

Zechariah – if you can get this into your head, you’ve got it in a nutshell.

Disclaimer: I have to make this admission at the start; this presentation is a culmination of a lot of other people’s work, especially John MacArthur’s. I have merely put this study together from different sources and I present it to you as such. My hope is that this will be informative and that this will aid you in your further study of this wonderful prophet and of the Bible as a whole. ~ Jim Rollo

Martin Luther once said of the book of Zechariah that it was the quintessence of the Prophets. Now I want to point out that he did not say that Zechariah was the quintessence of the Minor Prophets, but that it was the quintessence of ALL the Prophets. So I have entitled this study,

Zechariah – “The Quintessential Prophet”.

Webster’s dictionary defines quintessence as: “The most perfect embodiment of something.” And as you study the book of Zechariah on your own, you will see that this is so very true. This book is the perfect embodiment of all the Prophets. It has it all folks!

Isaiah 46:9c-10 says,

I am God, and there is no one like Me,
¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times things which have not been done,
Saying, ‘My purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’

In this passage of scripture God is saying, I know everything, and I make everything come to pass. Two of the attributes of God is that He is all-knowing, omniscient, and that He is all-powerful, omnipotent.

Stephen Charnock once said,

"The power of God is that ability and strength whereby He can bring to pass whatever He pleases, whatever His infinite wisdom may direct, and whatever the infinite purity of His will may resolve ... As holiness is the beauty of all God's attributes, so power is that which gives life and action to all the perfections of the divine nature."

Zechariah was a priest born in Babylon and had come to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel to rebuild the Temple and ultimately, their demolished city. According to Zechariah 2:4 the author was a young man. He began his ministry in Oct. / Nov. of 520 B.C. just 2 months after Haggai had begun his. Zechariah was the son of Berechiah and the grandson of Iddo. Now, as we have seen from studying our bibles, that names have meaning. Jesus or *Jeshua* means, “The Lord is Salvation”, which perfectly fits our Lord and Savior. Matthew means, “Gift of the Lord” and so on. And so it is with Zechariah, his father and his grandfather, their names have meaning.

Zechariah name means, “Jehovah remembers”. Berechiah his father’s name means, “Jehovah blesses”. And Iddo his grandfather’s name means, “In His time”. The sum of these names is an underlying message of the whole book of Zechariah, a message of hope and encouragement...

“Jehovah remembers and blesses in His own time”.

I considered many different outlines for Zechariah, but the best that I found was in my own MacArthur Study Bible. If you have one you can refer to it or I have provided a copy in the transcript. Now hold on, we are going to zip through this fairly quickly. We have a lot to cover and scant time to do it in. John MacArthur had, “A Jet Tour through Revelation” well this is going to be a Bullet Train through Zechariah, now let’s hope we don’t get derailed.

Outline of Zechariah

- I. Call to Repentance (1:1–6)
- II. Eight Night Visions of Zechariah (1:7–6:15)
 - A. Man Among the Myrtle Trees (1:7–17)
 - B. Four Horns and Four Craftsmen (1:18–21)
 - C. Man with Measuring Line (2:1–13)
 - D. Cleansing of High-Priest (3:1–10)
 - E. Gold Lampstand and Two Olive Trees (4:1–14)
 - F. Flying Scroll (5:1–4)
 - G. Woman in Basket (5:5–11)
 - H. Four Chariots (6:1–8)
 - I. Appendix: Coronation of Joshua the High-Priest (6:9–15)
- III. Four Messages of Zechariah (7:1–8:23)
 - A. Question about Fasting (7:1–3)
 - B. Four Responses (7:4–8:23)

1. Rebuke for wrong motives (7:4–7)
 2. Repentance required (7:8–14)
 3. Restoration of favor (8:1–17)
 4. Fasts become feasts (8:18–23)
- IV. Two Burdens of Zechariah (9:1–14:21)
- A. Messiah’s Rejection at First Advent (9:1–11:17)
 - B. Messiah’s Acceptance at Second Advent (12:1–14:21)
- I. Call to Repentance (1:1–6)
- In verse 3 of the very first chapter God calls His chosen ones to repent of their sin.

“Thus says the Lord of hosts, “Return to Me”, declares the Lord of hosts, “that I may return to you”, thus says the Lord of hosts (cf. Isa. 31:6, 44:22; Mal. 3:7).”

