that you've been angry with these 70 years?"
- ¹³The LORD answered him with gracious, reassuring words.
- ¹⁴So the angel told me,
- "Declare that the LORD of Hosts says, 'I'm jealous for Jerusalem and Zion, ¹⁵but I'm angry with the nations that are at ease. While I was a little angry, they made the disaster worse. ¹⁶So I'll come back to Jerusalem with mercy. My Temple will be rebuilt there, and a measuring line will be stretched out over it for reconstructing it.'"*

¹⁷“Also say, ‘My towns will overflow with prosperity again. I’ll comfort Zion again and choose Jerusalem once more.’”
Zech 1:7-17

Four Horns and Four Blacksmiths

¹⁸Then I looked up and saw four horns. ¹⁹I asked the angel what they represented.
“The horns of the nations that scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.”

²⁰Then the LORD showed me four blacksmiths.

²¹I asked what they were coming to do.

“The four horns scattered Judah and humbled it. But these blacksmiths have come to hammer down and destroy the nations that lifted up their horns to scatter the people of Judah.”
Zech 1:18-21

A Man with a Measuring Line

²¹Then I saw a man holding a measuring line, and ²asked him where he was going.
“To measure how wide and long Jerusalem is.”

³The angel that was talking to me was leaving, and another angel met him ⁴and said,
“Run and tell that young man, ‘Jerusalem will be lived in like open country because of the number of people and livestock that’s in it. ⁵I’ll be a fire wall around it and the glory in it.

⁶“Flee from up north where I’ve scattered you to the four winds. ⁷Zion! Escape, you exiles in Babylon.’

⁸“It’s for glory that he has sent me against the nations that plundered you, because whoever touches you will be poking themselves in the eye. ⁹I’ll raise my fist over them so their slaves will plunder them. You’ll know the LORD of Hosts has sent me.

¹⁰“Sing and be happy, Zion, because I’m coming to live among you. ¹¹Many nations will join the LORD then and become my people. I’ll live among you, and you’ll know the LORD of Hosts has sent me to you. ¹²He’ll own Judah as his portion in the holy land and choose Jerusalem again.’”

¹³Be silent in his presence, all you nations; he has risen up to take action from the holy place where he lives.
Zech 2:1-13

The Cleansing of Joshua the High Priest

³¹Then he showed me Joshua/Jeshua the high priest standing in front of the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing to his right to accuse him. ²The LORD told Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, Satan! I who chose Jerusalem reject your accusations! Isn’t this man a brand snatched out of the fire?”

³Joshua's clothes were dirty, ⁴so the angel told the ones standing there, "Change his dirty clothes." "I've taken your sinfulness off so I can dress you up with festive robes."

⁵I said, "Have them put a clean turban on him too." So they dressed him up while the angel of the LORD stood by. Zech 3:1-5

⁶The angel charged Joshua,

⁷"The LORD of Hosts says, 'If you follow me and do your service, you'll have charge of my Temple and courts. I'll let you have free access along with the ones that are standing here. ⁸Listen, Joshua, you and your friends sitting in front of you are symbols, because I'm going to bring in my servant the Branch. ⁹Look at the stone I've put in front of Joshua, a single stone with seven facets. I'll engrave an inscription on it and remove the sinfulness of the land in one day. ¹⁰At that time, each one of you will invite your friend to sit under your vine and fig tree.'"

Zech 3:6-10

A Lampstand and Two Olive Trees

^{4:1}The angel came back and brought me to as if I'd been asleep. ²He asked me what I saw.

"A gold lampstand with its bowl of oil on top, as well as its seven lamps with one spout apiece. ³I see an olive tree on each side of it. ⁴What do they mean, Sir?"

⁵"Don't you know?"

"No."

⁶"This is what the LORD tells Zerubbabel, 'Not by force, not by power, but by my Spirit. ⁷Not even a big mountain will be able to get in your way. You'll set the cap stone for the Temple amid shouts of "God bless it!! God bless it!"'"

Zech 4:1-7

⁸A Message from the LORD to Me

⁹"Zerubbabel has laid the foundation for the Temple, and he'll finish it. Then you'll know the LORD of Hosts is the One that sent me to you^{pl}.

¹⁰Whoever has been disappointed during the time of small beginnings will be happy when they see Zerubbabel holding a plumb line. These seven lamps represent the LORD's eyes that scan back and forth over the world."

