

Zechariah

chp. 1

(Read verse 1) Zechariah begins just a couple months after the beginning of Haggai.

(Read verses 2-6) In these verses, God is reminding the people of the actions of their ancestors & the punishment they received as a result. Why do you think God was reminding them of this?

It served as a warning as well as a call to action. The time for punishment & God's anger is passed. God is calling the people to turn back to Him & begin the restoration process of rebuilding the temple.

(Read verse 7) Zechariah is about to have a series of 8 visions.

(Read verses 8-17) First Vision

What is the role & horses behind the angel?

They observed the state of the earth & reported back to the angel.

The angel is brought back a report of the world being at peace, yet the angel reacts as though he has been given bad news. The reason for this is that the people have been waiting for their messiah, but he will not come while the land is at peace. (Isa 6:11)

In response, God delivers a message of restoration & prosperity for Judah.

(Read verses 18-21) Second Vision

Next, Zechariah is shown a vision of 4 horns. The horns represent the powerful nations of the region & the earth. Horns are frequently used in the Bible to represent power. Having 4

horns present likely implies a global scope (such as the 4 corners of the earth, N.S.E.W., etc.).

What is the role of the craftsmen?

When any of the horns rise up against Judah, the craftsmen will stop them & protect Judah. This message would likely have given the people confidence to continue with the rebuilding of the temple.

Chp. 2 (Read verses 1-5) Third Vision

Why is the man measuring the city?

Measuring is the first step of the building process. Once again we see the desire of God for the temple, & Jerusalem, to be rebuilt. God is going to fill the city with glory & surround it with protection.

(Read verses 6-13) Why is God calling for His people to flee from the north?

The nations that exiled the Israelites were from the north.

By calling to Zion, God is not only addressing those in Judah, but all of His people who had been scattered to other nations.

In verse 11, we see God's plan for the gentiles to become part of God's people.

4th Vision

Chp. 3 (Read verses 1-10) Why is Satan present at the ceremony for Joshua?

Just like with Job, he is there to challenge Joshua's righteousness.

The man being a burning stick snatched from the fire refers to those who survived God's punishment of the exile.

The ceremony of changing Joshua's clothes is symbolic of the physical cleansing & moral purification expected of a priest.

What is the symbolism spoken of in verse 8?

The Messiah

chp. 4 (Read verses 1-7) Fifth Vision

In Haggai, we read that Zerubbabel would become like God's signet ring. Here, we see the imagery of God's never ending supply of His people's needs. What does the message to Zerubbabel mean?

Do not place your faith in anything physical. Your success only comes through my spirit.

(Read verses 8-14) What is the significance of Zerubbabel completing the temple?

It was thought to be a task too difficult to complete in a generation. If Zerubbabel is there to complete the task, it is evidence of God's influence & blessing over the rebuilding.

The 2 olive branches represent Zerubbabel & Joshua, with God's spirit pouring into them abundantly.

chp. 5 (Read verses 1-4) Sixth Vision

What is the purpose of the scroll being sent out? (Deut 5:11)

God is holding those with guilt accountable for their actions &, by doing so, cleansing His people.

The size of the scroll is quite large, roughly 30' X 15'. This is the same size as the vestibule of the temple in 1 Kings 6:3.

The 2 cherubim in the temple were also 10 cubits tall &, from the outermost wing of one to the outermost wing of the other, 20 cubits wide.

(Read verses 5-11) Seventh Vision

What does the basket represent?

The iniquity of the people.

What does the woman represent?

She is a symbolic manifestation of the wicked, the covenant breakers.

Why does the angel push her back inside the basket?

By doing so, he is confining wickedness within it.

Why would it be good news for this basket to be leaving & going toward Babylon?

This signals the removal of wickedness from the Israelite community. The guilt & wickedness that sent them into exile is gone & will not hinder them from rebuilding the temple.

(Read verses 1-8) Eighth Vision

Chp. 6

We again have horses & chariots that are going about the earth. 4 chariots for 4 directions to travel in.

But wait! The 4th chariot never went anywhere. None of the chariots ever went east. Why do you think it did not go east?

One theory is that it stayed in Jerusalem at the site of the temple.

Another theory is that God is in the direction of the east. Therefore there is no need for a chariot to ride in that direction.

Why is it significant that His Spirit has been given rest in the north?

This was the direction from which all trouble, God's punishment, had come.