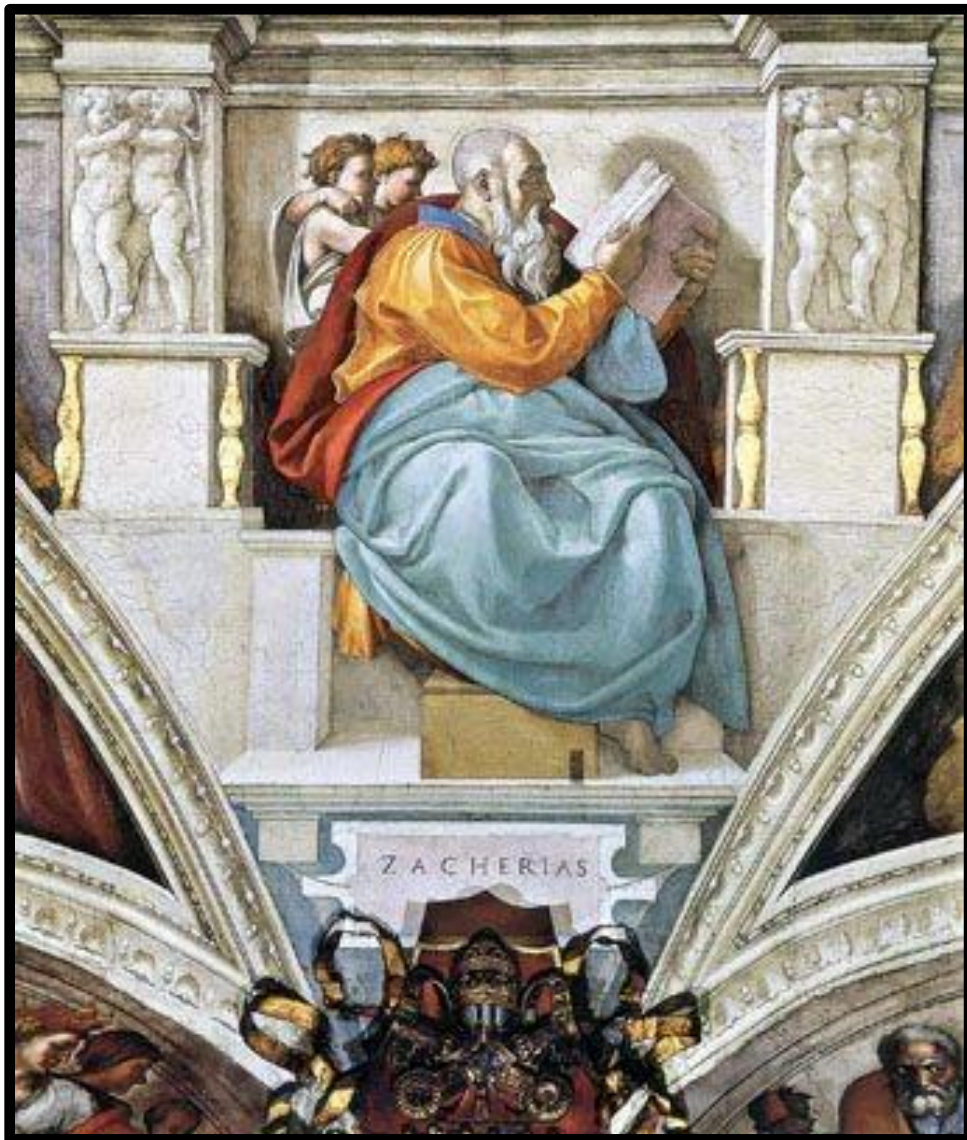


LIVING GODS WILL

Prophet of God

ZECHARIAH



The Prophet Zechariah by Michelangelo

Born: Unknown

Died: Unknown

Zechariah was the **11th** of the **12 minor prophets (520 – 518 BC)**.

Zechariah prophesied rebuilding **Solomon's temple** in Jerusalem.

Zechariah authored the **Book of Zechariah**.

Zechariah prophesied the **first and second comings of Jesus**.

Zechariah, whose name literally means **the LORD has remembered**, is one of the twelve Minor Prophets of the Tanakh (Old Testament), so called because the length of his writings (14 chapters) are not as vast as that of **Isaiah** or **Ezekiel**, for instance, who are classified as Major Prophets.

Zechariah prophesied to the kingdom of **Judah** with the distinction of being the grandson of **Iddo** the High Priest, making him of priestly extraction. In **Nehemiah 12:16**, he is even described as being the head of Iddo's priestly family.

