

Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

Zechariah: The God of Second Chances

Zechariah 1:3b (ESV)

“Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.”

Fun facts about the book of Zechariah:

Zechariah is the _____ book of Minor Prophecy.

The name Zechariah means “_____.”

Zechariah is one of three _____ prophets.

The book of Zechariah is the most _____ and _____ of all the minor prophets.

The book of Zechariah is densely mined for quotations by _____ authors who discerned in it several prophecies concerning the Messiah’s coming.

“Zechariah” was a very common _____.

Zechariah was likely _____

Zechariah began prophesying around the same time as _____...520 B.C.

Zechariah is a difficult book to _____.

5 Principles for interpreting Zechariah (from John Piper):

- 1) Realize that Zechariah is aimed primarily at ethnic Israel.
- 2) Understand that there is still a glorious future for ethnic Israel when she repents.
- 3) By faith in Christ, the prophesied Messiah of Zechariah, we “Gentile believers” become full fellow-heirs of the promises made to Israel.
- 4) Therefore, the Old Testament prophecies concerning Israel are not less than literal but more than literal: they embrace not only ethnic Israel but also us Gentile believers.
- 5) Realize that many of the benefits promised to the people of Israel are fulfilled in stages.

Why Did God Choose Israel?

- 1) God wanted a nation of people in the world to _____ the existence of the true God. (Isaiah 43:21)
- 2) God wanted a nation through whom He could reveal the _____. (Gen. 12:3)
- 3) God wanted a nation to be a _____ among men. (Ex. 19:5-6)
- 4) God chose Israel to transmit and preserve _____.
- 5) God wanted a nation that could show the world that He was a _____ God.
- 6) God wanted a nation to show man His _____ in dealing with sin.
- 7) God wanted a nation to show His anger in dealing with _____.

Key Themes in Zechariah:

God's _____

The _____ of the _____.

The Coming _____.

God's _____.

Zechariah 1:1-6 (ESV)

¹In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, saying, ²"The Lord was very angry with your fathers. ³Therefore say to them, Thus declares the Lord of hosts: **Return to me**, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. ⁴Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.' But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the Lord. ⁵Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? ⁶But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not overtake your fathers? So they repented and said, 'As the Lord of hosts purposed to deal with us for our ways and deeds, so has he dealt with us.'"

The pre-requisite for any blessing and comfort from God is _____. (v3)

God's basic imperative in the book of Zechariah is "_____."

Structure of the book of Zechariah:

Through a series of eight visions, two sermons, and two oracles, God used Zechariah to tell God's people that they would have a second chance.

The book of Zechariah is divided into three natural sections:

- 1) Chapters 1-6, which include the 8 visions, describe the second chance God would provide through His _____.
- 2) Chapters 7-8, comprised of two sermons, describe the second chance God would give through His _____.
- 3) Chapters 9-14, made up of two oracles, describe the second chance God would offer through His _____.