- God says, “I cannot return to you until you return to Me and turn away from your sins and the sins of your fathers.” This is the central message of the book. If you repent, I will bless you. Repentance is the first call; it is reiterated and pointed to throughout this book. Spiritual blessing cannot come until there is a turning away from sin. That was and continues to be the key to true, lasting blessing from God. The Israelites had turned from God and had incurred massive judgment, but now God was ready to bless them again, on the condition of repentance. Israel as a nation has never returned to idol worship, which is the reason they went into exile in the first place, but while in exile the Israelites did acquire the sin of materialism. Prophets have come along calling the Israelites to repentance from that sin and they will eventually turn from it when their eyes are opened and they see Jesus for who He really is (Neh. 5; Mal. 3:8-9). Interestingly enough, materialism will be exactly what the final evil system of sin will be based on at the end of the age (Rev. 18).

In Jan. / Feb. of 519 B.C., just 3 months after he began to prophesy, Zechariah had 8 visions, all in one night. There are two main angels associated with these visions, the angel who talked with me, which is an interpreting angel; and the Angel of the Lord, which is none other than the pre-incarnate Christ. These visions begin as a general view of the present state of the Jews and

then culminate with visions of Armageddon and the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

II. Eight Night Visions of Zechariah (1:7–6:15)

A. Man Among the Myrtle Trees (1:7–17)

- The first vision is of Christ and His warrior angels all on horses among the people of Israel who are pictured as the Myrtle trees. The ravine or low place is a picture of the emotional state of the Israelites because of the judgment that had fallen on them and because of the harassment of the surrounding nations. These warrior angels had gone out patrolling the earth and had come back to report to the Angel of the Lord.

B. Four Horns and Four Craftsmen (1:18–21)

- The second vision of horns is a picture of the 4 world powers that attacked and conquered the known world. They have felt the effects of Babylonia and now were under the rule of the Medo-Persians. Later, the Greeks would conquer the Medo-Persians and finally, the Romans would conquer the Greeks.
- The four workmen represent the nation that overthrows the present ruling nation. Babylonia was conquered by Medo-Persia; Medo-Persia was conquered by the Greeks, in the person of Alexander the Great, and the Greeks were conquered by the Romans. Incredibly, the Romans were never conquered by any other nation; they just faded away after about 1500 years of rule. But according to Daniel 2 they will regain authority over the earth as the 10 nation confederation (10 Toes), and Antichrist will rise out of that revived Roman Empire. The hammer that will fall on it nation will be the Messiah, Jesus Christ at His second coming.

C. Man with Measuring Line (2:1–13)

- The third vision pictures the Temple being restored and then of Christ who personally builds His final temple in His Kingdom. The man with the measuring line is Christ Himself.

D. Cleansing of High-Priest (3:1–10)

- The fourth vision is my favorite. It pictures Joshua, the High-Priest standing before the Lord covered with “filthy garments”. Satan is standing on Joshua’s right-hand side accusing him. The High-Priest was a representative of the Israel as a whole. The picture is a crucial one: If Joshua is vindicated, Israel is accepted; if Joshua is rejected, Israel is rejected.

- The Lord rejects Satan’s accusations and rebukes him because Israel is still God’s chosen, “a brand plucked from the fire”. Do you ever wonder why the Israelites have been able to endure throughout the ages, no matter what? This is why. God will not set them aside forever. They have been singed, but they have never been burned up. They are God’s chosen people! His covenant with them is sure (Gen. 15)! God remembers and He blesses all in His own time and all according to His will! God is in control!!
- Then in verse 8 God says, listen I am going to bring in my servant the branch and He will bring eternal peace and prosperity to the whole world. You want to see something really cool? Do you want some ammunition for the absolute perfection of God’s Word? Here is an amazing example; it blew me away when I first heard it. The Old Testament refers to the branch in 4 different ways. The Branch of David, in Isaiah 11:1; My servant the Branch, here in Zechariah 3:8; a man whose name is Branch in Zechariah 6:12-13; and the Branch of the Lord which is in Isaiah 4:2.

Question: Where in the New Testament does it speak of the Branch of David?

Answer: The Gospel of Matthew

Question: Where in the New Testament does it speak of the Branch as a Servant?

Answer: The Gospel of Mark

Question: Where in the New Testament does it speak of the Branch as the Perfect Man?

Answer: The Gospel of Luke

Question: Where in the New Testament does it speak of the Branch as God?