He began his ministry preaching repentance saying, "**This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the Lord Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' ... 'Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.'**" (**Zechariah 1:3-4**)

Zechariah 1:1 and **Haggai 1:1** reveal that he began his ministry around the month of November in **520 BC**, two months after **Haggai** began his.

This was about 16 years after the return of the first group of Jews from Babylonia with **Zerubbabel (Nehemiah 12:4)** when **Cyrus** issued his edict for the reconstruction of the Temple in Jerusalem.

Zechariah is thought to have been a motivating force toward its completion, as well as instrumental in the reestablishment of the Temple priesthood.

His chief concern, however, was the establishment of spiritual priorities among those who had returned from exile to Zion.

He guarded against the establishment of pagan cults and taught repentance and submission to the **Lord** as the basis for redemption from sin, restoration of **God's** blessings, and the outpouring of the Ruach HaKodesh (**Holy Spirit**).

Although **Zechariah** addressed the issues of his day, his prophecies reach far beyond them into the time of **Yeshua** and, to a large extent, the end times in which we are living.

We see that this so-called minor prophet figure is prominently remembered in the Brit Chadashah (New Testament), which contains 41 citations or allusions to his prophecies.

Yeshua describes **Zechariah** as a rejected prophet, martyred “**between the temple and the altar.**” (**Mathew 23:35; Luke 11:51**)

Of all the Minor Prophets, **Zechariah** reveals the clearest and the largest number of passages referencing the **Messiah**, many of which have already been fulfilled.

Zechariah, for instance, prophesies that the **Messiah** will ride on a donkey into Jerusalem as a humble, victorious king:

“Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” (**Zechariah 9:9**)

Of course, this prophecy was fulfilled when **Yeshua (Jesus)** entered Jerusalem for the last time just before the Passover (**Matthew 21:1–11**).

The **Book of Zechariah** teaches that salvation may be obtained by all. The last chapter depicts peoples from all over the world coming to worship **God**, who desires that all people follow Him.

This is not the doctrine of universalism, i.e., that all people would be saved because it is **God’s** nature to save. Rather, the book teaches that **God** desires that all people worship Him and accepts those who do, regardless of their national or political expressions.

Finally, **Zechariah** preached that **God** is sovereign over this world, any appearance to the contrary notwithstanding. His visions of the future indicate that **God** sees all that will happen. The depictions of **God’s** intervention in the world teach that ultimately, He will bring human events to the end He chooses.

He does not eliminate the individual’s freedom to follow **God** or rebel, but holds people responsible for the choices they make. In the last chapter, even the forces of nature respond to **God’s** control.

Prophecies about **Jesus** and the messianic era abound in **Zechariah**.

From the promise that **Messiah** would come and dwell in our midst (**Zechariah 2:10-12; Matthew 1:23**)

to the symbolism of the Branch and the Stone (**Zechariah 3:8-9, 6:12-13; Isaiah 11:1; Luke 20:17-18**)

to the promise of His Second Coming where they who pierced Him will look upon Him and mourn (**Zechariah 12:10; John 19:33-37**),

Jesus is the theme of the **Book of Zechariah**. **Jesus** is the Savior of Israel, a fountain whose blood covers the sins of all who come to Him for salvation (**Zechariah 13:1; 1 John 1:7**).

God expects sincere worship and moral living of us today.

Zechariah's example of breaking through national prejudice reminds us to reach out into all areas of our society. We must extend **God's** invitation of salvation to people of all national origins, languages, races, and cultures.

That salvation is only available through the shed blood of **Jesus** on the cross, who died in our place to atone for sin.

But if we reject that sacrifice, there is no other sacrifice through which we can be reconciled to **God**.

There is no other name under heaven by which men are saved (**Acts 4:12**).

There is no time to lose; today is the day of salvation (**2 Corinthians 6:2**).

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Zechariah 2:10-12 "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the Lord. Many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you. And the Lord will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem.

Zechariah 3:8-9 'Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, You and your companions who sit before you, for they are a wondrous sign; For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH. For behold, the stone That I have laid before Joshua: Upon the stone are seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave its inscription,' Says the Lord of hosts, 'And I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.'

Zechariah 7:13 "'When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen,' says the LORD Almighty."

Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

Zechariah 13:9 "This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'"



**Prophet Zechariah
at Kizhi monastery, Karelia, Russia**