

THE BOOK OF

Zechariah

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

CREATED BY STEVE CASE

Making Some Changes

OPENING QUESTION

When have you needed to rebuild something?

READ Zechariah 1:1—21.

1. After the Babylonian captivity, why was Yahweh (the LORD) so angry?

- A. The returning exiles were disobedient like their ancestors.
- B. God's people hadn't fought hard enough to save the original temple.
- C. The returned exiles didn't build a temple for Yahweh.
- D. They copied what the pagans practiced.
- E. Lack of repentance.
- F. They mixed Godly practices with pagan practices.
- G. Deaf to God's messages.
- H. Zechariah means "Yahweh remembers" but the people had forgotten.
- I. Other.

2. What does it take to "return to God" (vs. 3)?

- A. Intelligence.
- B. A tender heart.
- C. A clear message from God.
- D. Repentance.
- E. A desire for change.
- F. Humility.
- G. God has to go first.
- H. Crisis or calamity.
- I. Other.

3. What is a message God has given that most people ignore?

- A. God is love.
- B. Jesus is the Savior.
- C. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
- D. Forgive others or else God won't forgive you.
- E. God forgives you, so forgive others.
- F. Repent.
- G. God helps those who help themselves.
- H. Jesus will return soon.
- I. Other.

4. Who is patrolling the earth?

- A. Horses—differently colored horses.
- B. Angels.
- C. Demons.
- D. God.
- E. Satan.
- F. Leaders of nations.
- G. Military leaders.
- H. Nature—the forces of nature.
- I. Other.

5. What has God demonstrated in the first chapter of Zechariah?

- A. Anger.
- B. Mercy.
- C. Prosperity.
- D. Peace.
- E. Wrath.
- F. Grace.
- G. Forgiveness.
- H. Other.

6. What do the four horns and the four blacksmiths/craftsmen reveal?

- A. God's people have enemies.
- B. The enemies of God's people are used by God.
- C. The enemies of God's people are used by Satan.
- D. People are mean.
- E. There's always payback.
- F. It's a standoff—four against four.
- G. Four symbolizes the whole earth—north, south, east, and west.
- H. Other.

7. Why did God want the temple to be rebuilt? What would be the equivalent thing today?

8. Are you more likely to receive God's punishment or God's restoration? Why?

Multiple Visions

OPENING QUESTION

Do you wish the place you live was bigger, smaller, or its current size?

READ **Zechariah 2:1–4:14.**

1. Why did a man measure Jerusalem in Zechariah's vision (2:1)?

- A. He was getting ready to rebuild the city's walls.
- B. He was comparing the previous size with the new size of the city.
- C. This would determine how many people could fit into the city.
- D. Those who fit inside the city walls will be safe.
- E. The overflow of people outside the city walls will be safe.
- F. Measuring indicates judgment will take place.
- G. God is changing things.
- H. Humans are changing things.
- I. Other.

2. How will you know God is in your midst?

- A. People return to God.
- B. You have to go to the city of Jerusalem in Israel.
- C. Many who aren't Christians will come to be with God.
- D. I will be able to sense it.
- E. It's based on God's promises, not my perceptions.
- F. God will send messengers in advance of his arrival.
- G. Wherever two or three are gathered together in his name, he is there.
- H. You won't know for sure until Christ's visible Second Coming.
- I. Other.

3. Name TWO things that stand out to you in *Zechariah 3*:

- A. The high priest is filthy dirty (full of sin).
- B. Satan/Accuser seems to have access to the heavenly courtroom.
- C. Yahweh shuts Satan/Accuser down.
- D. An angel removes the sins/filthy clothes of Joshua—"Yahweh saves."
- E. New clothes weren't enough; he also needed a new head turban.
- F. Obedience matters to God.
- G. The promise of the Messiah (the Branch).
- H. The removal of sin takes place quickly.
- I. Other.

4. When/Where do God's people share peace & prosperity (vine, fig tree)?

- A. Not until the New Earth.
- B. Right now.
- C. In our home, no matter how humble it might be.
- D. Church potlucks.
- E. Whenever and wherever there is war and/or poverty.
- F. It's more spiritual than physical.
- G. You've gotta have it in order to share it.
- H. Those who share whatever they have find that it expands.
- I. Other.

