

Insights From Zechariah

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Insights From Zechariah

by Jonathan Cooper

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Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
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Table of Contents

Introduction.....4
Zechariah.....7

Zechariah

- The word of the Lord came to Zechariah during the second year of the reign of Darius (Zechariah 1:1). That means this prophecy was given after the fall of Jerusalem, while the Jews were still captives in Babylon.
- Even though Jerusalem had been destroyed and the Jews were captives in Babylon, they still hadn't turned back to God. The reason God was commanding them to repent is because they hadn't repented of their idolatry even after everything that happened to them (Zechariah 1:3).
- God commanded the current generation of Jews to not be like their ancestors, who sinned and refused to repent (Zechariah 1:4).
- The former generations of Jews were no longer around, and the prophets who prophesied to them were also no longer around. However, the words of God were still around! They had endured, and everything that God said would happen is exactly what happened (Zechariah 1:6).
- The prophets had to be told the meaning of the visions that God gave them. They were unable to interpret them until God gave them the interpretation (Zechariah 1:9). That means the correct interpretation of prophecy is something that comes from God. We can't discover it on our own.
- The angel asked God how long it would be until He had mercy on Jerusalem and the cities of Judah. At this point (in the second year of Darius) it had been 70 years since God poured out His indignation upon Jerusalem (Zechariah 1:12).
- The angel wanted God to have mercy on Judah (Zechariah

1:12).

- Angels don't know everything (Zechariah 1:12).
- There are times when God is angry with a nation, and yet that nation is at ease and things are going well for it (Zechariah 1:15).
- It angers God when nations afflict the Jews, because He's jealous over them (Zechariah 1:15).
- God promised that the temple in Jerusalem would be rebuilt, the city of Jerusalem would be rebuilt, and He would bring the Jews back to Judah (Zechariah 1:17).
- In the future, Jerusalem was going to have so many people that it would be inhabited as a city that didn't have walls (Zechariah 2:4). This prophecy was given at a time when Jerusalem had been destroyed and was an uninhabited ruin.
- God said that He would be a wall of fire around Jerusalem, and the glory in her midst (Zechariah 2:5).
- Those who touch the Jews are touching "the apple of their eye". They're touching something that's very precious to God, and something He defends with great fierceness (Zechariah 2:8).
- In the end times, God is going to spoil the nations that spoiled the Jews (Zechariah 2:9).
- It's good for us to sing about the great things that God will do in the future, even though they haven't happened yet (Zechariah 2:10).
- One day God is going to dwell in the midst of the Jews (Zechariah 2:10). This is a reference to the millennium.

- In the end times, many nations will become the people of God. That means in those days the people of God will consist of more than just the Jews (Zechariah 2:11).
- Jerusalem and Judah have a bright future! God has made many promises that He will surely bring to pass (Zechariah 2:12).
- The day is coming when God will raise up out of His holy habitation. When that day comes we must be silent before Him (Zechariah 2:13).
- In the days of Zechariah, the devil still had access to Heaven and was using that access to oppress the people of God (Zechariah 3:1).
- God called Jerusalem a brand that was plucked out of the fire (Zechariah 3:2).
- We can't accomplish the work of God by our own might, or by our own power. Instead the work of God can only be accomplished by the Spirit of God (Zechariah 4:6).
- God promised to give Zerubbabel His Spirit, which would enable him to accomplish the rebuilding of the temple. It wouldn't be rebuilt by Zerubbabel's own power or might (Zechariah 4:7-9).
- The seven eyes of the Lord are scanning the entire world. This means God is watching over the world and the deeds that are done in it (Zechariah 4:10).
- There are times when God uses small things to accomplish His will (Zechariah 4:10).
- Zechariah saw a flying roll (Zechariah 5:1).
- There's a curse that goes over the whole world (Zechariah

5:3). This curse will cut off everyone who steals and everyone who swears.

