

Introduction & Zech 1:1-6

Session One, Zechariah

Why Zechariah?

- The entire book gets only one mention in the lectionary for all three years!
- It's relatively unknown in church circles; even Jerome (347-420) called it "the most obscure book"
- Zechariah overcame vast challenges and encouraged "rebuilding from the ruins"
- Zechariah 9-14 form the template for Christ's _____

T / F Zechariah is the most complicated book of the Twelve.

T / F Zechariah is the longest book of the Twelve.

T / F Of the Twelve, Zechariah is the most quoted and alluded in the NT.

Empires Strike Back

A	Tiglath-Pileser III
B	Nebuchadnezzar
P	Cyrus
G	Alexander
R	Caesar

Key Dates

722 BC	Samaria (Israel) destroyed by the Assyrians
August 28, 587 BC	Jerusalem (Judah) sacked and destroyed by the Babylonians
October 12, 539 BC	Persians defeat Babylonians
538 BC	Cyrus, king of Persia (559-530), allows exiles to return to Jerusalem
537 BC	Rebuilding of temple begins
536 BC	The foundation of the temple is laid
536-520 BC	Work ceases; nothing happens!
530-522 BC	Cambyes reigns as Persian king
522-486 BC	Darius reigns as Persian king
520-510 BC	Zerubbabel governor of Yehud/Judah
March 12, 515 BC	The second temple is dedicated

Sixth (Century) Sense

Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel but also _____ (China) and _____ (India)

"Haggai and Zechariah worked together (Ezra 5:1), shared the same convictions, and saw themselves at the dawn of a new age. They exhorted people—too busy with their own concerns—to build the temple" (Lessing, 31).

Structure

1:1-6	Introduction and Call to Repentance
1:7-6:15	Eight Visions (events in Jerusalem 520-518 BC)
7:1-8:23	Oracles on Fasting and Morality
9:1-11:17	Prophecy #1
12:1-14:21	Prophecy #2

1-8

Zechariah is mentioned
Dates are present
Zerubbael/Joshua are focus
Building the temple
Classical prophecy

9-14

Zechariah is absent
No dates
Zerubbabel/Joshua not mentioned
Temple not the focus
More apocalyptic

This difference in style and content has led some critics to believe there are two (or three) authors to the book of Zechariah, but more modern and conservative scholarship says there is just one author.

Giving Credit Where Credit is (Kinda) Due

If Matthew quotes Zechariah in Mt 27:9-10, why does he mention Jeremiah?

See Jer 32:6-9; 18:2-3; 19:1-13 and Zech 11:12-13.

Ezekiel also influenced Zechariah. Both were _____ who used visions to convey truth.

T / F Zechariah usually quotes passages word for word.

--Written sometime between 500 and 470BC

Zech 1:1-6

Who was Zechariah?

He came back from exile in Babylon around age _____

--his name means "Yah _____"

--comes from a priestly line; see Neh 12:16

--_____ of Berechiah, _____ of Iddo (Neh 12:4)

"Yahweh of armies" occurs _____ times in Zechariah; significant because Israel had no army

"Zechariah announces that Yahweh's judgment had run its course....A new day is on the horizon! Zechariah's generation can make a clean break with their failed ancestors. How? Five times in the first three verse of his book, we are given the answer—Yahweh. Forgiveness for the past, motivation for the present, and hope for the future all derive from Yahweh" (Lessing, 58-59).