Lesson 6 – Zechariah

Introduction

Zechariah preached with Haggai c. 520 BC to motivate the Jews to resume work on the temple (Ezra 4-5). They'd been deterred by the Samaritans, who'd bribed Persian officials to hinder the work. The prophets' message was obeyed, and work resumed. The temple was completed in 516 BC. Haggai's book consists of four brief oracles. Zechariah's book is much longer and contains eight visions and several Messianic prophecies. Zechariah means Yahweh Remembers.

Zechariah was the son of Berechiah and grandson of Iddo. Iddo and Zechariah are mentioned in a list of priests in Nehemiah 12:12-21. It is my opinion that the Zechariah who was persecuted and killed (Matt. 23:35) was not the writing prophet.

The book is divided by date into two sections. Chapters 1-8 are dated 520-518 BC. Chapters 9-14 are undated, but the popular view dates this section to c. 480-470 BC, around or shortly after Xerxes' failed attempt to conquer Greece (Zech. 9:13).

Questions

1. Name one of the "former prophets" their fathers had ignored. (Zech. 1:4; 7:13)

2. What does the word "satan" mean in Hebrew? (Zech. 3:1-2)

3. Isaiah (11:1) and Jeremiah (23:5; 33:15) had introduced "the Branch" in prophecy. Zechariah added more about him (6:12-13). Which two roles would the Branch have? What would he build? Who fulfilled this? (Heb. 1:8; 9:11)

4. When the Jews asked God if they should fast, what did God tell them to do instead? (Zech. 7:2-10; 8:14-19)

5. Which city-states were prophesied against in Zech. 9:1-8?

6. What conflict did Zech. 9:13 prophesy? When did this occur?

7. List the details about Jesus prophesied in the following verses:

   a) Zech. 9:9 (Matt. 21:1-11)

   b) Zech. 11:12-13 (Matt. 26:14-15; 27:3-10; Luke 22:3-6)

   c) Zech. 12:10 (John 19:37; Rev. 1:7)

   d) Zech. 13:1 (1 John 1:7; Rev. 1:5)

   e) Zech. 13:7 (Matt. 26:31, 56; Heb. 13:20; John 10:14)

8. Choose one of the visions in Zechariah. Briefly explain the vision and its meaning.