5. What is God's message with the lampstand and the two olive trees?

- A. God makes everything happen.
- B. Political leaders like Zerubbabel will carry out God's plans.
- C. You need more than one source of power.
- D. Oil needs to be replenished.
- E. God releases his supernatural power on earth through the Holy Spirit.
- F. Be a pacifist and let God be the activist.
- G. It was all symbolic; even Zechariah didn't know.
- H. Other.

6. When do you need to meditate on *Zechariah 4:6*?

- A. When I feel weak.
- B. When I feel strong.
- C. At the start of what seems impossible.
- D. Before I cut loose and do a lot of damage.
- E. The times discouragement crushes me.
- F. The instant I feel like I'm in control.
- G. The moment I realize I'm at my wit's end.
- H. Other.

7. Where do you see and hear Satan/Accuser today? Where do you see and hear such accusations rebuked or rejected?

8. What is God's role and what is your role with the "two anointed ones/witnesses" who assist the Lord of all the earth (*4:14*)?

More Visions

OPENING QUESTION

What do you do with your dreams?

READ Zechariah 5:1—6:15.

1. What do you associate with the vision of the flying scroll in Zechariah?

- A. It seems crazy that a scroll would be flying.
- B. Ancient texts, like a book of the Bible written by hand.
- C. No scroll would be that large.
- D. Zechariah read the scroll—front and back.
- E. Zechariah was to eat it—sweet in his mouth; bitter in his stomach.
- F. The scroll contained good news.
- G. This came as a curse on lawbreakers.
- H. These are the records kept in heaven.
- I. Other.

2. What might the vision of the “woman in the basket” communicate?

- A. Women usually represent people.
- B. Women usually represent the people of God.
- C. Some women are good and some are wicked.
- D. Some things need to be contained.
- E. Common things like baskets can be used for uncommon things.
- F. God eventually separates the righteous and the wicked.
- G. God deals with wicked people like he will with Satan (*Rev 20*).
- H. The stork still delivers.
- I. Other.

3. Do you see good and evil mixing or separating?

- A. They will mix until Christ returns.
- B. Sifting is going on right now.
- C. The church is to be a haven for good.
- D. God’s people must move between both.
- E. It’s best to stay separate from evil until your character has formed.
- F. Someone has to take the Gospel to those in Babylon.
- G. Both are present, but in differing degrees.
- H. It depends on where you look.
- I. Other.

4. What is the message or meaning from the four chariots?

- A. God is watching what happens on the earth.
- B. God is active on the earth.
- C. It's a strain for God's agents to patrol the earth.
- D. It takes different kinds of horses for different kinds of people.
- E. Similar to *Zechariah 1:8-11*.
- F. Similar to *Revelation 6:1-8*.
- G. Similar to *Revelation 4:6-8*.
- H. Other.

5. Why crown Joshua?

- A. Zerubbabel wasn't doing his job as the political leader.
- B. The religious leader takes precedence over the political leader.
- C. A large donation came from the exiles in Babylon to fund this.
- D. Joshua is the one who rebuilt the temple.
- E. Joshua was "the Branch" and a foretaste of the Messiah.
- F. The religious and political roles merged into one.
- G. The crown had more significance than the person who wore it.
- H. Other.

6. Where do you see God's activity?

- A. Mainly in my country.
- B. Mainly outside my country.
- C. In the Church.
- D. With the economy.
- E. The decisions and actions of world leaders.
- F. Individual lives.
- G. Places where there is unrest and catastrophes.
- H. Other.

7. What assurance do you have that God's Spirit is present throughout the earth (6:7)?

8. What might God want you to build or create at this time?

Time For A Change

OPENING QUESTION

Would you rather go to a wedding or a funeral? Why?

READ Zechariah 7:1—8:23.

1. Which religious gatherings do you observe?

- A. Sabbath.
- B. Passover.
- C. Communion.
- D. Morning and evening worship.
- E. Christmas.
- F. Easter.
- G. Destruction of the Temple.
- H. The Day of Atonement.
- I. Other.

2. For whom do you have your religious gatherings?

- A. God.
- B. Me.
- C. My family.
- D. The community of faith.
- E. The rest of the community.
- F. My church denomination.
- G. It's part of the culture.
- H. I want to pass it on to the next generation.
- I. Other.

3. Which of the following messages does God often send you?

- A. Obey.
- B. Celebrate.
- C. Judge with fairness/honesty.
- D. Forgive.
- E. Stop hurting the marginalized.
- F. Start helping the marginalized.
- G. Show mercy and kindness.
- H. Trust Me.
- I. Other.