- There are times when the four spirits of the heavens walk throughout this world (Zechariah 6:5-7). This means the devil isn't the only one who travels around this world. The spirits of God do as well.
- God has spirits that serve Him (Zechariah 6:7). Those spirits obtain His permission before taking action.
- The horses which Zechariah saw brought peace (Zechariah 6:8). This is different from the four horses of the apocalypse (found in Revelation), which take away peace.
- Although this prophecy was written while the Jews were still in captivity, Zechariah wasn't in Babylon when this book was written (Zechariah 6:10).
- God commanded Zechariah to take silver and gold and make crowns (Zechariah 6:11-14). These crowns would be given to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen. The crowns were for a memorial in the temple of the Lord.
- The Messiah would build the temple of the Lord (Zechariah 6:12). This may be a reference to the millennial temple.
- One day those who were far away from Israel will come and build the temple of the Lord (Zechariah 6:15). This means that although the Messiah will build the temple, one of the ways He will build it is by working through people who were far away.
- Although the Jews had been fasting and mourning for 70 years, they hadn't been doing it for God. The Lord wasn't impressed by their actions because their motives were

wrong (Zechariah 7:5). This means the reason we fast and mourn matters to God. If we aren't doing it for Him then there's no point in doing it at all.

- God doesn't want us to live for ourselves. Instead He wants us to live for Him! This includes eating, drinking, and all the activities of our life (Zechariah 7:6).
- God wants us to hear the words of His prophets (Zechariah 7:7).
- As long as the Jews ignored the words of the prophets, their fasting and mourning wouldn't do any good (Zechariah 7:7).
- God commanded the Jews to have mercy and compassion on one another (Zechariah 7:9).
- Fasting and mourning doesn't do any good if it's accompanied by a life of cruelty and wickedness (Zechariah 7:9).
- Those who don't have a father are at a great disadvantage in life (Zechariah 7:10).
- God commanded the Jews to not imagine evil things against other people. Even the act of imagining evil deeds is wrong (Zechariah 7:10). This means our thoughts can be sinful even if we never act on them.
- Since the Jews hardened their hearts and refused to obey God, He sent His great wrath upon the people (Zechariah 7:12).
- Since the Jews refused to listen to God when He cried out to them, God refused to listen to them when they cried out to Him (Zechariah 7:13). This means there are times when God refuses to listen to the cries of a nation, and

deliberately ignores them.

- God scattered the Jews throughout all nations (Zechariah 7:14). The reason He did this is because they hardened their heart and wouldn't listen to Him.
- God is called the "LORD of hosts" twice in two verses (Zechariah 8:2).
- The reason that God was filled with wrath over Zion is because He was very jealous for her. The Jews had rebelled against Him and worshiped other gods (Zechariah 8:2).
- There are times when God is jealous and full of fury (Zechariah 8:2).
- God said that one day He would dwell in the midst of Jerusalem (Zechariah 8:3).
- In the future, Jerusalem would be called a city of truth (Zechariah 8:3). This is a reference to the millennium.
- It's a blessing when a city has both children and old people (Zechariah 8:4-5). If a city contains no old people or no children then something is very wrong.
- In the future, Jerusalem would be a safe place for children to run around and play (Zechariah 8:5).
- The people of Zechariah's time found it hard to believe that Jerusalem would one day be a safe place to live. They doubted this promise from God and lacked faith (Zechariah 8:6).
- God keeps His promises and does what He says He will do. Even promises that seem impossible or unlikely aren't difficult for Him (Zechariah 8:6).

- Israel won't always be rebellious and wicked. One day the land will be filled with truth and righteousness (Zechariah 8:8).
- The prophecy in chapter 8 was given the day that the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid (Zechariah 8:9).
- Before the Jews started rebuilding the temple, there were no jobs available and there was no peace in the land (Zechariah 8:10). In those days the people were greatly afflicted. The reason for this is because God afflicted them. He set everyone against everyone else so they would fight with one another. Why did God do this? Because, as Haggai 1:9 explains, the people had built their own houses but hadn't rebuilt His temple. They put themselves before Him.
- There are times when God stirs up a city so that it's at war with itself (Zechariah 8:10).
- Jobs are a gift from God (Zechariah 8:10).
- The Jews had to step out on faith and lay the foundation of the temple in spite of their terrible circumstances. They didn't lay the foundation of the temple in good and prosperous times (Zechariah 8:10).
- The Jews had to start rebuilding the temple before their circumstances would change. They first had to obey the Lord (Zechariah 8:11). God would bless them, but only *after* they obeyed Him.
- There are times when God causes plants to grow, and there are times when He prevents plants from growing (Zechariah 8:12). There are times when God waters the ground, and there are times when He withholds water.

