LESSONS THIS QUARTER
1) 01 March .............. Nahum 1-3, 6-7. Don’t Mess with God
2) 08 March .............. Zephaniah 1-2. Everyone is Accountable
3) 15 March .............. Zephaniah 3. Our Great Salvation
4) 22 March .............. Obadiah 1. Compassion for Lost People
5) 29 March .............. Zechariah 1-9. The Promised Messiah

INTRODUCTION
- Apologies for my notes exceeding my typical 1-page format. As Ben Franklin once said, “If I had more time I would’ve shortened it”
- Also, I deviated away from Life Way’s approach. Life Way’s outline only covers chapters 8 and 9 for this session, but since I like expository teaching, I opted to cover the main topics in all 14 chapters. To do Zechariah justice and tie in parallel passages from Daniel, Ezekiel, and Revelations would take several months.
- The Book of Zechariah is rich in near-term and far-reaching prophecies, which touch the Messiah’s crucifixion and Millennial reign; the Tribulation years, the Battle of Armageddon, and the final destruction of all of Jerusalem’s enemies at the end of time
- Unfortunately, we have to fly through this book in 2 sessions
- Zechariah is awesome proof to fulfilled prophecy and the fact that God is still working in Israel today
- Zechariah was a priest and a prophet like Jeremiah and Ezekiel
- Zechariah was a colleague with the prophet Haggai in building of the second temple (aka, Ezra’s Temple) cf. Ezra 5:1
- Zechariah is quoted from or alluded to by other Bible books more than any other OT book; and he was 2nd to Isaiah for including Christ-centered prophecies
- Zechariah used the term “Lord Almighty” more than 50x in these 14 chapters (literally, “Yahweh of Armies”)
- Zechariah is known for introducing spiritual creatures and objects into his prophetic scenes (i.e., male and female angels, horses, lampstands, olive trees, flying scroll, ephah, etc.)

SUMMARY
Zechariah’s prophetic utterances consists of four parts:
1. Introductory, Zec 1:1-6.
2. Symbolical, Zec 1:7, to the end of the sixth chapter, contains nine visions; all these were vouchsafed in one night, and are of a symbolical character.
3. Didactic (instructional), the seventh and eighth chapters containing an answer to a query of the Beth-elites concerning a certain feast. And
4. Prophetic, the ninth chapter to the end. These six last chapters predominantly predict Alexander’s expedition along the west coast of Palestine to Egypt; God’s protection of the Jews, both at that time and under the Maccabees; the advent, sufferings, and reign of Messiah; the destruction of Jerusalem by Rome, and dissolution of the Jews’ polity; their conversion and restoration; the overthrow of the wicked confederacy which assailed them in Canaan; and the Gentiles’ joining in their holy worship (JFB Commentary).

- Zechariah has the following visions or prophetic revelations:
  1. The vision of horses, four horns & four carpenters........1:7-21.
  2. Vision of great peace and world-wide evangelism........2:1-13
  3. Vision of encouragement while under duress.............3:1-10
  4. Overpowering vision of Jewish success..................4:6-9
  5. Vision of a large flying role, an ephah with a woman.....5:1-11
  7. A challenge for Jews to dispense true justice.............7:5-11
  8. The Jews convert many other nations.....................8:21-23
  9. Promise of prosperity...........................................9:9
  10. Jews to be fully restored to their land..................10:6-10
  11. But first, the land of Israel will be made desolate......11:4-11
  12. God uses Jerusalem to bring judgment on others.........12:1-5
  13. God begins to remove all forms of evil from the Land....13:2-9
  14. Finally, the Messiah, cleaves the Land in 2 as he defeats the world’s armies who rise up against Israel, and the Messiah’s Millennial Reign begins.....................................................14:1-21

Passage | Comments
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Zechariah 1:1-21 | Challenge #1 – A Call To Repentance
- v3. Timeless Principle: “Return to Me’ declares the Lord of hosts, “that I may return to you”..... cf James 4:8
- Who needs to make the 1st move? When should the move happen? Early in life or later in life?
- God initiated the means of salvation, but He wants us to move toward Him willingly
- v4. “But they did not listen or give heed to Me” – What entices people to want to obey God willingly?
- Consider this: For fools, nothing will work – and those who go to Hell are all fools
- v5. “Do prophets live forever?” Rhetorical “NO.” What is the significance of this argument?
- vv8-17. Vision #1 – A man riding a Red Horse while gazing on horses of varied colors
- Possible meaning: God takes notice of everything – especially what concerns His people
- v15. God is angry with “nations who are at ease” and who exceeded God’s intent in punishing Israel, so judgment day is coming for them
  - What is being conveyed here?
  - Probable meaning is that God has something special in store for those are ambivalent to the hurting people around them
- vv16-17. Also, Israel will one day have their Temple and Prosperity restored – but this won’t happened until the foolish are gone, replaced with wise ones – those who willingly want to cherish their God
- vv18-21. Vision #2 – Four Horns & Four Craftsmen
- The four horns are the 4 dominant nations that trampled over Israel: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia
- The four craftsmen are God’s form of judgment on those 4 nations: Assyria vanquished Egypt; Babylon destroyed Assyria, Persia destroyed Babylon, and Greece destroyed Persia

