



DAILY
B I B L E G U I D E

The Book of Zechariah

Days 274-276 of a Yearly Bible Reading Program

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Daily Bible Reading Plan

Day	Passage	☒
Day 274	Zechariah 1-5	☐
Day 275	Zechariah 6-9	☐
Day 276	Zechariah 10-14	☐

Welcome to the Book of Zechariah!

Zechariah was a prophet to the Jews that were returning from the Babylonian Captivity. Like Haggai, he encourages the people to build the Temple and be faithful to God. He looks forward to a future restoration when the Messiah will rule from Jerusalem.

A few quick facts about Zechariah.

- The author is Zechariah (“the Lord remembers”)
- This book was written between 520 and 517 B.C.
- The key verse is 9:9 – “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he *is* just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”
- A brief outline:
 - Introduction and call to repentance – 1:1-6
 - Night visions – 1:7-6:8
 - The crowning of Joshua the High Priest – 6:9-15
 - Questions regarding fasting – Chapters 7-8
 - Future restoration of Israel – Chapters 9-14

Chapter 1 Notes

In this chapter contains the first two night visions.

vs. 1-6 – The date given is only a few days after Haggai’s prophecy in Haggai 2:1. It is a similar theme to that previous message in calling the Jews to turn their hearts towards God.

vs. 7-17 – The following visions come about 3 months after the previous message and would be roughly in our February. This vision involves a Rider on a red horse, identified as the Angel of the Lord. This would make Him the Preincarnate Christ. He leads other riders who have scouted out the earth. They report that the Gentile nations are at rest, but He mourns the state of Jerusalem. It is a fitting description of the time. God would use this time to rebuild Israel and Jerusalem. He had not forsaken them.

vs. 18-21 – This second vision takes a broader view of history. There are four horns, which are the four kingdoms found in Daniel Chapters 2 and 7. Each of these were destroyed by a “carpenter” who then build something new, representing the conquerors and kingdoms that came after these powers fell.

Chapter 2 Notes

In this chapter contains the third night vision.

vs. 1-2 – The third vision is of a man with a measuring line. This is an anticipation of the restoration and expansion of Jerusalem in the End Times.

vs. 3-9 – Another angel speaks to the prophet and declares that God will visit the enemies of Israel and defeat them. This is Armageddon and precedes the glorious beautification of Jerusalem under Christ the King.

vs. 10-12 – A song of joy and praise for what God will do for Israel.

Chapter 3 Notes

In this chapter is the fourth night vision.

vs. 1-5 – Joshua the High Priest is a stand-in for the nation of Israel, who God had intended to be “a kingdom of priests” (Exodus 19:6). Satan stands as the accuser against them, pointing out their sinful state. But God intercedes and Israel is seen cleansed and restored. The prophet is so moved by this scene that he cries out in vs. 5.

vs. 6-10 – The Angel of the Lord charges Israel, through Joshua, to be faithful to God. Their full restoration would come with the Messiah.

Chapter 4 Notes

In this chapter is the fifth night vision.

vs. 1-10 – The fifth vision is of a golden candlestick like the one in the Tabernacle or Temple. Its lamps were fed oil directly from two olive trees. This is directed at Zerubbabel and his efforts to rebuild the Temple. It was not his human strength that would accomplish it, but the mighty power of God through the Spirit. The candlestick itself seems to represent Israel.

vs. 11-14 – The prophet inquires who the two olive trees in the vision represent. The meaning is not very clear, but if we assume this vision speaks of Israel in the End Times the two trees may represent the two witnesses of Revelation 11.

Chapter 5 Notes

In this chapter are the sixth and seventh visions.

vs. 1-4 – The sixth night vision is a flying scroll that measures 20 x 10 cubits (30 x 15 feet). It is the Word of God. It is God's Law that reveals the sins of men. We may compare the imagery here to Ezekiel 2 and Revelation 5 and 10.

vs. 5-11 – The seventh vision is of a measure (an ephah, which is roughly 1 bushel) like a barrel. Why just the measure and not substance? It speaks of commerce. In these ancient days trade was accomplished through weighing or measuring goods. This barrel has lid made of lead that weighs 1 talent (~75 pounds). Inside the barrel is a woman who represents sin. Two other women with wings remove this barrel and place it in Shinar (Babylon). These corresponds to Babylon in Revelation 17.

Devotional Thoughts for Day 274

Zechariah may rival Ezekiel for the strangeness of his visions. However, I find such a wonderful truth in the vision of Zechariah 4. The power of the Holy Spirit is compared to the olive oil feeding the golden candlestick. Zerubbabel is then told, “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.” Christ said it this way in John 15:5: “I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” The fact is whatever good we do is because of God’s power and not our own strength.

Hymn for Day 274

Our hymn today is “Holy Spirit, Light Divine”, written by Andrew Reed in 1817.