- In the future, the Jews would be a blessing to the nations (Zechariah 8:13).
- God blessed the Jews when they were obedient, and He cursed them when they were disobedient – just as He said He would in the Mosaic Law (Zechariah 8:13).
- God hates lies (Zechariah 8:17).
- In the future, the fasts in the fourth, fifth, seventh, and tenth months would be occasions of joy and gladness. They would become cheerful feasts instead of fasts (Zechariah 8:19). This means that one day God is going to turn Judah's times of fasting into times of feasting and joy.
- In the future, the people of one city would travel to another city and ask them to go with them to the Lord, so that together they could pray and seek Him (Zechariah 8:21).
- In the future, many people from outside of Israel would go to Jerusalem to seek the Lord and pray before Him (Zechariah 8:22).
- In the future, many strong nations would go to Jerusalem to seek the Lord and pray before Him (Zechariah 8:22). This means that both Jews and Gentiles would seek the Lord.
- In the future, people would seek out the Jews so they could travel together to Jerusalem, because they knew God was with the Jews (Zechariah 8:23).
- The wealth of Tyrus wouldn't be able to save that city from the wrath of God. Its riches, silver, and gold would be unable to deliver it (Zechariah 9:4).

- Riches can't save you from God's wrath (Zechariah 9:4).
- The prosperity of Tyrus didn't mean that God approved of the city. The Lord was actually angry with the city and was going to devour it with fire (Zechariah 9:4). This means that just because a city is prosperous doesn't mean God looks favorably upon it.
- The wrath of God may come during a time of great prosperity (Zechariah 9:4).
- When Tyrus is destroyed, the Philistine government would be destroyed as well. The king of Gaza would perish (Zechariah 9:5).
- There are times when God pours out His wrath upon nations which don't have a covenant relationship with him (Zechariah 9:6).
- When the prophecy in chapter 9 is fulfilled, God will encamp around His house (the temple) (Zechariah 9:8).
- God commanded the daughters of Jerusalem to shout because the King of the Jews was coming (Zechariah 9:9).
- God gave the prophecy of the Messiah's triumphant into Jerusalem hundreds of years before it took place (Zechariah 9:9).
- The Messiah (the Lord Jesus Christ) was going to speak peace to the Gentiles (Zechariah 9:10).
- The dominion of the Messiah was going to be from sea to sea, and from the Jordan river to the ends of the earth (Zechariah 9:10). This means that one day Jesus will rule over this world.
- The Messiah will put an end to war and bring peace to

this world (Zechariah 9:10).

- There are times when God uses the Jews as mighty weapons against Gentile nations (Zechariah 9:13).
- When the prophecy in chapter 9 is fulfilled, God will give corn to the young men and new wine to the maids (Zechariah 9:17). These gifts will make their recipients cheerful.
- Wine is a blessing from God that makes the heart cheerful (Zechariah 9:17).
- In the day when God saves Israel, He commands the people to ask Him for rain in the time of latter rain. If they ask then He will make bright clouds and give them showers of rain, so that grass will grow in the field (Zechariah 10:1).
- It's important to ask God for the things we need (Zechariah 10:1).
- There are times when God answers people's prayers for rain, and gives them the rain that they seek (Zechariah 10:1).
- The comfort that idols give people is empty and worthless (Zechariah 10:2).
- The comfort that comes from false dreams is empty and worthless (Zechariah 10:2).
- People need a shepherd (Zechariah 10:2).
- People need comfort (Zechariah 10:2).
- God was angry with the worthless shepherds who didn't take care of His people (Zechariah 10:3).

