

The Prophet Zechariah

"Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds." Zechariah 1:4



How it started: Zechariah began his prophetic ministry nearly at the same time as the prophet Haggai (Ezra 5:1). His name means "The Lord remembers" and describes in some way the content of his service.

Whilst Haggai mainly encourages the people to continue building the temple, Zechariah's focus is more on the national restoration of Israel under the rule of their Messiah.

This will one day take place, and then Jerusalem will be "the city of the great King" (Psalm 48:3), the centre of the earth.

What it is all about: “The Lord remembers” – Zechariah shows in his book how God, despite all opposition, will bring His plans to pass. God loves His people and will fulfill His promises.

But the fulfillment of God’s promises will first of all be connected with judgment for those who oppose Him. This is true for Israel and for the nations who have attacked Israel.

Already in the past, God had disciplined His disobedient people and He will also do it in the future. The righteous will be purified and the unrighteous judged.

But after God has cleansed the earth through His judgments, He will bring perfect blessing on His people. Under the rule of the Lord Jesus Christ, Israel will be a blessing to all nations of the earth.

How about today? Zechariah was of priestly descent and began his prophetic service as a young man. God wants to use young people who make themselves available to Him and who have the courage to be true to Him. Are you prepared to serve the Lord Jesus and to confess Him as Saviour, but also as Judge? Actually: What is He to you? Saviour or Judge?

Zechariah received his commission through visions, directly from God. That’s not going to happen to you. But God has given you His whole word, the Bible, and in it, He shows you His commission for you.

Zechariah speaks much about the Lord Jesus – prophetically - as Servant of God, as Shepherd of Israel and as King. What can you tell about the Lord Jesus? Which names (descriptions and titles) of the Lord Jesus do you know and what do they mean to you? Be encouraged by Zechariah to be occupied with the Lord Jesus. This will make you happy and give you strength for your daily Christian life.