¹¹I asked,

"What do the two olive trees beside the lampstand represent?"

¹²What do the two olive branches represent beside the two gold tubes that drain out the golden oil?"

¹³"You don't know?"

“No, Sir.”

¹⁴*“They represent the two anointed ones that stand beside the Lord of the whole world.”*

Zech 4:8-14

A Flying Scroll

^{5:1}Then I looked up and saw a flying scroll.

²He said, *“What do you see?”*

“A flying scroll, 15 by 30ft.”

³He told me,

“It contains the words of the curse that’s over the whole world. Everyone that steals will be erased from one side. Everyone that swears falsely will be erased from the other. ⁴The LORD of Hosts will send the curse out to the thief’s house and to the house of the one that swears falsely by his name. The curse will remain there all night till it consumes its timbers and stones.”

Zech 5:1-4

A Woman in a Basket

⁵The angel came forward and said, *“Look at what’s coming.”*

⁶I said, *“What is it?”*

“A basket ^{ephah} for measuring grain. It’s filled with the sins of everybody in the land ⁷[a lead cover was lifted off of it], and that’s a woman sitting inside it ⁸named Wickedness!” He shoved her down into the ephah and put the lead lid back on it. ⁹I saw two women flying toward us with wings like a stork. They took the ephah up in the air.

¹⁰I asked the angel where they were taking it.

¹¹*“To Shinar to build a temple for it. When it’s ready, they’ll set the ephah there on its own pedestal.”*

Zech 5:5-11

Four Chariots

^{6:1}I looked again and saw four chariots coming out from between two bronze mountains.

²Chestnut horses were pulling the first chariot, black horses the second, ³white horses the third, and powerful dappled-gray horses the fourth.

⁴I asked the angel, *“What are they, Sir?”*

⁵*“They’re the four spirits of heaven going out from the Lord of the whole world. ⁶One chariot is going north with the black horses; after them the white horses are going west. The dappled-gray horses are going south.*

⁷*Those powerful horses went out, chomping at the bit to patrol the world.”*

He said, *“Go on and patrol it.”* So they did.

⁸Then he shouted to me, *“Look, the ones going north have appeased my anger there.”*

Zech 6:1-8

⁹A Message from the LORD to Me

The Crowning of Joshua

¹⁰*“Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah will bring an offering of silver and gold from the exiles in Babylon. The same day, go to the house of Josiah son of Zephaniah to meet them. ¹¹Make a crown out of the silver and gold, and put it on Joshua/Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. ¹²Tell him, ‘The LORD of Hosts says a man named Branch will “branch out” from where he is and build the Temple, ¹³bear the honor, and rule from his throne. He’ll also be a priest on his throne, and his combined roles will work together.’ ¹⁴The crown will serve as a memorial to Heldai, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Josiah in the LORD’s Temple. ¹⁵People from a long way off will come to rebuild the Temple.”*

When these things come about, they’ll assure you that the LORD of Hosts has sent me. They will all happen if you faithfully obey him.

Zech 6:9-15

7:1The Fourth Day, Ninth Month (Chislev), Fourth Year of King Darius

A Message from the LORD to Zechariah

A Call for Justice and Mercy, Not Fasting

²The people in Bethel had sent Sharezer, Regem-melech, and their men to ask for the LORD’s blessing. ³They spoke to the priests in the LORD’s Temple and to the prophets,

“Should we keep mourning and fasting in the fifth month like we’ve done all these years?”

⁴A Message from the LORD to Me

⁵*“Tell the priests and people in the land, ‘When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months those 70 years, were you really fasting for me? ⁶And now when you eat and drink, aren’t you eating and drinking for yourselves? ⁷Isn’t that the same message the LORD delivered by the former prophets to the people in Jerusalem when it and its towns were prospering, and people were living in the Negev and western foothills?’”*

Zech 7:1-7

⁸A Message from the LORD to Zechariah

⁹“The LORD of Hosts says, ‘Judge fairly, practice kindness and mercy with each other. ¹⁰Don’t oppress widows and orphans, foreigners or poor people. Don’t plot against one another.’ ¹¹But your ancestors refused to pay attention, turned a stubborn shoulder, and covered their ears. ¹²They hardened their hearts like flint so they couldn’t hear the Law and what Yahveh had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. That’s why he was so angry with them. ¹³Just as he called and they wouldn’t listen, so they called and he wouldn’t listen. ¹⁴With a tornado he scattered them throughout foreign nations. The land they left lay so desolate nobody traveled through it. They’d turned their pleasant land into a wasteland.”

