

1 – ZECHARIAH: INTRODUCTION

I. Historical Background



- Zechariah is a post exilic-prophet.

II. The Prophet

A. His Name

- The name “Zechariah” means “whom Jehovah remembers.”
- Zechariah was a popular name among the Hebrews.
- There are at least 27 men bearing the name that are mentioned in the Old Testament.

B. His Home

- The home of the prophet Zechariah is unknown, as he was born in Babylon.
- Although, the context of the book points to Jerusalem.

C. His Background and Occupation

- The prophet identifies himself as “the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo.”
- He was of priestly descent.

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- He was part of a group of priests who returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel.

SCRIPTURE Ezra 5:1; 6:14; Nehemiah 12:16

- He was called to be a prophet in order to assist Haggai as the people were called to finish the Temple.
- His ministry began two months after Haggai began his ministry.

D. Date

- The prophecies in chapters 1 to 8 were spoken in the years 520-518 B.C.
- The prophecies of chapters 9 to 11 have no date.

III. The Nature of the Prophecy

- The Book of Zechariah is the longest of the 12 prophets and the most difficult to interpret.
- The Book of Zechariah is the most Messianic and most eschatological of Old Testament books.
- He differs from the other prophets in that he emphasizes visions as a means of divine communication.
- In his book, the Messiah is presented as “the Branch” or “Sprout” of David.
- The Messiah comes as a king who is lowly in spirit and providing salvation for the people.
- The Messiah is rejected as shepherd, sold for a price and pierced for the sheep.
- The Messiah redeems the remnant and the sovereign rule of Jehovah is restored.