*Holy Ghost, with light divine,
Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shade of night away,
Turn my darkness into day.*

*Let me see my Savior’s face,
Let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me
Which are only known to Thee.*

*Holy Ghost, with power divine,
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
Long has sin, without control,
Held dominion o’er my soul.*

*Holy Ghost, with joy divine,
Cheer this saddened heart of mine;
Bid my many woes depart,
Heal my wounded, bleeding heart.*

*Holy Spirit, all divine,
Dwell within this heart of mine;
Cast down every idol throne,
Reign supreme, and reign alone.*

*See, to Thee I yield my heart,
Shed Thy life through every part;
A pure temple I would be,
Wholly dedicate to Thee.*

Chapter 6 Notes

In this chapter is the eighth night vision.

vs. 1-8 – The eighth night vision. Here four chariots are seen. The two mountains are thought to be Mount of Olives and Mount Moriah in Jerusalem. The picture here is of judgment against the enemies of Israel at Armageddon.

vs. 9-15 – After the eight night visions God directs the prophet to crown Joshua the High Priest. This is a symbolic action. There was supposed to be separation between the high priests from the tribe of Levi and the kings from the tribe of Judah. What is being foreshadowed here is the rule Christ the Messiah. He is our high priest (Hebrews 4:14). The rebuilding of the Temple under Zerubbabel is a prophetic picture of the restoration and exaltation of Israel under Christ during the Millennial Kingdom.

Chapter 7 Notes

In this chapter God responds to whether the Jews should continue to mourn the fall of Jerusalem

vs. 1-3 – We jump about two years further in the reign of Darius from where we have been since Zechariah 1:1. The timing is probably our November. The Temple would not be complete for another year or two (Ezra 6:15). Two officials, Sherezer (“prince of the treasury”) and Regemmelech (“official of the king”), come to Jerusalem. Since the fall of Jerusalem some 68 years prior, the Jews had made it a custom to fast during the month of Ab to commemorate its destruction. The question is now pressed whether this custom should continue if the Temple is rebuilt.

vs. 4-7 – God acknowledges the custom of fasting in the fifth month as we noted and also the seventh month, which is almost certainly related to the death of Gedaliah in Jeremiah 41. God however asks what their purpose was in doing so. He accuses them of acting selfishly and not in humble obedience to Him. Basically, He is telling them that they should not be mourning the fall of their nation but their terrible sins that led to it.

vs. 8-14 – God reveals what the Jews should have done but had not. He did not want outward signs of religious performance. He wanted true repentance from the heart.

Chapter 8 Notes

In this chapter God reveals the glorious future of Israel.

vs. 1-3 – Instead of looking backward at the destruction of Jerusalem, God directs their attention to the glorious future of the city and its people. As we continue it will become more apparent that this does not directly refer to the return from the Babylonian Captivity, but rather to the restoration of Israel under Christ the King.

vs. 4-5 – The peace and prosperity of Jerusalem in the future.

vs. 6-8 – The regathering of the Jews from the Diaspora.

vs. 9-23 – The future blessed state of Israel. This is yet to come. In vs. 19 it is said that all remembrance and mourning of their destruction under the Babylonians will be forgotten and turned to joy. This is what is in store for the Jews in Millennial Kingdom.

Chapter 9 Notes

In this chapter judgment is declared against the nations surrounding Israel.

vs. 1-8 – God declares judgment against the pagan nations surrounding Israel. Hadrach was in modern Syria. The nations that dwelt there in ancient Syria and Phoenicia would be destroyed. In vs. 5-6 Philistia is the target. The details match Alexander the Great's conquest of the region around 333 B.C. that it seems certain that is the fulfillment.

vs. 9-12 – The nations around Israel may not have hope through judgment, but Israel is promised a deliverer in Christ. In vs. 9 is a prophecy of the Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21:5-7, Mark 11:7, Luke 19:30-35, John 12:14-16). This passage then jumps from His first advent to His second and the victory over the enemies of Israel.

vs. 13-17 – This section is another classic example of a prophecy with double fulfillment. Historically, it refers to the struggles of the Maccabees against Antiochus Epiphanes (Daniel 8). It also speaks of God's deliverance of the Jews from the Antichrist and his armies.

Devotional Thoughts for Day 275

I find the question addressed in Zechariah 7 to be fascinating. To an outward observer, the Jews seemed to be acting out their piety in fasting in memory of the fall of Jerusalem. But God sees the heart and not just the hands of men. Their worship was performative and not transformative. They mourned the punishment but not the sin that led to it. They had not truly repented. We can deceive ourselves and others by acting like a faithful Christian, but God knows exactly who we are.

Hymn for Day 275

Our hymn today is “The Advent of Our God”. It was originally written in Latin by Charles Coffin and was translated into English by John Chandler in 1837. It celebrates the first and second advents of Christ.

