

# EXILIC & POST-EXILIC PROPHETS OF THE BIBLE

Senior Adults & Friends Bible Study — Summit View Church of Christ  
Spring 2023

## PART 7, SECTION 2 — ENCOURAGEMENT FOR ZERUBBABEL AND JOSHUA

### PROPHECIES DURING THE REBUILDING (520-519 BC)

*Date:* 520-519 BC — The message of Zechariah 1:1-6 dates to the 8th month of the 2nd year of Darius (I) king of Persia (Zechariah 1:1)—October/November 520 BC. The 2 messages of Haggai 2:10-23 both came to Haggai about a month later, on the 24th day of the 9th month of that year (Haggai 2:10, 18, 20); it was December 18, 520 BC. The entire vision of Zechariah 1:7 to 6:10 was given to him two months after that, on the 24th day of the 11th month that year (Zechariah 1:7), which was February 15, 519 BC.

#### **Zechariah 1:1-6**

Zechariah 1:3 — The Lord's appeal to the people:

Zechariah 1:4-6 — The Lord's warning from the Jews' past:

Zechariah 1:6 — The people's response:

#### **Haggai 2:10-23**

Haggai 2:11-14 — What does this illustration from the law of Moses mean?

Haggai 2:15-19 — What is the Lord saying will change, now that the people are working on rebuilding God's temple again?

#### **Zechariah 1:7 to 6:15 — A Vision in 9 Parts**

##### ***Part 1: 1:7-17***

1:8-11 — What was the role of the horses (and, perhaps, the people/angels on them)?

1:11-13 — All was at rest and in peace in the world—except one thing. What did the angel say was still wrong?

1:14 — According to the angel, what was God angry about?

1:16-17 — According to the angel, what was God going to do for Jerusalem and his towns?

### **connections...**

The horses in 1:7-11 and 6:1-8 set the tone for our understanding of the so-called "four horsemen of the apocalypse" in Revelation 6:1-8. Notice the similarity in colors. More importantly, but harder to see, is the similarity in the purpose of the horses/horsemen: they bring God's punishment on the wicked who oppress God's people. The horses in Zechariah bring destruction (implied in Zechariah 6:8), yet they are sent from God. Likewise, the horses/horsemen in Revelation, though they bring destruction, are not sent from the devil, but from God specifically to punish those who persecute and kill his people (notice the connection with Revelation 6:9-11).

### **Part 2: 1:18-21**

1:18-19 — In the Bible, horns often represent military strength. Here, the 4 horns represent military powers that scattered \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

1:21 — In this vision of these craftsmen, what is God foretelling about what will happen to the nations that scattered his people?

### **Part 3: chapter 2**

- In general, what is the Lord predicting concerning Jerusalem in this chapter?

2:1-2 — Compare these verses with 1:16. What do you think the measuring line represents here?

- *Notice the similar symbolism of the measuring line/rod in Zechariah 1:16 & 2:1-2, Ezekiel 40-47, and Revelation 21:15-17. The meaning of the measuring line/rod in each of these passages is similar.*

2:6-9 — What does the Lord call his people to do here?

### **connections...**

Compare Zechariah 2:10-13 with Revelation 21:1-3 and 21:24-26. What similar themes do you notice?

- *for group discussion: Was the prophecy of Zechariah 2:10-13 fulfilled? Or are we still awaiting its fulfillment?*

### **Part 4: chapter 3**

3:1 — What is Satan doing to Joshua the high priest in this scene?

3:2-5 — What happens to Joshua in these verses?

3:6-7 — What authority does God promise to Joshua, if Joshua obeys the Lord?

3:8-10 — *To make some sense of this promise, see the earlier prophecies of Isaiah 4:2-6 and 11:1-11. Note the recurring theme of a servant of God bringing purification, renewal, and peace. Who could this servant, the Branch, be?*

**Part 5: chapter 4**

4:2-3 — What did Zechariah see?

- a solid gold \_\_\_\_\_ with a \_\_\_\_\_ at the top and 7 \_\_\_\_\_ on it, with 7 \_\_\_\_\_ to the lamps
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_

4:6 — God's message to Zerubbabel: "Not by \_\_\_\_\_ nor by \_\_\_\_\_, but by my \_\_\_\_\_, says the Lord Almighty."

- What do you think this message was intended to say to Zerubbabel?

4:7-9 — What work did the Lord predict that Zerubbabel would complete?

4:11-14 — What did the 2 olive trees represent?

**connections...**

In Revelation 11:3-4, two witnesses/prophets are appointed by God to prophesy for a time. They are called "the two olive trees" and "the two lampstands" who "stand before the Lord of the earth," borrowing from the imagery representing Joshua and Zerubbabel here in Zechariah 4.

**Part 6: 5:1-4**

5:1-2 — What did Zechariah see?

5:3-4 — What kind of people would this curse from God seek out and destroy?

**Part 7: 5:5-11**

5:6 — What did Zechariah see? \_\_\_\_\_

5:6-8 — What was inside it, and what did it represent?

5:9-11 — Where did the 2 flying women take the basket? \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 8: 6:1-8**

6:1-3 — What did Zechariah see?

6:5 — The chariot-horses were the four \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven going out from the presence of the Lord.

6:6, 8 — The \_\_\_\_\_ horse went toward the north country. Those going there gave God's Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ in the land of the north.

**Part 9: 6:9-15**

6:9-11 — What did God command Zechariah to do for Joshua the high priest?

6:12 — Joshua was the \_\_\_\_\_ that would build the temple of the Lord.

6:15 — If the Jews diligently obeyed the Lord, those who were \_\_\_\_\_ would come and help to build the temple. This would be a sign that God had sent Zechariah to the people.

**for group discussion...**

What is the overall message of the 9-part vision in Zechariah 1:7 to 6:15?