

***Cover to Cover: From Genesis to Maps***  
**Sermon # 38– “Zechariah”**  
**August 3, 2008**

***Zechariah: The Man***

The name Zechariah means the “*Lord has remembered*.” Zechariah, along with Haggai and Malachi, were post-exilic prophets. All three spoke to encourage the remnant that had returned to Jerusalem following their nation’s long captivity in Babylon. Like Haggai, Zechariah was concerned with rebuilding the temple, but his message extended far beyond that effort. Zechariah provided additional motivation to the people by revealing to them God’s plans for the future.

***Zechariah: The Times***

After a 16 year delay, the reconstruction of the temple in Jerusalem was resumed in 520 BC shortly after Haggai’s first sermon to the remnant. Zechariah’s prophetic ministry began soon thereafter and probably continued beyond the completion of the temple in 515 BC.

***Zechariah: The Message***

The Book of Zechariah contains 8 symbolic visions, 4 explanatory messages and 2 messianic oracles. One oft-quoted Bible scholar has called Zechariah “the most messianic, the most truly apocalyptic and eschatological of all the writings of the Old Testament.” More than 40 different citations or allusions to Zechariah’s prophecies appear in the New Testament.

***The Book of Zechariah: An Outline***

**1. A Call to Repentance. 1:1-6**

**2. Eight Symbolic Visions. 1:7-6:15.**

- Vision # 1: The rider of the red horse: God has not forgotten Jerusalem (1:7-17).
- Vision # 2: The four horns and four craftsmen: God will destroy her enemies (1:18-21).
- Vision # 3: The man with the measuring line: Jerusalem will be restored (Chapter 2).

- Vision # 4: Clean garments for the high priest: The nation will be cleansed (Chapter 3).
- Vision # 5: The gold lampstand and the two olive trees: The empowerment that comes from God's Spirit is essential (Chapter 4).
- Vision # 6: The flying scroll: Sin will be judged in the land (5:1-4).
- Vision # 7: The woman in a measuring basket: The idolatrous practices that God's people acquired from the Babylonians will be purged (5:5-11).
- Vision # 8: The four chariots: God is in control (6:1-8).
- Conclusion: A symbolic coronation: There will be a future Messiah who is both Priest and King. (6:9-15).

### **3. Four Explanatory Messages. Chapter 7 & 8**

- Questions about fasting. 7:1-3.
- Message # 1: A message of rebuke (7:4-7)
- Message # 2: A message of repentance (7:8-14)
- Message # 3: A message of restoration (8:1-17)
- Message # 4: A message of rejoicing (8:18-23)

### **4. Two Messianic Oracles. Lots of futuristic End Times imagery mixed in here. Difficult to interpret. Chapters 9-14**

- Oracle # 1: The anointed Shepherd-King will be rejected: The first coming of Christ. Chapters 9-11
- Oracle # 2: The rejected Shepherd-King will return to reign: The second coming of Christ. Chapters 12-14