

# JUDGMENT, SALVATION, AND HOPE

The Message of the Minor Prophets

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Zechariah: *“The Lord will be king over the whole earth”*



# **Zechariah 1:1-3**

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In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo: <sup>2</sup> “The Lord was very angry with your ancestors. <sup>3</sup> Therefore tell the people: This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Return to me,’ declares the Lord Almighty, ‘and I will return to you,’ says the Lord Almighty.

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# The Structure of Zechariah

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## Chapters 1-6

### **Visions**

*A series of visions intended to encourage the post-exilic people of God.*

## Chapters 7-8

### **Exhortations**

*Calls to exercise justice and mercy and encourages them with promises of future blessing.*

## Chapters 9-14

### **Promises**

*Two prophetic oracles that focus on overcoming Israel's enemies and establishing God's kingdom.*

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REDEMPTION,  
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# Outline

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1. The Visions of the Prophet
2. The Rejection of the Shepherd
3. The Coming of the Kingdom

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# 1. The Visions of the Prophet

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Zechariah 1:7–6:8

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# **Zechariah 1:7-17**

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On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, the month of Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo. <sup>8</sup> During the night I had a vision, and there before me was a man mounted on a red horse. He was standing among the myrtle trees in a ravine. Behind him were red, brown and white horses.

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## **Zechariah 1:7-17**

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<sup>9</sup> I asked, “What are these, my lord?” The angel who was talking with me answered, “I will show you what they are.” <sup>10</sup> Then the man standing among the myrtle trees explained, “They are the ones the Lord has sent to go throughout the earth.” <sup>11</sup> And they reported to the angel of the Lord who was standing among the myrtle trees, “We have gone throughout the earth and found the whole world at rest and in peace.”

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# **Zechariah 1:7-17**

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<sup>12</sup> Then the angel of the Lord said, “Lord Almighty, how long will you withhold mercy from Jerusalem and from the towns of Judah, which you have been angry with these seventy years?” <sup>13</sup> So the Lord spoke kind and comforting words to the angel who talked with me. <sup>14</sup> Then the angel who was speaking to me said, “Proclaim this word: This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘I am very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion,

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# **Zechariah 1:7-17**

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<sup>15</sup> and I am very angry with the nations that feel secure. I was only a little angry, but they went too far with the punishment.’ <sup>16</sup> “Therefore this is what the Lord says: ‘I will return to Jerusalem with mercy, and there my house will be rebuilt. And the measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem,’ declares the Lord Almighty.

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# Zechariah 1:7-17

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<sup>17</sup> “Proclaim further: This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘My towns will again overflow with prosperity, and the Lord will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem.’”

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# 1. The Visions of the Prophet

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## Explanation

- Zechariah's visions are highly symbolic forms of divine communication intended to convey reassuring truth to God's disheartened & discouraged people

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**1:7-17**

Four Horsemen = Yahweh's promise of prosperity

**1:18-21**

Four Horns = Yahweh's promise of justice

**2:1-13**

Measuring Line = Yahweh's promise of his presence

**3:1-10**

Priest with Filthy Clothes = Yahweh's promise of cleansing

**4:1-14**

Lampstand & Olive Trees = Yahweh's promise of his Spirit

**5:1-11**

Flying Scroll & Woman in Basket = Yahweh's promise of judgment

**6:1-8**

Four Chariots = Yahweh's promise of triumph



# 1. The Visions of the Prophet

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# 1. The Visions of the Prophet

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## Application

- Whatever you are going through right now, turn to the Lord and trust the promises of his Word.

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Your extremity is God's opportunity. The difficulty all along has been to get to the end of you; for when a man gets to the end of himself, he has reached the beginning of God's working.

—Charles Spurgeon

*(from his sermon "Man's Extremity, God's Opportunity")*

# 1. The Visions of the Prophet

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## Application

- Whatever you are going through right now, turn to the Lord and trust the promises of his Word

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## 2. The Rejection of the Shepherd

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Zechariah 10:3; 11:4-17; 13:7-9

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# **Zechariah 10:3**

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My anger burns against the shepherds, and I will punish the leaders; for the Lord Almighty will care for his flock, the people of Judah, and make them like a proud horse in battle.

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## Zechariah 13:7-9

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“Awake, sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!” declares the Lord Almighty. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones.”<sup>8</sup> In the whole land,” declares the Lord, “two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it.”<sup>9</sup> This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The Lord is our God.’ ”

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## 2. The Rejection of the Shepherd

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### Explanation

- Zechariah's oracles about shepherds are part of a biblical pattern, established in the Old Testament and more deeply fulfilled in the story of Christ in the New.

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# Matthew 26:31

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<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: “I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.””

