

REBUILD

Date: 10.20.24 | Title: Zechariah Gave Hope | Scripture: Zechariah 13-14

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Middle School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.

God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.

God wants us to live for His glory.

God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.

Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies and promises.

High School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.

God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.

God wants us to live for His glory.

God is a righteous judge.

God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.

Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies and promises.

Jesus gave His life for us on the cross and He is the only way for salvation.



MEMORY VERSE

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." Lamentations 3:22-24

REBUILD

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Zechariah served as a postexilic prophet, preaching after the Jews returned from their exile in Babylon. His book is dated October–November 520 BC. Zechariah was born in Babylon and came to Jerusalem after the exile when his father followed the leadership of Zerubbabel (Nehemiah 12:4, 16). Zechariah was a member of the Great Synagogue, a group of priests and leaders dedicated to collecting and preserving the canon of revealed Scripture. Zechariah came from a priestly family and prophesied alongside Haggai. God used both Haggai and Zechariah to inspire the people to complete the rebuilding of the temple, which was central to their worship and community (Ezra 6:14). While Haggai’s book is brief, Zechariah’s spans fourteen chapters. The book of Zechariah provides a broad prophetic vision of the future.

Fewer than 50,000 Jews had returned from Babylon, and they came across insecure and insignificant as they undertook the monumental task of rebuilding Jerusalem’s walls and temple. The exiles who returned to Jerusalem faced many challenges while rebuilding the temple. Zechariah encouraged them with the words, “Do not be like your fathers” (Zechariah 1:4). In one night, God gave Zechariah a series of eight visions about the temple’s reconstruction, using strange and symbolic imagery to highlight the challenges facing Israel and God’s faithfulness to help them overcome these obstacles. Despite facing opposition (Ezra 4–6), the people finished the temple in March 516 BC.

The book of Zechariah outlines God’s plan for His people during the “times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24), preparing them for their ultimate deliverance through the coming Messiah. Though Zechariah wrote about the temple construction happening in his time, his focus was on the future restoration of Jerusalem and the arrival of the Messiah. His writings are rich with Messianic prophecies about Jesus Christ, and he is the most frequently quoted minor prophet in the New Testament.

REBUILD

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Zechariah focuses not only on the rebuilding of the temple but also on urging the people to live faithfully in service to God as they await the coming kingdom. The central theme of Zechariah is the “day of the Lord” and the establishment of God’s glorious kingdom. Unsurprisingly, the book contains numerous Messianic prophecies. Both Haggai and Zechariah mention the Persian rulers, serving as a reminder that the prophesied Davidic kingdom is still in the future. While the return of the exiles to Jerusalem marks the beginning of this restoration, the true fulfillment of that promise awaits the arrival of the coming King, the Messiah. God had a plan to wash away the sin that separated people from Him (13:1). Jesus is the fountain whose blood was poured out to wash away our sin. Jesus paid the cost of our sin. Through faith in Jesus, we can be cleansed from our sin once and for all. Z

Zechariah’s message gave them hope by reminding them of God’s promise of restoration (14:11; 13:9). Jerusalem had been left in ruins, a visible consequence of the people’s sin. However, Zechariah’s message assured them that God would not only cleanse them from their sin but also ensure that His people would live in security. Everything broken would be made new, and they would be saved from God’s wrath. Ultimately, Jesus secures our future and offers a way to salvation.

REBUILD

LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



Tell the story: Use the Background Info for Leaders or The Message Bible summary of scripture to help tell today's story. "Get ready" in the Jesus Storybook Bible tells the story of God's people returning from slavery found in Nehemiah 8-10, Malachi 1, 3, and 4 and Ezra 7. This story covers parts of our lessons for the next several weeks.

TELL THE STORY 

After living in Babylon for 70 years, the exile was over. God had kept His promise to send His people back to Jerusalem! Now, they were home and ready to begin work on rebuilding the temple. Zerubbabel the governor and Joshua the high priest led the people. They started the work, but their neighbors didn't want them to rebuild the temple, so they stopped.

Read directly from Scripture, use the message, or the summary provided in the lesson

God sent prophets to encourage His people to finish the temple and give them a message. One of those prophets was named Zechariah. God told Zechariah what would happen in the future, and then Zechariah told the people what God said.

Zechariah gave a message of hope. He shared what God would do for His people in the future. This is what Zechariah said: "A day is coming when the Lord will remove every idol from this land. No one will remember them or worship them." God was going to set up a new kingdom over the nations.