*The advent of our God
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must meet Him on His road
With hymns of holy joy.*

*The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be;
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His people free.*

*Daughter of Zion, rise
To meet thy lowly king,
Nor let thy faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.*

*As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again,
And all His scattered saints unite
With Him in Heaven to reign.*

*Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone;
The old man all be put away,
The new man all put on.*

*All glory to the Son
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever One,
Through all eternity.*

Chapter 10 Notes

In this chapter we see the restoration of Israel

vs. 1 – There are two rainy seasons in the Promised Land. The “former” rain is that that fell in the autumn. The “latter” rain were spring rains. This speaks of the blessings and fruitfulness of the land under God’s blessing.

vs. 2-4 – These verses speak of the sin in Israel that would be purged before their restoration. It is then that the Messiah arrives to deliver them.

vs. 5-7 – Under the Messiah the Jews will be victorious.

vs. 8-12 – God’s blessing and power displayed in the regathering of the Jews for the Millennial Kingdom.

Chapter 11 Notes

In this chapter Christ delivers Israel from her enemies

vs. 1-6 – Here is a description of judgment coming from the north against Israel (“the flock of the slaughter”). It is thought by some to refer to the Seleucids or the Romans. It seems best to me to see this as the judgments against Israel for rejecting Christ, culminating in the Tribulation.

vs. 7-14 – Christ is the Good Shepherd and works through judgment for the good of His people. He uses blessing and judgment to guide them. He removes unfaithful leaders. We have in vs. 12 and 13 a vivid picture of the betrayal of Christ by Judas (see Matthew 26:15, 27:3-10). This corresponds with Jeremiah 18 and 19.

vs. 15-17 – The foolish shepherd is the Antichrist. He does not seek to care for Israel but to destroy them. He will face the terrible judgment of God (Revelation 19:20)

Chapter 12 Notes

In this chapter the Jews repent and turn to Christ.

vs. 1-9 – The deliverance of Jerusalem from its dangers in the Tribulation.

vs. 10-14 – The Jews finally turn to Christ and accept Him as their Messiah. This is the end of the Tribulation which sparks Christ's return and victory of Armageddon.

Chapter 13 Notes

In this chapter we see the rejection and later acceptance of Christ by the Jews.

vs. 1 – The cleansing of Israel after they accept Christ.

vs. 2-6 – The false gods and prophets are ashamed and removed from Israel. They cannot compare to Christ, who is seen in vs. 6.

vs. 7 – The rejection of Christ in the first advent. Christ applies this to Himself in Matthew 26:31.

vs. 8-9 – This is the fate of the Jews through the Tribulation. The survivors will repent and turn to Christ.

Chapter 14 Notes

In this chapter the changes after Armageddon are described.

vs. 1-5 – The victory of Armageddon comes only after severe losses for Israel. Christ returns and defeats His enemies. He touches down on the Mount of Olives, the same place He ascended from (Acts 1:11). The result is a great earthquake like the one Amos spoke about in the days of Uzziah.

vs. 6-11 – Changes in the natural order because of Christ's return. The glory of God shines and prevents total darkness. The river from Ezekiel 47 is described. The result is a bountiful and blessed land inhabited by the Jews.

vs. 12-15 – The great victory at Armageddon is described along with the gruesome and terrible deaths of Christ's enemies.

vs. 16-19 – The surviving Gentile nations submit to the rule of Christ. If they do not, the blessings of rain are withheld from them until they repent.

vs. 20-21 – The sacred state of Jerusalem in the Millennial Kingdom. It is a place of holiness and worship.

Devotional Thoughts for Day 276

What a difference Christ makes! His return rescues Israel from sure defeat. His reign establishes a once persecuted nation as the true world power. His rule is marked by blessedness and peace. As remarkable as these future events are, His work as Savior of mankind is still more wonderful. His victory over sin and death is indisputably His greatest work.

Hymn for Day 276

Our hymn today is “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”, written by Charles Wesley in 1758.

*Lo! He comes with Clouds descending,
Once for guilty Sinners slain!
Thousand Thousand Saints attending,
Swell the Triumph of his Train.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah:
All the Angels cry Amen.*

*Ev'ry Eye shall now behold him,
Rob'd in dreadful Majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierc'd, and nail'd him to the Tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.*

*Ev'ry Island, Sea, and Mountain,
Heav'n and Earth, shall flee away:
All who hate him, must, confounded,
Hear the Trump proclaim the Day;
Come to Judgment, come to Judgment, come to Judgment,
Come to Judgment, come away.*

*Now Redemption long expected,
See! in solemn pomp appear!
All his Saints, by Man rejected,
Now shall meet Him in the Air!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
See the Day of God appear.*

*Answer thine own Bride and Spirit,
Hasten, Lord, the gen'ral Doom,
The new Heav'n and Earth t' inherit,
Take thy pining Exiles home:
All Creation, all Creation, all Creation,
Travails! Groans! and bids thee come.*

*Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on Thine eternal Throne!
Saviour, take the Pow'r and Glory:
Claim the Kingdom for thine own.
O come quickly, O come quickly, O come quickly
Hallelujah! come, Lord, come.*