![Image of Eschatologists Anonymously and Hi, My name is Roger, and I'm recovering dispensational mid-t rib pre-millennialist.](http://rodoneil.com/ss-lessons/)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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| 2:1-13 | **Israel is the Apple of God’s Eye**  
- v1-5. Vision #3 – Man with a Measuring Line  
- v4. Jerusalem will have no need for walls, indicating unprecedented and enduring peace (Millennial city)  
- It cannot refer to The New Jerusalem in Eternity since the city will be 1500 miles cubed, & it will have walls made of Jasper, 200 feet thick....Rev 21:16-18  
- v8. **Timeless Principle:** “Whoever touches Israel touches the apple of God’s eye” – A promise of retribution for any individual or nation who seeks Israel’s harm – & it’s proven true every time  
- v5, 10, 11. Three times, Zechariah highlights that God will dwell within the “midst” of Jerusalem  
- God considers Jerusalem to be at the center of His creation..........................Ezek 5:5; 38:12  
- v12. God, once again, makes Israel a holy nation. Only God can create new creatures; new nations; and new desires in His people ......................2Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15  
- v13. Why should one be silent before the Lord? Is it a sense of □ awe or □ respect or □ fear? And what does it take to stir God to take action? □ Small sins or □ Big sins or □ a Lot of sins? |

| 3:1-10 | **Satan, The Accuser, is Introduced**  
- v1. Joshua, the High Priest of that time, represents Jerusalem/Israel, and he is accused by Satan for unspecified sins (probably adultery, idolatry, etc.)  
- What can Satan accuse us of? Would any of it stick?  
- vv2-5. The Angel of the Lord/Jehovah/“Existing One” is revealed as the Lord God Almighty  
- What is His purpose? Consider the following:  
  1. He chose Jerusalem for good things  
  2. He rescued Jerusalem (plucked them from fire)  
  3. He clothed Jerusalem in “festive” attire  
  4. He removed their sins  
- Is this a picture of what He wants to do for us?  
- Only fools would chose the ways of Satan  
**The Branch (the Nazarene)**  
- vv6-7. Joshua/Jerusalem is first admonished, basically to “go and sin no more” and they would be blessed  
- v8. The Branch/Messiah is first and foremost a servant to the Lord of Hosts (aka, God the Father)  
- v9. “…On one stone is 7 eyes” – Say what?  
  - Probable meaning is that God sees everything, every time, everywhere – nothing escapes His gaze  
  - …and the purpose is to identify and remove ALL iniquity found in His children. What a Loving God!!!  
- v10. “Every one of you will invite his neighbor.” The Jews will one day be evangelists for God  
- Side note. Where did Jesus see Nathaniel?...Jn 1:48  
  He saw him sitting under his fig tree— a Jewish symbol of peace, prosperity, and comfort |

| 4:1-14 | **More Visionary Objects for Consideration**  
- v1. What is the significance of Zechariah having to be aroused out of sleep by the angel?  
- vv2-7. Many interpretations for the golden lampstand with 7 lamps & spouts (v2) and the 2 olive trees (v3)  
  - More significantly is the dialogue between the Angel and Zechariah: “What are these things?” asks Zechariah; “You don’t know?” replies the Angel, as if these things should’ve been obvious to Zech. |

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**Vision of a Flying Scroll and Female Angels**  
- The visions of a flying scroll, an ephah, a woman of wickedness, and 2 flying female angels are intertwined in this vision  
- vv1-4. **Flying Scroll** – a probable symbol of God’s Word going forth to render justice (a curse)  
  - The scroll is 20x10 cubits or 30x15 feet or 450 sqft, about ½ the size of our S/S classroom  
  - One side purges the one who steals  
  - The other side purges the one who swears  
  - The 2 most common sins – he who steals can also be accused of murder (stealing human life); and he who swears to a blasphemer (God-hater)  
- vv5-11. An Ephah (in this case, a container) being carried by 2 Female Angels with a very wicked woman inside to be taken to a place for her to perform her assigned task (a probable symbol of idolatry and adultery confined to a given area such as Babylonian’s Temple of Zechariah’s day)  

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**After Eden**  
by Dan Littha  
In all the vastness of this fallen universe, man is in the focus of God’s crosshairs.  