Answer: The Gospel of John

E. Gold Lampstand and Two Olive Trees (4:1–14)

- The fifth vision is a complicated one. But in essence, it encourages Zerubbabel in his work on the temple; that it will be acceptable to God, no matter what others were saying.
- Most importantly, the vision promises that the Israelites (pictured as the Lampstand) would again be God’s light in the world. After their rejection of the Messiah, the Church has temporarily taken over the role of God’s light to the nations, but the Jews will be

restored to that role in the future. The present and future work to be done can only be done by the power of the Holy Spirit, pictured as the Bowl. Verse 6 is familiar to all, “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit...”

In chapter 5 we find 2 visions and in those 2 visions there are 3 messages.

F. Flying Scroll (5:1–4)

- The sixth vision depicts the Word of God which has been disobeyed by Israel and all the peoples of the earth. It is pictured as a 30 foot long and 15 feet wide scroll, which are the perfect dimensions of the Holy Place in the Tabernacle. The scroll has writing on both sides just like the tablets of the Ten Commandments. The message is clear, if your sins have not been atoned for by the Perfect Sacrifice, you will be judged according to the law and there is no way of escape. This vision is prophesying judgment on the sinner himself.

G. Woman in Basket (5:5–11)

- The seventh vision was a hard one for me to understand. Fortunately, that is why we have commentators that help us to understand what is going on in this vision. This prophecy’s judgment on sin overall and of the final world sin system. In verse 5 we see an ephah. It was equal to a little over 5-3/4 gallons; it was used for the measurement of grain. Basically, God is saying, “your sins of materialism are great, you are not sinning by the quart any longer, you are sinning by the ephah.”
- John MacArthur notes, “The final form of evil, the final form of the world's system of economics and materialism is called Babylon. And it was the Babylon of the time of Zechariah that was so materialistic, and it was the Babylon at the time of the tower of Babel that spawned the whole thing to begin with. And God has always identified that same anti-God materialistic idolatrous self-worship as Babylon. It's always been called that. Simply put, the grain in the barrel symbolizes the system, the economy, the materialism; the woman symbolizes the evil of it.”

H. Four Chariots (6:1–8)

- The final vision pictures four chariots, which are the same four angels we saw in the first vision. They are no longer patrolling the earth, but are sent out from the throne of heaven to war against the nations. These chariots are the same as the four horsemen of

Revelation 6. These chariots depict four angels who have come out from before the Lord to carry out God's judgment. They depict war, pestilence, famine, death and Hell and ultimately, victory for the Lord over His enemies.

I. Appendix: Coronation of Joshua the High-Priest (6:9–15)

- We have now seen 8 night visions and it is now the very next day. Three men have arrived that very day by caravan from Babylon. These men, Heldai, Tobijah and Jedaiah have brought an offering of gold and silver for the rebuilding of the Temple. The word of the Lord came to Zechariah; this is not a vision but a revelation. Zechariah was told that he could find these men in the house of Josiah, the son of Zephaniah. Zechariah is told to make a crown from some of this gold and silver and to place it on the head of Joshua, the High-Priest. This mock crowning of Joshua is a picture of the end of days where Christ will be crowned King of kings and the two offices of king and priest will be united as one. Jesus will reign as Head over both. Jewish tradition holds that Zechariah took the crown and hung it in a high window of the finished Temple as a memorial to the men who brought the offering from Babylon.

In this section you can also see 8 facts about the Messiah:

1. He will come from Israel (6:12)
2. He will build the Millennial temple (6:12b-13a)
3. He will be glorious (6:13)
4. He will be king and priest (6:13)
5. He makes peace (6:13)
6. He opens the kingdom to gentiles (6:15a)
7. He will corroborate God's Word (6:15b)
8. He demands obedience (6:15c)

III. Four Messages of Zechariah (7:1–8:23)

A. Question about Fasting (7:1–3)

- We now take a two-year leap through history. The temple is now halfway complete. The year is 518_{BC} around Nov. or Dec. The town of Bethel have sent a delegation of men primarily to ask Zechariah one question. The question was this, verse 3...

“Shall I weep in the fifth month and abstain, as I have done these many years?”

- Let me explain; God had instituted just one permanent fast for the Israelites and that was for the Day of Atonement. There had been other fasts ordained by God but that was the only permanent one. This fast that they were inquiring about was a self-imposed fast which was a reminder of when the Temple was burned in 586_{BC}. Actually there were four fasts observed because of the Babylonians. The very fact that these men were asking this question was an indication of where their hearts really were on the matter. This was just a tired old ritual that they were carrying out and in the light of the present prosperity they were trying to find a way out this burden. In the fourth verse and continuing on to the end of chapter 8, God gives four answers; two negative answers in the 7th chapter and two positive answers in the 8th chapter.
- B. Four Responses (7:4–8:23)
1. Rebuke for wrong motives (7:4–7)
 - In verse 5 of chapter 7 God answers their question with this question...