- God cast off the Jews for a time, but not forever. One day He will have mercy on them and will greatly bless them (Zechariah 10:6).
- Drinking wine makes the heart rejoice (Zechariah 10:7).
- There are times when God destroys governments (Zechariah 10:11).
- There are times when God dries up rivers (Zechariah 10:11).
- There are times when God judges nations with fire (Zechariah 11:1).
- The wicked people of Lebanon were saying "Bless the Lord" while they murdered innocent people and sold others into slavery (Zechariah 11:5).
- The wicked people of Lebanon became rich from the evil things they were doing (Zechariah 11:5).
- Because the people of Lebanon were wicked, God wasn't going to pity the inhabitants of that country (Zechariah 11:6, 9). The Lord was going to punish that nation for its wickedness by delivering each person into the hands of their neighbor. God was going to let the people die and He wasn't going to save them.
- Zechariah took two staves. One was named Beauty and the other was named Bands (Zechariah 11:7).
- As a part of this prophecy, God was going to kill three shepherds in one month (Zechariah 11:8). The three wicked shepherds who God was going to kill abhorred Him, and He abhorred them.
- Zechariah took the staff which was named Beauty and

destroyed it (Zechariah 11:10). This symbolized God destroying the covenant He had made with the Jews. Since the people were wicked and didn't keep His covenant, God ended it.

- Zechariah told the people to give him whatever price they thought was fair. The people gave him 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12-13). God mocked this price (perhaps because 30 pieces of silver was the fine which was paid for a slave that had been killed). God commanded Zechariah to cast the money to the potter, and he did so in the house of the Lord.
- Zechariah took the staff which was named Bands and destroyed it (Zechariah 11:14). This symbolized God destroying the brotherhood that once existed between Judah and Israel. Since the people were wicked, God destroyed that relationship.
- There are times when God punishes nations by destroying their relationship with other nations (Zechariah 11:14).
- God said that He was going to raise up a wicked shepherd (Zechariah 11:16). This is a reference to the antichrist.
- This wicked shepherd won't visit those that are cut off, or heal that which is broken, or feed the flock (Zechariah 11:16). Instead he would tear people into pieces.
- The wicked shepherd will have a sword injury on his right arm and on his right eye (Zechariah 11:17). His right arm will be dried up and his right eye will be blind.
- God is the one who stretched out the heavens (Zechariah 12:1). This is a recurring theme throughout the Scriptures. The Bible keeps emphasizing that the heavens

have been stretched out.

- People have a spirit within them (Zechariah 12:1).
- God was going to make Jerusalem a cup of trembling for the surrounding nations (Zechariah 12:2).
- God was going to make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all nations (Zechariah 12:3).
- All nations that burdened themselves with Jerusalem would be cut into pieces (Zechariah 12:3).
- When the prophecy in chapter 12 comes to pass, all the nations in the world will gather together against Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:3). However, they ultimately won't be victorious because God will destroy them.
- God has the power to smite both people and animals with madness (Zechariah 12:4).
- There are times when God intervenes in battle (Zechariah 12:4).
- When this prophecy comes to pass, the first people that God will save are the inhabitants of Judah (Zechariah 12:7). This is so that other people don't magnify themselves against Judah. God doesn't want the house of David or the inhabitants of Jerusalem to magnify themselves above Judah.
- When this prophecy comes to pass, the feeble people of Jerusalem will fight as David fought, and the people of the house of David will fight with the strength of angels (Zechariah 12:8). This means that in that day God will mightily empower the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and they will act with superhuman strength that's far beyond their normal abilities.

- The day is coming when God will bestow His grace upon the Jews (Zechariah 12:10).
- When this prophecy comes to pass, the Jews will finally repent and believe in Jesus. They will bitterly mourn over the death of Jesus and will realize what they've done (Zechariah 12:10). The reason this will happen is because God will bestow His grace upon them.
- When this prophecy comes to pass, a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem which will cleanse people of their sin (Zechariah 13:1). This means that in the end times, God will cleanse the Jews of their sin. The day is coming when He will forgive their sins and wash away their uncleanness.
- When this prophecy comes to pass, God will destroy the names of the idols that are in Israel. Those idols will be forgotten (Zechariah 13:2).
- There are times when God destroys something, and then goes further and destroys all memory of it as well (Zechariah 13:2).
- After this prophecy comes to pass, the false prophets who lie in the name of the Lord will be killed (Zechariah 13:3).
- Telling lies in the name of the Lord is a very serious sin (Zechariah 13:3).
- God calls the Messiah "my fellow" (Zechariah 13:7). This is a reference to the fact that the Messiah (the Lord Jesus Christ) is equal to God.
- God commanded the sword to smite His shepherd (the

Messiah). This means the Messiah would die (Zechariah 13:7).

