

HEAR THE CALL OF THE KING



HOLY WEEK

ACCORDING TO

ZECHARIAH





*“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.”*

ZECHARIAH 12:10



## Sunday

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### Introduction

We're kicking off Holy Week (that week beginning on Palm Sunday leading into Good Friday and Easter Sunday) by studying the Old Testament book of Zechariah. Early on in the year, this book consistently came up in the devotions of the elders and we thought marveling at how this prophet pointed to Jesus would encourage our hearts.

As we dug in to introduce this book to you, we learned that apart from the Psalms, Zechariah is quoted more in the Gospel accounts of Holy Week than any other Old Testament book. And, we should have confidence that all of the Old Testament—and this prophet in particular—is pointing to Jesus. Remember His resurrection appearance to the disciples on the Emmaus Road. In Luke 24, we read: "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself (v.27). He also repeated Himself in v.44: "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Part of what Zechariah was up to is very relevant for us coming out of studying the book of Acts, seeing Jesus build His church as His people are on mission. We've been given work to do. Similarly, Zechariah's original hearers, in the year 520 B.C., had just returned from exile in Babylon to Judah twenty years ago. They've grown sluggish and complacent in their mission. And, God comes near to them with a compelling word through His prophet.

The Gospel Transformation Study Bible introduces Zechariah in this helpful way: Zechariah's prophecy begins with a cycle of vivid and complex visions, and it would be easy to get lost trying to explain all of the intricate details. Yet we are not left alone to try

to understand these visions: the Lord sent an interpreting angel to Zechariah (and to us), and we can find the meaning of the visions explained in the angel's comments. He repeatedly points us to the coming of "the Branch" (3:8; 6:12), the messianic offspring of David promised in Jeremiah 23:5 and 33:15, who combines in himself the offices of king and priest (Zech. 6:13). This Branch will purify his people and remove their sin in one day (3:9).

Writing to people who were discouraged by living, after the exile, in a "day of small things" (4:10), when there seemed to be little progress toward the glorious future promised in the earlier prophets, Zechariah encouraged them to look forward to the day when the Lord would act once again. The righteous King was coming to bring salvation and to bring an end to war and suffering (9:9–17).

That coming would, strikingly, result in the piercing of God himself, which would be the means by which a cleansing fountain would be opened for sin (12:10–13:1). The Good Shepherd would be struck for his sheep, who would continue to endure great suffering until the time of the end (13:7–14:5). Yet the outcome of that time of suffering and pain would be the final victory of God and the vindication of his people (14:9). Given all of these messianic themes, it is not surprising that the book of Zechariah is one of the Old Testament books most frequently quoted in the New Testament.

So, welcome to Holy Week. Let's look at this book this week, journal some thoughts, and continue to marvel that God loves us by sending His Son to die for sinners and rise again in victory.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Phil' written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phil



## Monday: Zechariah 1-2

### *The Return of the Lord*

Read Zech 1:1-6. In these opening verses God invites these people to return to Him and they repent and turn to Him. How is this a fitting start for us entering into Holy Week? What things do you need to repent of at the outset of this week?

Read the 3 visions we find in Zech 1:8-2:13. Each vision, though strange at first sight, has a messenger from God telling us what they mean. Part of what stands out is how God will take the initiative to draw near to His people. How does this truth encourage you as we begin this week?

In Zech 2:13, all hearers are encouraged to be silent before the Lord. Could we begin this week in silence, asking God to search our hearts, to reveal where we need to repent with the confidence that He will come near to us? Use this space to journal some of what God says through His Word in the silence.

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Tuesday: Zechariah 3-4  
*Cleansed for Service*

Read the vision of Joshua the High Priest in Zech 3:1-10. Some effects of the cleansing of Joshua include giving him the ability to stand in God’s presence and sending a “Branch,” who will “remove the iniquity of the land in a single day”? How does it encourage you that Jesus has come to take your sin away?

Read the vision of the golden lampstand in Zech 4:1-14. Zerubbabel was undoubtedly overwhelmed by the scope of the work to rebuild. God comes near with great truth in Zech 4:6. As you’re overwhelmed with the work to which God has called you, how does Zech 4:6 encourage you and propel you to action?

In 4:14, we’re told of two anointed ones (probably Joshua the High Priest in chapter 3 and Zerubbabel in chapter 4). Imagine the encouragement these two have in being able to stand before the Holy Lord of the whole earth. Similarly, because of the work of Jesus, we can stand before God Himself. After taking time to consider where we need to repent yesterday, write a prayer of praise to God for sending His Son to take away your sin and make you stand in His presence, blameless and with great joy.

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## Wednesday: Zechariah 5-6

### *Two Ways to Build: Houses of Iniquity or A House for the Lord*

In the vision of Zech 5:1-4, we can easily see how stealing supplies used to build would get in the way of the actual building. In the same way, our persistent sin and disobedience get in the way of what God has called us to do. Search your heart again, today, that you may be wholly devoted to Him.

In the vision of Zech 5:5-11, with wickedness being removed from the people, the people are again encouraged to be devoted to the mission. How are you being encouraged this week thinking about your sin and how Jesus has removed it and taken it as far as the east is from the west?

Zech 6 opens with a vision about God's spirit going out in all the earth and ends with a prophetic sign as a symbolic crown is given to Joshua the High Priest. We've already thought this week about who this Branch is. Now, we're told that this is pointing to a High Priest sitting enthroned as King. Write a prayer of praise to Jesus, your perfect Kingly High Priest.

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## Thursday: Zechariah 7-8

### *What Matters More Than Fasting?*

We get another time stamp at the beginning of chapter 7, signaling that this takes place 2 years after the visions as the temple is nearing completion. A group of people ask the leadership if fasting is still appropriate. Read chapter 7 and list some of God's answer to these people through the prophet.

These people are challenged for having "diamond-hard hearts" (7:12). Ask God to show you your hard heart. Confess to Him your desire to have your own way at the neglect of His. And, rest in His mercy (this passage ends with the nations seeing that God is with us).

Read chapter 8. Through Zechariah, God calls the people to set their sights on bigger realities than simply fasting. This bigger piece gets focus in 8:20-23. What mission is God calling you towards and how might this passage inspire your heart to go out?

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## Saturday: Zechariah 12-14

### *The Day God Was Pierced*

These final chapters contain another oracle about a future battle. Read Zech 12-14 to see what the King's return means for: nations, God's people, His leaders, His future king, Jerusalem, Judah, and the heavens and earth.

It's Holy Saturday. The day Jesus was buried in the ground and lay expectantly for the glorious Easter morning. Zechariah 12:10 contains a prophecy fulfilled in John 19:37. As you reflect on Good Friday, what are some reasons to mourn and weep bitterly over Jesus?

As we anticipate Easter Sunday and our Lord being alive, read chapter 14 a few times. This chapter focuses on the Lord coming and reigning as King. Use this chapter to write some praises to your Resurrected King for what He's done and what He will do.

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*“And the Lord will be king  
over all the earth.”*

ZECHARIAH 14:9