Zech 7:8-14

8:¹A Message from the LORD

Promised Blessings for Jerusalem

²“The LORD of Hosts says, ‘I’m jealous for Zion. ³I’ll come back to live in Jerusalem, and it’ll be called The City of Truth. My mountain will be called The Holy Mount. ⁴Old men and women will sit in its streets again with staffs in hand because they’re old. ⁵Boys and girls will play in the streets. ⁶If that sounds incredible to the remnant that’s left, does that make it incredible for me? ⁷I’m going to save my people from lands east and west ⁸and bring them back to live here. They’ll be my people, and I’ll be their God, faithful and just.’

Zech 8:1-8

⁹“Be strong, you that are listening to this message from the prophets who spoke when the foundation of my Temple was being laid so it could be completely rebuilt. ¹⁰Before then there weren’t any jobs. Because criminals were everywhere, travelers weren’t safe; everybody was working against everybody else. ¹¹But I won’t treat the remnant like that now. ¹²Their descendants will have peace, the grapevines will bear fruit, the ground will grow produce, the sky will drop dew. The remnant will inherit those things. ¹³Just as you were a curse among the nations, Judah and Israel, so I’ll save you to become a blessing. Don’t be afraid; be strong.

¹⁴“Just as I planned to punish you when your ancestors were so offensive to me and I didn’t hold back, ¹⁵so now I intend to treat Jerusalem and Judah well. Don’t be afraid! ¹⁶To have peace around you, tell the truth and judge honestly. ¹⁷Don’t make plots or commit perjury. I despise things like that.”

Zech 8:9-17

¹⁸A Message from the LORD to Me

¹⁹“The LORD of Hosts says, ‘The fasts in the fourth, fifth, seventh, and tenth months will be a joy for Judah; so love honesty and peace. ²⁰People from cities all

around will attend. ²¹One city will go to another one and say, “Let’s travel together to look up to the LORD and ask for his blessing.”

“All right.”

²²So, many nations and powerful countries will look up to me in Jerusalem and ask for my blessing. ²³Ten men from different languages will clutch one Jew’s cloak and ask, “Can we go along? We’ve heard that God is with you.””

Zech 8:18-23

9:¹ A Message from the LORD Against the Land of Hadrach [*Aram*]

The message from the LORD is against Damascus—for the eyes of all people, including the tribes of Israel, are on the LORD—

²against Hamath, which borders it,
and against Tyre and Sidon, though they’re so very wise.

³Tyre built a fortress,
piled up silver like dust
and gold like dirt on the streets.

⁴The LORD will confiscate its possessions,
throw its wealth into the sea,
and burn it down.

⁵Ashkelon will see it and be afraid.
Gaza will writhe in anguish;
Ekron, too, because it’s lost hope;
Gaza won’t have a king;
Ashkelon will be empty.

⁶Ashdod will house a mongrel race;
I’ll destroy the Philistines’ pride.

⁷I’ll remove the blood from their mouths
and the disgusting things from between their teeth.

They’ll be a remnant for our God,
like a clan in Judah;

Ekron will be like Jebusites.

Zech 9:1-7

⁸I’ll camp around my Temple to protect it
so *armies* can’t walk all over my people;
oppressors won’t run over them anymore
because I’m watching.

Zion’s Coming King

⁹Celebrate, Zion!

Shout, Jerusalem!
 Your king is coming to you,
 just and able to save,
 humble and riding on a donkey,
 on a colt, a donkey's foal.

¹⁰I'll get rid of chariots in Ephraim,
 warhorses in Jerusalem,
 and the bow used in battle.

I'll offer peace to the nations
 and rule from sea to sea,
 from the *Euphrates* River to the ends of the earth. **Zech 9:8-10**

¹¹Because of my covenant with you, sealed with blood,
 I've freed your prisoners from the dry cistern.

¹²Come back to the fortress, all you prisoners that still have hope;
 I promise to restore you double today.

¹³I'll bend Judah like my bow;
 Ephraim will be my arrow.

I'll stir up Zion against Greece
 and wield you like a sword.

¹⁴The LORD will appear above them;
 his arrows will shoot like lightning.

He'll blow the bugle
 and march in the windstorm from the south. **Zech 9:11-14**

¹⁵The LORD of Hosts will defend *his people*;
 they'll trample the stone slingers.

