

# The Minor Prophets

## Zechariah

Please pray and ask the Lord for understanding of His Word before you begin.

### Read Chapters 1 & 2

Zechariah and Haggai were contemporaries and prophesied during the same time period, around 520 B.C. after about 50,000 children of Israel had returned from 70 years of exile in Babylon to rebuild the temple. The people had become discouraged and given into the obstacles in the way of the temple rebuild and stopped work on it. Zechariah and Haggai both offered encouragement to the people although they came from different perspectives. Haggai was very practical in his approach while Zechariah was speaking from the eternal, heavenly perspective of the coming of the Messiah.

### Chapter 1

1. Read verses 1-6 of chapter 1.

- a. What is God inviting the people to do?
- b. Read 6a along with Isaiah 55:10,11. What do you learn?

2. Verses 7-17 recount the first of 8 visions Zechariah saw. These visions were given to bring comfort to the remnant of Israel.

- a. Look at verses 12-17. Why would these words bring comfort to the remnant of Israel?
- b. What is the “Angel of the Lord” doing in verse 12? Read Hebrews 7:25. How would this be comforting to **all** His people?
- c. Read verse 14, 15 along with Nahum 1:2. What do you learn?

3. Horns are always used as symbols of power in the Bible. These four horns represent nations that attacked Israel and are to be judged. Some believe the nations are most likely, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. The vision of the horns described in verses 18-21 fills in the details of how God will judge the nations that persecuted Israel. “Craftsmen” is literally the term for stone workers, metal workers, and wood workers, who all use hammers and chisels. The “hammers” were in turn destroyed by the next nation to come along. Babylon destroyed by

Cyrus (Persia); Persia destroyed by Greece (Alexander the Great); Greece destroyed by Rome. Ultimately the revived Roman Empire will be hammered by The Messiah returning in His Glory to establish His Kingdom! (Daniel 2:34, 35)

## **Chapter 2**

4. Now comes the third vision building on the promise God made in verses 13 & 17 that He would comfort His people.

a. Read verses 1-5 along with Jeremiah 31:38-40; Psalm 46:7-11 and Isaiah 60:18,19. What do you learn?

5. Zechariah returns from the far future to the present now in verses 6-9.

a. Read verses 6 & 7 and Jeremiah 51:6 and Revelation 18:4. What do you learn?

b. Explain verses 8 & 9.

6. Read these verses and tell what you learn:

a. Verse 10 along with Revelation 21:3

b. Verse 11 with Revelation 11:15

c. Verse 12 with Psalm 135:4

d. Verse 13 with romans 3:19

**“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!” Philippians 4:4**