

## Session 1: A God Who Does Not Lie— The Sovereignty of God

There is a special interest attached to the sacred writings of Old Testament Scriptures.  
However...There are special interest in the secular world of visions and dreams.  
I.e. Harry Potter...

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**Zechariah's writings express the process of arriving at the truth.**  
Since the only writing that is available as the gospel truth (lack of error) is the Bible, we should be:

- Exuberant to study,
- Careful in interpreting, and
- Prepared to “do” what it is said for us to do...and “flee” from what it tells us to “exclude from doing or continue doing.”

**Zechariah... “The Lord has Remembered”** (Yahweh/Jehovah hath Remembered)

Common Hebrew name; from same source, Modern American name:  
Zachary.

Zechariah—born in Babylon while in captivity. He returned to Palestine with Joshua and Zerubbabel (Nehemiah 12:4-16; Ezra 5:1; 6:14.). He had already been established as a priest. Lived about 2500 years ago.

**How many times has the nation of Israel been scattered from their country that was given to them by the Lord God Almighty...and then returned? .... Why?**

**Answer: Scattered and sent into captivity because of disobedience/sin.  
Returned...because God keeps His promises.**

# God does not lie.

Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; Genesis 15:18; 17:2-8.

Zechariah...Son of Berechiah and the grandson of Iddo (Zechariah 1:1)

Significant names: Berechiah means “Jehovah blesses”

Iddo means “the appointed time.”

**Put the three names together = Summary of the book...and God's Promise to the Jews at that time and forever.**

- *Jehovah remembered their sin, but He also remembers His promises to Israel.*

- *Jehovah will again bless Israel...and*

- *In the appointed time, the fulfillment of all His promises to Israel will come to pass.*

GOD IS SOVEREIGN...HE IS MORE THAN YOUR FINITE MINDS CAN UNDERSTAND. HOWEVER...HE REVEALS TO YOU ENOUGH ABOUT HIMSELF THAT YOU WILL KNOW HIM...AND DESIRE HIM OR HATE HIM. Romans 1:18-20.

OUR CHOICE...TO ACCEPT HIM OR REJECT HIM!

### **Zechariah...Minor Prophet with a Major Message.**

#### **What is the purpose and main thrust of the prophet's message?**

1. *The powerful appearance of the Lord to destroy the enemies of Israel (His people), and*
2. *Once all is brought visually and prophetically under His (Jehovah God's) control, to personally dwell with His people.*
3. *The restoration and supernatural glorification of the city of the Messianic King (Jerusalem).*

*Jerusalem (synonym "Zion") is mentioned some 50 times within the 14 chapters.*

Zechariah chooses some 50 times to refer to God by a specific title, Yahweh Sabbaoth...Translated Lord of Hosts (NASB, KJV) or the Lord Almighty (NIV).

**Today's fitting translation is "Sovereign Lord who leads armies" ....**

**Emphasizing the coming conquering King Messiah.**

### **Zechariah 1:1-6**

Date: October/November 520 BC.

Returned exiles are reminded:

- That their ancestors had purposely ignored the stipulations of the Mosaic covenant...thus incurring God's wrath.
- That the present generation (Zechariah's generation) must not repeat their fathers' grave mistakes.
- That they have the opportunity for God's blessings by obeying God's covenant and reestablishing a personal relationship with Him.

### **Zechariah 1:7—6:15**

**Details of eight (8) supernatural visions the Lord revealed to Him in one evening (February 15, 519 BC.)**

These 8 visions are apocalyptic in nature and are communicated to:

- Encourage the people to finish rebuilding the Temple (at this point, only 5 months into reconstruction)
- Relay hope for the people's future status (covenant people who are the "apple of God's eye")...
- Hope for the future status of the city of the Temple (City of God...Jerusalem).

The 1<sup>st</sup> vision is connected to the 8<sup>th</sup>; the 2<sup>nd</sup> vision is connected to the 7<sup>th</sup>; the 3<sup>rd</sup> is connected to the 6<sup>th</sup>; the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> are connected in climactic fashion.

**Each vision follows a general pattern:**

- Zechariah relays the vision itself
- Zechariah asks for clarification of the meaning of the vision
- Clarification (Interpretation) by an angelic companion
- The Lord Himself delivers a message or an oracle.

**Zechariah 5:1-4:**

- ✓ He sees an open scroll of enormous dimensions flying through the air
- ✓ It is flying over Jerusalem.
- ✓ The vision complements the 3<sup>rd</sup> vision (surveyor measuring Jerusalem), signifying that prior to any future divine blessings and prosperity, the cleansing judgment of God would be distributed to all within the covenant community who were guilty of breaking that covenant through the violation of God's law.

The interpreting angel explains that the scroll represents God's curse...over all the land...for the people's violation of the covenant.

One side of the scroll has the 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment written on it....

“Thou shalt not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name”...Exodus 20:7

Other side of the scroll, the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment written:

“Thou shalt not steal”...Exodus 20:15

These two commandments would have been the middle commandment on each of the two stone tablets given to Moses.

These two commandments are representative of the entirety of the Ten Commandments...which, in turn, exemplify the entire Torah, the Mosaic

Law.

**In order for God to dwell in the midst of his people, they must be purged of covenantal impurity...In preparation of His presence.**

**What does this say to us....Get ready!**

The only way we can purge ourselves of the sin(s) that so easily beset us is to fall down humbly before the Lord and ask for forgiveness....

*“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives”, 1 John 1:8-10.*

**Why did the people of His covenant not finish rebuilding God's temple....Indifference!  
More important “things” happening in their life.**

**Are we indifferent? Are we “status quo”...comfortable in our setting of coming to church and worshiping for 1 ½ hours a week....satisfied and justified while we sat....yielding nothing of significance.**

Zechariah 5:5-11...

Communicates the appearance of a woman seated within a large basket.

This vision builds upon the previous one and corresponds particularly to the 2<sup>nd</sup> vision...  
2<sup>nd</sup> vision...the coming destruction of the nations who persecuted the  
Jewish people.

The interpreting angel explains to Zechariah that the woman seated in the basket was:

- The personification of the sins of the Jewish people.  
The heavy lid is placed over the basket, completely encasing and trapping this  
personification of evil.

The two supernatural winged beings (female) pick up the basket and carry this evil far  
away to Babylon (the ancient source of evil).

**Meaning:**

Graphically communicates that God will superintend (exercise supervision  
over) the removal of sin from the covenant community.

Again...God is sovereign and we don't understand it...but, that in the end "All Israel will  
be Saved" Romans 11:25-27.

It is a mystery...but so is our salvation!

How can we who are so unworthy and so sinful...be saved?

Grace, Grace...God's Grace.

Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;

Grace, Grace...God's Grace...

Grace that is greater than all our sin!

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John 1:16-17, "And of His fullness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was  
given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

John 13:1, "Having loved His own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ  
died for us."

2 Corinthians 8:9, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet  
for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich."

Ephesians 2:4-5, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even  
when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved).

1 John 4:9-10, "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only  
begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Here in is love, not that we loved  
God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."