

ZECHARIAH – Chapters 6-14

Events from 24th Day of the Eleventh Month

Zechariah 1:7 – 6:8

Zechariah received eight visions revealing the Word of the LORD.

Zechariah 6:9-15

Yahweh tells Zechariah to take silver and gold from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, some of the exiles, and to go to the house of Josiah and make a crown for Joshua the high priest. “Behold, a man whose name is Branch, for he will branch out from where he is: and he will build the temple of Yahweh.” This Branch will sit and rule on his throne. He will be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices. In the coming Messianic Kingdom, the coming King will also be priest (Psalm 110:1-4; Genesis 14:18; Hebrews 7:1ff; 8:1).

In the Fourth Year of Darius on the Fourth Day of the Ninth Month

Zechariah 7:1 – 8:23

Zechariah 7:3-5

Men from Bethel ask if they should continue fasting in the fifth month, one of the fasting days they had celebrated “these many years.” There were four national fasts that the Jews had been observing during the 70 years of captivity.

According to the Talmud, there were four national fasts for mourning that the Jews had instituted during the 70 years in captivity

- The fast of the fourth month for when the city walls were breached
- The fast of the fifth month for when the house of God was destroyed
- The fast of the seventh month was for the anniversary of the assassination of Gedaliah
- The fast of the tenth month was for when the king of Babylon laid siege on Jerusalem

Zechariah 7:8-10; 11-14

God’s Answer – dispense true justice; practice kindness and compassion; do not oppress the widow, orphan or stranger; do not devise evil in your heart against one another. But, they didn’t listen.

Zechariah 8:1-15

Peace and prosperity are coming again to Jerusalem.

Zechariah 8:16-17

Again, what should you do? Speak the truth to one another; judge with truth; judge for peace in your gates; do not devise evil; do not love perjury (false oaths).

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Zechariah 8:18

The answer to the question asked by these men from Bethel – these times of mourning will be turned to joy, gladness, and cheerful feasts – so love truth and peace!

Prophecies against the Nations – the King will Come Riding on a Donkey

Zechariah 9:1ff

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion

The king will come, humble and mounted on a colt, the foal of a donkey (Matthew 21:4-5; John 12:15).

Yahweh will Strengthen the House of Judah and Save the House of Joseph

Zechariah 10:1ff

Yahweh has visited Judah. He will make them like His majestic horse in battle – from them will come the cornerstone. God will bring them back from where they were scattered, He will strengthen them in Yahweh, and they will walk in His name.

A Flock Doomed for Slaughter – A Worthless Shepherd

Zechariah 11:1ff

This is a story, perhaps acted out by Zechariah, of a shepherd who will no longer pasture the flock. He asks for wages, if they still want to pay, but if not, he says, “Never mind.” So they pay him a worthless wage of 30 pieces of silver – rejecting the shepherd. The lowly price of thirty pieces of silver was the price paid for a slave that was gored by an ox (Ex 21:3). He then took the wages and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD. This unique story was fulfilled when Jesus, the Good Shepherd, was sold out by Judas for 30 pieces of silver. He cast down the 30 pieces of silver in the Temple sanctuary, and the chief priests took the money and bought the potter’s field (Mt 26:14-15; 27:3-10).

All the Nations will Gather against Jerusalem

Zechariah 12:1ff

Yahweh will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

They will look on me whom they have pierced and will mourn (John 19:37; Revelation 1:7).

There will be great mourning, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

Perhaps this is the place where the people mourned the death of King Josiah (2 Chronicles 35:20-25).

False Prophets Ashamed

Zechariah 13:1ff

I will bring a third part through the fire. And they will call on Yahweh’s name. He will say “They are MY People.” And they will say, “Yahweh is my God.”

A Day is Coming for Yahweh!

Zechariah 14:1ff

MALACHI

Background

Malachi 1:1

This final book is about the word of Yahweh to Israel through Malachi. The name Malachi means “My messenger.” There is no other information about this prophet.

מֵלָאֲכִי = Hebrew Word *malaki* meaning
“My messenger”

Comes from the same root as the word
“messenger” in Malachi 3:1

מַלְאָךְ = Hebrew Word *malak* meaning
“messenger or angel”

Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament in the Christian canon, the last of “The Twelve.” This book was written sometime after the three different returns from exile.

- 536 B.C. – First return under King Cyrus with Zerubbabel and Jeshua (Ezra 1:1-3:7)
- 458 B.C. – Second return under Ezra in the 7th year of Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:1ff)
- 445 B.C. – Third Return under Nehemiah in the 20th year of Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 2:1)

Nehemiah 13:4-31

In 433 B.C. in the 32nd year of Artaxerxes, Nehemiah returned to Persia. After some time (Nehemiah 13:6), Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem and learned of the evil practices going on in the land of Judah. Many of the issues that Nehemiah discovered are addressed in the reproof in the book of Malachi.

- Sins of the priest (Malachi 1:6-14)
- Corruption of the covenant of Levi (Malachi 2:1-9)
- Profaned the sanctuary through marriage to women with foreign gods (Malachi 2:10-17)
- Despising the tithes (Malachi 3:6-12)

I have Loved You

Malachi 1:2-5

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Sins of the Priest

Malachi 1:6-14

Corruption of the Covenant with Levi

Malachi 2:1-10

The Sanctuary is Profaned through Marriage to Foreign Gods

Malachi 2:11-17

Behold, I Send My Messenger

Malachi 3:1-7

According to Jesus, John the Baptist is this messenger (Matthew 11:7-10; Luke 7:24-27). Also, this was what Zechariah prophesied about his son, John (Luke 1:76). Therefore, the “Lord whom you seek” in this verse is Jesus, the Messiah.

You have Robbed God in Tithes and Offerings

Malachi 3:6-15

Bring tithes into My storehouse and test Me. I will open the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

A Book of Remembrance

Malachi 3:16-18

Behold the Day is Coming!

Malachi 4:1-3

The last of the Old Testament prophets closes with the coming of the great and terrible day of Yahweh!

Every evil doer will be chaff and set ablaze, but you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.

Malachi 4:4

Remember the Law of Moses, My servant

Malachi 4:5-6

I will send Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of Yahweh. John the Baptist was the first fulfillment of this verse (Matthew 11:11-14; 17:10-13; Luke 1:16-17).

The phrase to “restore the hearts of the father to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers” is used in Luke 1:17 in conjunction with the parallel phrase “to turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God” and “the disobedient to the attitude of the

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righteous.” This father-son relationship with God and His people is throughout the book of Malachi.

- Malachi 1:6 “A son honors his father and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is my honor.”
- Malachi 2:10 “Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us?”
- Malachi 3:7 “From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you.”
- Malachi 3:16 “They will be Mine,” says the LORD of hosts, “on the day that I prepare My own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.”
- Malachi 3:17 “So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between the one who serves God and on who does not serve Him.”

A similar understanding can be seen in the Law of Moses – that if you honor father and mother and if you walk in the way of Yahweh, the result will be prolonged days in the land that God would give them.

Deuteronomy 5:16

Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.

Deuteronomy 5:33

You shall walk in all the way which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong *your* days in the land which you will possess.

The heart that God wanted from His people was one of love, reciprocating the love God had for them.

Deuteronomy 5:29

Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!

This prophet, Elijah, would restore the hearts of God’s people – “the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous.” John the Baptist was this prophet who brought great repentance in his time and turned many hearts as he prepared the way for the Messiah.

Two more prophets are coming in the future before the great and terrible day of Yahweh, similar in power to that of Moses, God’s Servant, and Elijah the prophet. These prophets will “smite the land with a curse.” Revelation 11:5-6