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Rod O’Neil (rod.onell@twc.com)  
Page 2 of 4  
Posted to: http://rodoneil.com/ss-lessons/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td><strong>Zechariah 5:9</strong>-mentions two flying female angelic-like creatures. If you have sexes in a species, you always have procreation going on. HOWEVER, this is the only passage of its kind, and the context is within a vision. So these female angels could be merely a representation of Judah &amp; Benjamin, or of two Judean kings – Jehoiakim and Zedekiah, or of the Babylonians and Chaldeans, or of Ezra and Nehemiah – depending on one’s theological bent. Plus, these female creatures had wings ‘like the wings of a stork,’ which would have helped identify whom they represented to Zechariah and his generation that we can only speculate today. There are no parallel passages to dogmatically elaborate on angelic sexes. To speculate beyond what information is provided or not provided in Scripture would lead us down a prickly path. Can angels procreate? According to <strong>Matthew 22:30</strong> – the answer is NO. Being moral creatures they are not given in marriage, therefore, we can logically deduce they do not procreate between themselves or with other “kinds,” and are, therefore, sexless.</td>
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<td><strong>Judgment of God’s Enemies and Establishment of a King/Priest</strong></td>
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<td>vv1-8. Four chariots, which represent the four spirits of Heaven, are driven through 2 bronze mountains (we can only speculate what this means)</td>
<td><strong>vv11-12. BUT, God’s chosen people refused to obey</strong></td>
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| • The black and white horses carry judgment (i.e., war) to the countries of the north, and dappled and red horses carry judgment to the countries of the south | • In fact, they took creative steps to avoid obeying (They “turned a stubborn shoulder and plugged up their ears”)
• What would this look like today? |
| • The “Strong Ones” patrol the earth looking for signs of trouble and possibly signs of obedience | **vv13-14. Our actions often dictate God’s responses just as a belligerent child forces us to respond to their undesirable behavior** |
| vv9-15. Joshua receives a crown that becomes a reminder to the people (v14) of probably Israel’s glorious past | • First, God stopped answering their prayers
• Finally, God removed them from His land |
| • v12. The Branch (aka, Messiah) arrives to build the everlasting Temple and to reconcile the office of the King and Priest | **Happy Days Are Here Again (Millennial Hope)** |
| • All this will take place IF the remnant “completely obey” the Lord their God. Is this even POSSIBLE? | • Israel has a very bright future ahead of them
• v2. “God is a jealous God – with Great Wrath” |
| • This is an impossibility unless God puts His Spirit into His people’s hearts | • What does this truth convey to us? |
| **Questions about Fasting** | vv3 – Jerusalem becomes a City of Truth, and God is worshipped in truth and righteousness...cf John 4:23 |
| vv2-3. Men were sent to “seek the favor of the Lord” | • Recall that the foundation of God’s throne is built on righteousness, justice, and truth... Psalms 89:14 |
| • How can we or anyone seek God’s favor? | • But this cannot and will not happen UNTIL God does something. He must first establish a people who are willing to live in total obedience to Him (the Elect)
- Half-hearted Christianity will not work |
| • What would this look like today? | • Can you imagine a Church where more than 80% of the people are active and faithful followers of Christ, instead of the typical 20% who do 80% of the work? |
| • What is this? | **v4-8. Peace and prosperity will once again prevail in the troubled city of Jerusalem – and throughout Israel as God rules with a rod of iron...** Rev 12:5 |
| *God sets all men one against another* (v10). It is not that God causes evil, but He does corral it by allowing men to focus their evil intents on each other | **vv9-13. Knowing these things, God tells His people to avoid obeying** |
| • Do “Speak the truth” | • What risks for the Kingdom can we take today? |
| • Do “Judge with truth” | • **Timeless Principle** – “God sets all men one against another” (v10). It is not that God causes evil, but He does corral it by allowing men to focus their evil intents on each other |
| • Do “Talk the truth” | **vv14-17. For world peace to prevail, we must heed the admonishments found earlier in Chapter 7:**
• Do “Speak the truth”
• Do “Judge with truth”
• Do Not “devise evil”
• Do Not “love perjury” (distortion of the truth) | **vu18-19. Mourning and fasting will be turned into Joy & Feasting** – BUT this only becomes a reality as the majority “love truth and peace” – and this is God’s work |
| • v4-7. God’s response: “You are misdirected” | **vv20-23. There comes a day (Millennial Reign of Christ) when non-Jews will grab a Jew to go with them to the House of God** |
| • God is looking for obedience and not sacrifice or self-flagellation. The Jews always preferred the letter of the Law and failed to follow the spirit of the Law (God’s true intended purpose for the Law) | • Do “Dispense True Justice”
• Do “Practice Kindness and Compassion”
• Do Not Oppress the Widow, Orphan, Strange, Poor
• Do Not Devise Evil against Others |
**Passage** | **Comments**
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**Prophecies Against Philistine Nations (Tyre, Ekrnon...)** | • vv1-7. The Philistine nations will be no more (They got assimilated by Assyrian, Babylonian, & Greek nations)
• vv8-17. In contrast, Israel will flourish and vanquish her enemies
• vv9-11. Prophecy of the Messiah riding a colt into Jerusalem as a conquering & benevolent King; and for setting the captives free...
• vv10. This 1st Messianic event has Him speaking of peace but not implementing peace. That comes later
• v12. Judah might be punished double for her sins (Is 40:2), but she will also receive double blessings
• vv13-16. The 2nd Messianic event has Him bringing peace by destroying Israel’s enemies – “God will save them in that day” (v16)
• v17. It is easy to see how “Grain will make the young men flourish” but how will new wine make the virgins flourish? What is being conveyed here? Is it referring to wine inducing a happy mood for courtship reasons?