They'll drink *their blood*^{lx} and be boisterous as with wine,
 filled like a *sacrificial* basin,
 drenched like the horns on the altar.

¹⁶The LORD their God will save them then

⁹Celebrate, Zion!
 Shout, Jerusalem!

Your king is coming to you,
 just and able to save,
 humble and riding on a donkey,
 on a colt, a donkey's foal.

¹⁰I'll get rid of chariots in Ephraim,
 warhorses in Jerusalem,
 and the bow used in battle.

I'll offer peace to the nations

⁷*Ephraim will become a powerful man
and be happy as if from wine.
His children will see it and be happy too,
and celebrate in the LORD.* **Zech 10:1-7**

⁸*I'll whistle for them to gather
because I've redeemed them;
there'll be as many of them as before.*

⁹*Though I scattered them among the nations,
they'll remember me in far countries,
survive with their children,
and return.*

¹⁰*I'll bring them back from Egypt and Assyria
and settle them in Gilead and Lebanon
till they take up the whole area.*

¹¹*I'll escort them through the distressing Red Sea
and hold back its waves;
I'll completely dry up the Nile,
crush Assyria's pride,
and end Egypt's rule.*

¹²*I'll make my people strong,
and they'll follow me."* **Zech 10:8-12**

11:¹*Open your doors, Lebanon,
so fire can consume your cedar forests.*

²*Wail, cypress trees, for the fallen cedars;
the stately trees have burned up.*

*Wail, oaks of Bashan;
the thick woodland has been cut down.*

³*The shepherds wail
because their good pasture's gone.*

*The young lions roar
because the jungle by the Jordan is decimated.* **Zech 11:1-3**

Good and Bad Shepherds

⁴*The LORD my God says,
"Pasture the flock that's doomed to slaughter. ⁵The buyers butcher them
without remorse. The sellers say, 'Praise the LORD, I'm rich!' Their own
shepherds don't care about them! ⁶I won't have mercy on people like that.*

I'll let them fall into each other's hands and the hands of their king. They'll ruin the land, and I won't protect it."

Zech 11:4-6

⁷So I began pasturing the flock that was doomed to slaughter by the ones that trafficked in sheep. I took two staffs; I called one Favor and the other Unity, and I tended the flock *with them*.

⁸I fired three *worthless* shepherds in one month.

I also lost patience with *the sheep*, and they lost interest in me. ⁹I told them,

"I won't pasture you anymore.

What's to die will die;

what's to be destroyed will be destroyed.

The rest will eat one another."

¹⁰The staff I called Favor I cut in pieces to demonstrate that I was breaking the covenant I'd made with all the nations. ¹¹That day, the ones that trafficked in sheep realized the LORD was acting out a message through me. ¹²I told them, *"If you want, pay me; if not, keep it!"* So they weighed out 12 oz ^{30 shekels} of silver to pay me. ¹³The LORD told me, *"Throw them to the potter, that grand value they put on me!"* So I threw them to the potter in the LORD's Temple. ¹⁴Then I cut in pieces the staff I called Unity to demonstrate that I was breaking the alliance between Judah and Israel.

Zech 11:7-14

¹⁵The LORD told me,

"Again, dress up like a worthless shepherd. ¹⁶I'm going to show the land a picture of a shepherd that won't take care of the dying, look for the strays, heal the injured, or feed the healthy. He'll eat the healthy ones and tear off their hoofs.

¹⁷*"Misfortune awaits the worthless shepherd
that deserts the flock!*

*A sword will cut his arm
and poke out his right eye!*

*His arm will wither,
and his right eye will go blind."*

Zech 11:15-17

12:¹A Message from the LORD About Israel

Future Destruction of Jerusalem's Enemies

This is what the LORD says who stretched out the sky, laid earth's foundation, and formed the human spirit:

²*"I'm going to make Jerusalem a cup that makes every nation stagger who lays siege to Jerusalem and Judah. ³I'll make Jerusalem a heavy rock; any nation that tries to pick it up will rupture itself. When nations surround it, ⁴I'll make their horses bolt and their riders panic, but I'll watch over Judah as I strike those*

enemies' horses blind. ⁵The clans in Judah will realize that the residents of Jerusalem have strong protection from the LORD of Hosts their God.' **Zech 12:1-5**