- When the Messiah was smitten, the sheep would be scattered (Zechariah 13:7). This is a reference to the disciples fleeing when Jesus was arrested, which came to pass.
- In the end times, two thirds of the Jews will be cut off and die, and one third of the Jews will be saved (Zechariah 13:8). This means the devil will be unable to kill all of the Jews.
- The Jews who survive are going to call upon the name of the Lord (Zechariah 13:9). When they call upon God, He will hear them. They will be His people and He will be their God.
- The day of the Lord is coming (Zechariah 14:1). This is a reference to the seven-year tribulation.
- In the tribulation, all nations will gather against Jerusalem to wage war against the city (Zechariah 14:2). The reason this will happen is because God will gather them.
- In the tribulation, the city of Jerusalem will be conquered (Zechariah 14:2).
- After Jerusalem is conquered, God will go forth and fight against the nations (Zechariah 14:3).
- In the day that God goes to battle against the nations, His feet will stand upon the mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4). This is a reference to the return of Jesus at the end of the tribulation.
- When Jesus returns and stands upon the mount of Olives, the mountain will split into two (Zechariah 14:4). Half of

the mountain will move toward the north and the other half will move toward the south. A great valley will form that will go from the east to the west.

- There was a mighty earthquake in the days of Uzziah, the king of Judah (Zechariah 14:5).
- When Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, He will bring all of the saints with Him (Zechariah 14:5).
- When Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, the Jews will flee as they fled in the days of the earthquake that happened during the reign of Uzziah (Zechariah 14:5).
- When Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, it will be neither day nor night (Zechariah 14:7). It will be a special day that's unlike other days that came before it – a day that's known to the Lord.
- On the evening of the day when Jesus returns, it will be light (Zechariah 14:7).
- When Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, living waters will go forth out of Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:8). Half of the living waters will go toward the former sea and the other half will go toward the hider sea. The living waters will flow in summer and winter.
- In the end times, God will be king over all the world (Zechariah 14:9). This is a reference to the millennial reign of Jesus.
- There's only one God, and His name is one (Zechariah 14:9).
- When Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, all of the land between Geba and Rimmon will be turned into a plain (Zechariah 14:10).

- After Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, Jerusalem will never be destroyed again (Zechariah 14:11). Instead it will be a place of safety.
- In the end times, God will smite all those who fought against Jerusalem with a plague (Zechariah 14:12). Those who fought against Jerusalem will have their flesh consumed from them as they stand on their feet. Their eyes will be consumed out of their heads and their tongue will be consumed out of their mouth.
- When Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, those who fought against Jerusalem will fight against one another. God will turn the nations against one another (Zechariah 14:13).
- When Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, the Jews will gain the wealth of the surrounding nations (Zechariah 14:14). The Jews will gain an abundance of gold, silver, and apparel.
- The plague which God will send upon those who came against Jerusalem will also be sent upon all the animals they brought with them (Zechariah 14:15).
- All the nations that fought against Jerusalem will be required to go to Jerusalem each year to worship the King and keep the feast of tabernacles (Zechariah 14:16).
- The King of Jerusalem will be the Lord (Zechariah 14:16). This is a reference to millennial reign of Jesus.
- The feast of tabernacles will be kept in the millennium (Zechariah 14:16).
- In the millennium, any nation that doesn't travel to Jerusalem to worship Jesus will be punished (Zechariah

14:17). The punishment is that no rain will fall upon their land.

- In the millennium, the Lord Jesus Christ will reign with a rod of iron (Zechariah 14:18).
- In the millennium, the horses in Jerusalem will have bells. Those bells will have an inscription that reads HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD (Zechariah 14:20). This means even the bells upon the horses will be holy.
- In the millennium, there will be a temple for the Lord (Zechariah 14:20).
- In the millennium, holiness will abound (Zechariah 14:20). The land of Israel will be saturated with holiness.
- In the millennium, sacrifices will be offered in the temple. There will be a millennial sacrificial system (Zechariah 14:21).
- In the millennium, no Canaanite will enter the temple of the Lord (Zechariah 14:21).