4. Why don't we hear God's messages more often?

Put a "✓" for others you know

Put an "X" for you

_____	God doesn't send messages.	_____
_____	Failure to listen well.	_____
_____	Too busy.	_____
_____	Don't like the message(s).	_____
_____	Hard-hearted.	_____
_____	Lack of clarity.	_____
_____	Lack of conviction.	_____
_____	Other: _____	_____

5. What hope does a remnant have?

- A. Not much.
- B. The possibility of growth.
- C. Being right, even though few people fit in this group.
- D. God will bless it.
- E. A clear mission and purpose.
- F. Maybe nobody will notice.
- G. Maybe nobody will harm it.
- H. Other.

6. When will all nations go to Jerusalem (8:20)?

- A. It has to be safer.
- B. Not until Christ's Second (or Third) Coming.
- C. The Jewish Temple has to replace the Muslim Dome of the Rock.
- D. Bible lands tour prices will need to drop.
- E. When God shows up there.
- F. It requires a successful, international marketing campaign.
- G. I don't think this will ever happen.
- H. Other.

7. What is your current hope for the church? Where do you notice God's passion for his church?

8. How do you know God is present in a church? In you?

Here Comes The Promised Messiah

OPENING QUESTION

Would you rather have God rescue you with your help or without your help?

READ **Zechariah 9:1—11:17.**

1. What do you get when you're justified (put right) with God (vs.1-5)?

- A. Zechariah was to give this message only to Israel's enemies.
- B. This let God's people know that God deals with all people the same.
- C. It shows that God is easier on his people than on their enemies.
- D. All people in the world are God's people.
- E. The enemies of God's people will suffer God's wrath.
- F. There are consequences with God—what Hindus call “karma.”
- G. Justice is served.
- H. Everyone in the world answers to Yahweh.
- I. Other.

2. What are good descriptors of the king of God's chosen people?

- A. Powerful.
- B. Peaceful.
- C. Vengeful.
- D. Rescuer.
- E. Humble.
- F. Warrior.
- G. Merciful.
- H. Delayed.
- I. Other.

3. What is the significance of asking Yahweh for rain (10:1)?

- A. Drought has always been a problem.
- B. Farmers relied on rain rather than on irrigation for crops.
- C. The people who had lived in Palestine relied on Baal for rain.
- D. Most of the people were farmers.
- E. You've gotta ask for it from God.
- F. It reminds the listener of Solomon's temple prayer (*1 Kings 8:35-36*).
- G. This is still true today.
- H. It's part of God's covenant with his people (*Leviticus 26:4-5, 18-20*).
- I. Other.

4. What promises did God make in *Zechariah 10:6-12*?

- A. The reunification of Israel and Judah.
- B. The return of exiles from multiple nations.
- C. Peace.
- D. War.
- E. Abundance.
- F. Challenges.
- G. All nations will turn to God.
- H. Other.

5. How would you assess the shepherds in *Zechariah 11*?

- A. Good.
- B. Evil.
- C. Some of both.
- D. Personal interests dominate.
- E. The sheep suffer the most.
- F. Human and divine shepherds get the same poor results.
- G. None of the sheep trust or follow their shepherds.
- H. Other.

6. If you received Zechariah's message (9-11), how would you respond?

- A. Take it all to heart.
- B. Ignore it.
- C. Sift through it to find what applies to me and what doesn't.
- D. Pray.
- E. Change my actions.
- F. Give up in despair.
- G. Call for revival and reformation.
- H. Other.

7. What warning(s) from God seem to relate to our day?

8. What hope has God given you that, to others, might seem unlikely or impossible right now?

Strange Victory

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a time you felt assured of victory. Did you end up winning?

READ Zechariah 12:1–13:9.

1. Who seems to be in charge at the beginning of Zechariah 12?

- A. Yahweh—the LORD.
- B. The Israelites.
- C. The people of Judah.
- D. The Creator of heaven and earth.
- E. The enemies of God's people.
- F. King David.
- G. Joshua.
- H. Satanic forces.
- I. Other.

2. Why do God's people weep bitterly in spite of being victorious (vs. 9-14)?

- A. The price for victory proved to be costly.
- B. They were practicing how to "love your enemies."
- C. God's first desire is to save the nations, not to destroy them.
- D. This pointed toward the death of the Messiah (*John 19:37*).
- E. A spirit of grace and power poured out on them.
- F. The realization that their sins caused the Messiah's death.
- G. It was simply an emotional roller coaster.
- H. The death of the firstborn male is horrific in a patriarchal society.
- I. Other.