⁶"At that time, I'll make the clans in Judah like a fire pot in a woodpile, a torch among bundles of grain. They'll consume the nations around them while Jerusalem stays safe. ⁷The LORD will save the people in Judah first so David's royal line and Jerusalem won't have greater glory than the rest of Judah. ⁸The weakest among the people in Jerusalem will be as strong as David, and his descendants will lead them out like God, like the angel of the LORD. ⁹I'll destroy any nation that attacks Jerusalem. **Zech 12:6-9**

The One They Have Pierced

¹⁰"I'll pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on David's family and the people in Jerusalem so they'll look at me that they've speared. They'll mourn for me like people mourn for an only son or a firstborn son. ¹¹There'll be extreme mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning for Hadad-rimmon on the Plain of Megiddo. ¹²Each clan in Israel will mourn by itself, husbands and wives separately: the clans of Nathan, ¹³Levi, the Shimeites, and ¹⁴the rest. **Zech 12:10-14**

The Cleansing Fountain

13:¹ "Then a fountain will spring up for David's house and the people in Jerusalem, a fountain for cleansing sin and impurity. ²I'll get rid of the idols in Israel; they'll fade from memory. I'll remove false prophets and unclean spirits. ³If anybody still tries to make up their own prophecy, their own parents will say, 'You've lied in the LORD's name!' and they'll run them through. ⁴People will be averse to claiming they've had visions; they won't put on a prophet's hairy robe to create impressions. ⁵They'll say, 'I'm not a prophet; I plow ground because a man sold me as a slave when I was a kid.' ⁶If somebody asks him, 'Where did those scars come from around your wrists?' he'll say, 'From wounds at "a friend's" house!' **Zech 13:16**

The Shepherd Struck, the Sheep Scattered

⁷Wake up, sword, against my shepherd,
my associate;
strike the shepherd,
scatter the sheep,
and turn against the lambs.
⁸In the whole land, two parts will perish,
but the third will survive;

*⁹I'll bring that third part through the fire,
refine them like silver,
purify them like gold.
They'll call on me, and I'll answer.
I'll say, 'They're my people';
they'll say, 'The LORD's our God.'"*

Zech 13:7-9

The LORD Will Rule the World

14:¹The LORD will bring a time when nations will plunder you right in front of you. ²He'll gather them against Jerusalem and capture it. The houses will be looted and the women raped; half the people will be exiled and the rest abandoned among the ruins.

³But then the LORD will go out and fight them. ⁴His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem. The mountain will split apart east to west, half moving north and half moving south with a wide valley between. ⁵You'll escape by that valley, which will reach as far as Azal. You'll flee like you did from the earthquake when Uzziah reigned in Judah. Then the LORD my God will come with his holy ones! ⁶There won't be any cold or frost, ⁷a unique day known *only* to the LORD, without day or night; there'll be light in the evening. ⁸At that time, water will pour out of Jerusalem year around, half to the Dead Sea and half to the Mediterranean.

⁹The LORD will become king of the whole world, *the only one*. ¹⁰The land from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem will become a *large* plain. But Jerusalem will rise on its site from Benjamin's Gate to the First Gate to the Corner Gate, from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses. ¹¹People will live in Jerusalem safely because its curse will be gone. **Zech 14:1-11**

¹²The LORD will use a plague to strike the nations that attacked Jerusalem. Their flesh will rot while they're standing; their eyes will decay in their sockets; their tongues will mold in their mouths. ¹³The LORD will throw them into a panic, and they'll attack one another in hand-to-hand combat. ¹⁴Judah will fight at Jerusalem and gather wealth from surrounding nations—lots of gold, silver, and clothing. ¹⁵There'll also be a plague on the horses, mules, camels, donkeys, and cattle in those *enemies'* camps.

¹⁶Any nation that attacked Jerusalem and survived the plague, will go up every year to worship the King, the LORD of Hosts, and celebrate the Festival of Booths. ¹⁷⁻¹⁸It won't rain for any family in Egypt or elsewhere who won't go up to that celebration. [¹⁹] ²⁰Even the bells on their horses will bear the inscription "Holy to the LORD." Cooking pots in his Temple will be as sacred as bowls beside the altar. ²¹Every cooking pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be sacred to him, so everybody that sacrifices can boil meat in them from the sacrifices. There won't be any Canaanites anymore in the Temple of the LORD of Hosts. **Zech 14:12-20**