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# Zechariah 12:10

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And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced,\* and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

\*Quoted in John 19:37

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## 2. The Rejection of the Shepherd

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### Application

- In your study of the Scriptures, learn to look for Christ on every page.

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## 2. The Rejection of the Shepherd

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### Application

- In your study of the Scriptures, learn to look for Christ on every page.
- In your struggles against sin, learn to look upon Christ crucified.

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Remember that Jesus Christ does not merely suffer for sin, but he suffers *for you* . . . Perhaps this may be the heart-breaker with some who never repented of sin before. O you who look to him with faith, Jesus Christ loves your poor guilty soul so much that he suffered all this *for you*. As you look upon him dying upon the cross, do not forget that every drop flows *for you*. How could you have despised him who died *for you*?



He determined to save you and went down to the very lowest depths to bring you up. And yet you have heard the gospel and neglected it. You have lived all these years in sin. You neglected Word of God. Maybe you have been a swearer, using this very name of Christ to curse by, and yet he suffered this *for you*. O believing sinner, *for you* these wounds, *for you* that sweat, *for you* that cross, *for you* that spear, *for you* that mangled body lying motionless in the tomb in the grasp of death!





Will not this make you feel that you can no longer harbor the sins which are the enemies of Christ, but instead must once and for all cast out from your soul these cruel foes which made the Savior bleed?

—Charles Spurgeon

(lightly edited, from his sermon

“The Pierced One Pierces the Heart”)

# 3. The Coming of the Kingdom

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Zechariah 9:9-10; 14:4-9

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## **Zechariah 9:9-10**

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Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup> I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

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## Zechariah 14:4-9

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On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. <sup>5</sup> You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. <sup>6</sup> On that day there will be neither      sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness.

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## Zechariah 14:4-9

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<sup>7</sup> It will be a unique day—a day known only to the Lord—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light. <sup>8</sup> On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter. <sup>9</sup> The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.

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# 3. The Coming of the Kingdom

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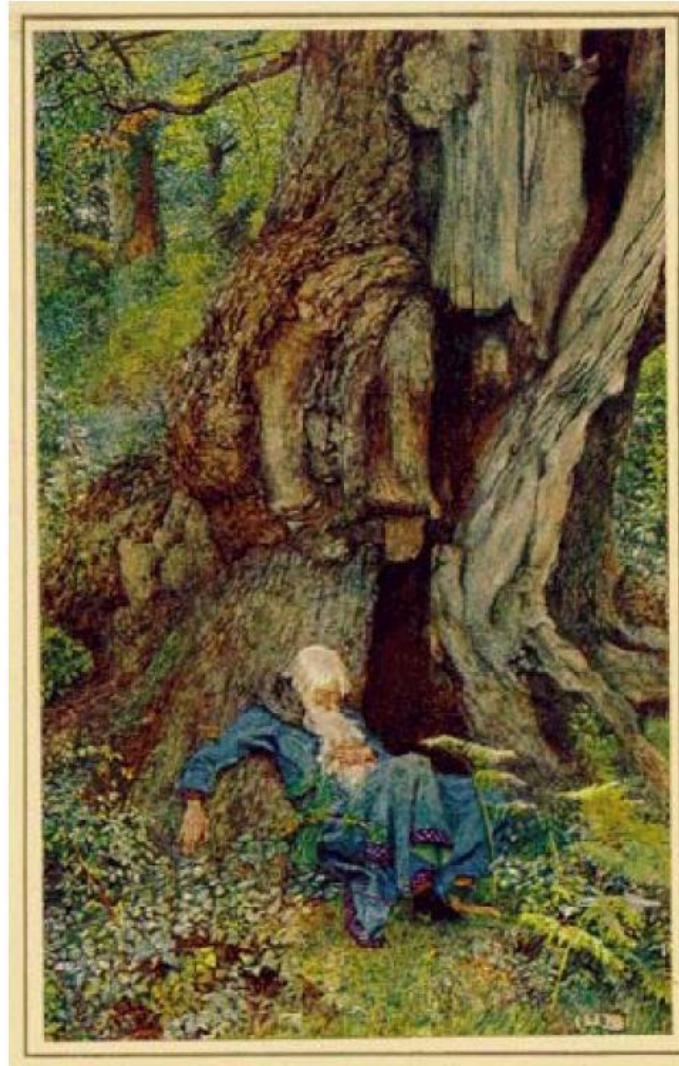
## Application

- As we face the uncertainty of life in the present world, we should anchor our hope in the unbreakable promise of God's future reign.

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# ON FAIRY STORIES



J. R. R. Tolkien

# 3. The Coming of the Kingdom

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