

ZECHARIAH

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To give hope to the people of Yahweh by revealing His future deliverance through the Messiah.

Author

Zechariah.

Date

Chapters 1-8 were written c.520-518 BC.
Chapters 9-14 were written c.480 BC.

Audience

The Jews living in Jerusalem who had returned from exile in Babylon and to God's people everywhere.

Setting

The exiles had returned from Babylon to rebuild the Temple, but the work had stalled because of opposition. Great discouragement dogged God's people, replacing their earlier enthusiasm.

Special Features

The main genre of Zechariah is futuristic prophecy. It is the most apocalyptic and Messianic of all the minor prophets. The second half of the book contains some conventional pronouncements of judgment and promises of redemption.



Key Verses

“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey ... 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.” (9:9-10 NIV84)

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.” (12:10 ESV)

Key People

Zechariah, Zerubbabel, Joshua.

Key Place

Jerusalem.