Re-Tell
The Bible Story

Zechariah said God would give His people a new king- like a shepherd caring for a flock of sheep. "then God will say, 'Sword, strike my shepherd,' and the sheep will scatter. There will be troubles, but God will be doing something good," Zechariah explained.

Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...

In this new kingdom, God will judge and punish all evil. He will lead his own people back to Himself. Zechariah said, " The people will call out to God, and He will answer them. He will say, ' You are My people,' and they will answer, ' The LORD is our God."

The new kingdom will have a new city- a new Jerusalem- that brings all the nations together and heals all of creation.

REBUILD

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Zechariah told the people of Jerusalem that God uses trials and sufferings to refine His people, but the end result will be the praise of His name. Like the people of Judah, we will face hardships, but we can trust God and have hope knowing Jesus' sufferings secure our future. There are no trials that can separate us from God or undo God's promises. God's promises can save us. A new kingdom came true in Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Re-tell the Bible Story: Have students re-tell the story as best they can.

Attributes of God: Determine the characteristics of God that we see in today's story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true, change the way we live in Christ?

Share the GOSPEL:

Zechariah spoke a message of hope to God's people. God would one day set up a new and better kingdom with a new and better king. God kept his promise by sending Jesus. Because of Jesus, we can have hope and forgiveness of sins by trusting in Him.

No minor prophet book reveals more of the scarlet thread of redemption than Zechariah. 3 of the 8 rapid-fire visions the Lord gave the prophet pointed either to the first coming of the Messiah (who is called "the BRANCH" in Zechariah 3:8) or to Christ's end-times reign. In a cruel twist of fate, the very temple Zechariah inspired the people to build was the place where he was murdered, according to Christ (Matthew 23:35). Jesus referenced Zechariah's murder as He lamented the scribes and Pharisees' failure to recognize not only Him but also all the prophets God sent before Him: "See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'" (Matthew 23:38-39). With those words, Jesus referred to when He would ride into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey, fulfilling Zechariah 9:9. Immediately following that prophecy is a description of Christ's second coming (9:10 and the peace He will bring.

Zechariah didn't know when either of these events would occur- that the Messiah riding into Jerusalem on a donkey would take place 500 years after his time, or that the Messiah's people would still be waiting for His second coming 2000 or so years after that.

REBUILD

“Storying” Questions: As you ask these questions, have your students find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our students to go directly to God’s Word over a commentary on or summary of scripture. Use the Bible Study Bookmark Questions as well as these questions to help students understand the text:

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
4. Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God? How does this story help me live on mission better?
5. What do you think the new Jerusalem will look like? What would the world look like without sin?
6. Jesus was called “The Good Shepherd”. How is Jesus like a shepherd?
7. What other names is Jesus called throughout scripture?
8. Zechariah told the people, “Sword, strike my shepherd, and the sheep will scatter.” How did Zechariah’s prophecy come true in the NT?
9. How did God react to those who turned their back on Him or disobeyed Him?
10. How is Jesus different than any other king?
11. What have you put your hope in?
12. Read Zec. 12:10. Remember as you read that Zechariah is speaking to the returning Jews. What strikes you about this verse based on what you know about Jesus’ death?
13. How have hard times caused you to trust God more?

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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

REBUILD

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.

REBUILD

PRAYER PROMPTS

God thank You for continuing Your promises for Your people even when we fall short. Over and over again we waver, but You never change! You are faithful and true! We love You! Help us to live to follow You in expectation of your promised return!

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Help the students in your group practice memorizing the books of the Bible:

- Torah: Genesis-Deuteronomy
- History: Joshua-Esther
- Poetry: Job-Song of Solomon
- Major Prophets: Isaiah-Daniel
- Minor Prophets: Hosea-Malachi
- Gospels: Matthew-John
- Paul's Letters: Romans-Philemon
- General Letters: Hebrews-Revelation

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

For the months of September and October we will be collecting money for the Connie Maxwell Children's Home. Please visit their website for pictures and descriptions of some of the services they offer that you can share with your group. A generous donor will match all of our donations. Encourage your class to collect money and donate it in the giving funnel in the upstairs lobby. Students can donate with their families as they arrive, or you can go together as a class on the way back to the Worship Center at the end of SS.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Work on memorizing this weeks verse with the students in your group. You can use the first letter of each word in the verse to help with this. For example, the unit verse would look like this:

REBUILD



Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

REBUILD



Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?