**Blessings Await Israel, Judgment for Shepherds** | • v1. It is OK to ask God for the obvious, such as rain during the rainy season – BUT WHY? It’s going to come anyway, isn’t it? ………………………..Phil 4:6
• v2. Leadership Principle. The sheep wander into harmful places without a guiding shepherd
• v3. Judgment is reserved for incompetent shepherds; BUT blessings for the sheep ……………………James 3:1
• v6. There comes a time when God’s forgiveness is as if they never sinned ………………………..Millennial
• v12. It’s all about GOD. God will strengthen His people “in the Lord” and they will walk “in His Name”

**Something BIG Is About to Happen** | • vv4-8. Anybody’s guess what all this means. Taken literally (Clarke), some think the three shepherds mean the three Maccabees, Judas, Jonathan, and Simon; others, the three wicked high priests, Jason, Alcimus, and Menelaus; others, the three last princes of the Asmonean race, Alexander, Hyrcanus, and Antigonus.
• Perhaps three orders may be intended: 1. The priesthood. 2. The dictatorship, including the Scribes, Pharisees, &c. 3. The magistracy, the great sanhedrin, and the smaller councils. These were all annihilated by the Roman conquest.
• v9. There’s a time to let people perish… Are we there?
• vv10-17. Breaking of the staffs and paying out 30 pieces of silver seem to indicate the breaking of the Covenant between God & Israel, between Judah & Israel. Something new was beginning…

**Messiah’s 2nd Advent and Acceptance** | • This seems to be apocalyptic with strong reference to the Great Tribulation years
• v3. All the nations gather against Israel (even America is getting hostile as witnessed in the news recently)
• vv7-8. But God will allow Israel to prevail
• v10. God will open the eyes of the spiritually blind Jews for them to realize the truth about Jesus Christ
• vv11-14. BUT why the great mourning. Shouldn’t there be rejoicing over the truth of who the Messiah is?
• This seems to be a case of true repentance and a realization that generations of Jews have been lost

**God Will Clean House of All Apostasy** | • vv1-3. Is horror-killing of an unruly relative biblical? For this special kind of sin and time period, it seems to be, for Apostasy eventually leads to the death of a nation
• God destroys false teachers........ Deut 13:1-5; 18:20
• Another time when family killed family........ Ex 32:27

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**Passage** | **Comments**
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**Some Things Need to be Destroyed Before Restoring** | • vv7. Alludes to the arrest of Christ
• vv8-9. 2/3rds of the Jews to be annihilated. It’s hard to nail this down. Could it refer to Greek or Roman conquest, or Nazi gas chambers? Anyone’s guess.
• Or, this is still a future event of the Great Tribulation

**Summary Of Messianic Passages in Zechariah** | • His atoning death and removal of sin ………………………………3:8-9; 13:1
• He is the true builder of the House of God ………………………………6:12
• Universal Reign as King & Priest ………………………………6:13; 9:10
• Triumphant entry ………………………………. 9:9 / cf Mt 21:5; John 12:15
• Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver ………………………………. 11:12,13 / cf Mt 27:9,10
• His deity ………………………………. 12:8
• His hands pierced ………………………………. 12:10; 13:6 / cf Jn 19:37
• A smitten shepherd ………………………………. 13:7 / cf Mt 26:31; Mk 14:27

**Conclusion / Applications / Benefits** | • Though, Zechariah seemed to oscillate between promises of future glory and promises of destruction, the book ends on a positive note that God brings hope to His people through promises of future peace & glory
• We will cover any remaining chapters in Zechariah following 2 studies in Luke that will take us to the Lord’s glorious Resurrection and the eternal hope we have here and now

**NEXT FEW WEEKS:**
1. 5 April – Luke 24:1-12. Preparation for Easter. If the Resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone of our faith why so few details?
2. 12 April – Luke 24:19-35. Jesus opens the eyes of His followers to see Him revealed throughout all of Scripture
3. 19 April – Zechariah conclusion. Pick up where we stopped 3/29

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**After Eden**

*Image by Dan Lietha*