3. Why will people mourn in separate groups (12:12-14)?

- A. Some groups will have greater sorrow than others.
- B. Males and females mourn in different ways.
- C. It depends on whether or not the family's first-born male died.
- D. The anguish will be too deep for a unified, corporate response.
- E. David and Nathan represent the royal family (*1 Chronicles 3:5*).
- F. Levi and Shemei represent the priestly family (*Numbers 3:17-18*).
- G. The Israelites will lack cohesive unity.
- H. Nobody knows the trouble I've seen.
- I. Other.

4. Why will a fountain of cleansing be opened for David's dynasty (13:1)?

- A. It goes back to David's sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 10-11).
- B. It goes back to David's sin of numbering his army (2 Samuel 24).
- C. The kings set the example for everyone else.
- D. The priests weren't doing their job.
- E. The fountain of cleansing is always flowing.
- F. This pointed forward to the Messiah's flowing forgiveness.
- G. Idol worship stops the cleansing fountain.
- H. Other.

5. Why would all prophecies cease (13:2-6)?

- A. The prophetic voice never ceases.
- B. God has nothing more to say.
- C. Only false prophecies would stop.
- D. Nobody would put up with false prophecies any longer.
- E. The scourge of false prophecies would end.
- F. The punishment for false prophecies was to stop prophecies.
- G. Eradicating idols eliminates false prophecies.
- H. Other.

6. Why the harsh prophecy against the shepherd and sheep (13:7-9)?

- A. Zechariah only passed on the messages God gave him.
- B. Bad things were sure to happen.
- C. This predicted the death of the Messiah (Matthew 26:31).
- D. Even if God's people accepted Jesus, he was still destined to die.
- E. Sheep always need a shepherd.
- F. Difficult times can purify God's people.
- G. The covenant, while it's available to all, won't be accepted by all.
- H. Other.

7. Who are the true prophets and the false prophets today? What are their messages?

8. What will God refine and purify in you? How and when will that happen?

Finally

OPENING QUESTION

Are you more likely to address injustice immediately or wait for a while?

READ **Zechariah 14:1–21.**

1. What do you anticipate will happen before the “Day of the Lord”?

- A. Life as we now know it will continue.
- B. War.
- C. Peace.
- D. Increased conflict between good and evil.
- E. Justice.
- F. More Gospel presentations.
- G. Everyone will unite.
- H. A clearer revelation of Jesus.
- I. Other.

2. Why does everyone fight against God’s people (vs. 2)?

- A. That’s an exaggeration.
- B. It’s “The Great Controversy” continuing to play itself out.
- C. Sinful humans always fight what’s right.
- D. This began with *Genesis 3:15*.
- E. It was a PR campaign for joining God’s people, but it went bad.
- F. It’s a reality check for God’s people that times can be very tough.
- G. This continued in *Revelation 12:17*.
- H. This will continue on earth until the Day of the Lord—justice at last.
- I. Other.

3. What happens when God fights for you?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Miracles happen.
- C. Things get better.
- D. Things get worse.
- E. God provides power and strength.
- F. God provides a way of escape.
- G. Things get bloody.
- H. God doesn’t fight for his people until Christ returns.
- I. Other.

4. What makes Yahweh (the LORD) king over all the earth?

- A. Yahweh overpowers evil.
- B. God's people overpower evil.
- C. The conversion of everyone to Yahweh.
- D. Justice.
- E. Love.
- F. The eradication of sin.
- G. A new earth.
- H. When all people direct their worship to Yahweh.
- I. Other.

5. Why does God send plagues on the enemies who oppose his people?

- A. That's how God fights.
- B. The enemies deserve it.
- C. These are natural consequences.
- D. It's an answer to the prayers of God's people.
- E. It's the only thing that will stop injustice.
- F. Consider it follow through on covenant blessings and curses.
- G. God did it to his own people, too (*Amos 4:10*)
- H. Other.

6. What sets apart something as "Holy to the Lord"?

- A. A special service of consecration.
- B. Becoming perfect.
- C. Being declared perfect.
- D. Trials that purify by removing dross/impurities.
- E. Only God can make something/someone holy.
- F. Go to holy places.
- G. Be with holy people.
- H. That's only for priests—specifically the high priest (*Exodus 28:36-38*).
- I. Other.

7. When has God fought for you in the past? When has God not fought for you and you wished/hoped/prayed he would?

8. What is your takeaway from the book of Zechariah?