“When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months these seventy years, was it actually for Me that you fasted?”

- God was saying, “Aren’t these fasts that you have decided to do just a ritual to perform? Isn’t this just a national ‘pity party’ that you have devised? Are you really doing these things for Me and for My glory, or are you just going through the motions to seem pious; to seem repentant; to seem sorrowful? Is this real worship or is it just a ritualistic exercise?” God cuts right to the heart of the matter, their motives. God cuts right to the chase because He knows the hearts of men (Luke 18:9-14). They went through their religious formality and thought they were worshipping God, but God says, “you haven’t been listening to my Word, you haven’t been obeying My Word; in truth your worship is garbage to Me.”
2. Repentance required (7:8–14)
 - God now tells them to remember the sins of their fathers and how their fathers had become stubborn and had rejected God’s Word. He warns them not to repeat the mistakes their fathers made. He reminds them of the fruits of truly repentant and obedient hearts. He then tells them that if they would not hear Him with the proof of obedience, He would not hear them in their subsequent affliction.

3. Restoration of favor (8:1–17)
 - Zechariah now contrasts the past judgments with the promises of blessing in the future. God loves His chosen people, but He requires repentance and righteous living. Zechariah goes out of his way to remind the people that God is very jealous for them. He cannot bear being estranged from them, nor will He continue to put up with Israel’s enemies. He promises to come live with them; they will be in perfect peace and safety, and He tells them they will again be His people (Israel’s salvation) (Zech. 12:10-13:1; Jer. 32:38-41; Rom. 11: 25-27).
4. Fasts become feasts (8:18–23)
 - The prophet now urges the people to renew their energies in the restoration of the Temple. He reminds them of the past difficulties in the start of the rebuilding and tells them of the blessings to come because of obedience to the Word of the Lord. God points to near blessings, but then points to the Kingdom where the real blessings will flow. God finally goes back to the original question and gives them the promise that all their fasts will be turned to feasts in the coming Kingdom.

I would like to point out that Zechariah used the word Jehovah, literally, “The Lord” 22 times in the 8th chapter. I also want to point out that in this chapter God gives 7 promises and 3 results of those promises that pertain to Israel and to the Church in the Millennial Kingdom.

1. Divine Punishment
2. Divine Presence
3. Divine Peace
4. Divine Power
5. Divine Populating
6. Divine Prosperity
7. Divine Preference
8. Pleasure

9. Prayer

10. Prominence

IV. Two Burdens of Zechariah (9:1-14:21)

A. Messiah's Rejection at First Advent (9:1-11:17)

1. Alexander the Great (9:1-8a)

- We now see a prophecy of Alexander the Great in his conquest over the Medo-Persians, the Phoenicians, the Philistines and the Egyptians. This prophecy also accurately foretells of him passing by Jerusalem twice on his campaign without any harm coming to the Israelites. This prophecy is another bit of ammunition you can use as proof of the inerrancy and absolute perfection of God's Word.

2. Eternal Peace and Safety for Jerusalem (9:8b)

- In the second half of the 8th verse the prophecy jumps through history to the Millennial Kingdom where God promises, "And no oppressor will pass over them anymore, for now I have seen with My eyes." Israel will be finally be at peace forever.

3. Jesus Triumphant Entry Into Jerusalem (9:9)

- We now jump to the First Advent of Christ where Jesus enters into Jerusalem, "on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

4. Jesus Return and the Millennial Kingdom (9:10-10:12)

- We now jump to the Second Advent of Christ and the setting up of His kingdom. The prosperity of the Kingdom will be like the world has never seen before. The joy will be so deep and full that it will seem like the people are drunk.

5. Wailing, True and Foolish Shepherds (11:1-17)

- God had sent Zechariah to encourage and comfort the Israelites and to give them hope for the future, but chapter 11 is anything but encouraging or comforting; it warns of an even greater destruction that will come and an ever greater exile. Zechariah gives the prophecies in chapter 11 in the form of a play; he acts them out.
- In verses 1-3 we see a picture of the wailing shepherds. I believe that these are the Priests, Scribes and Pharisees who are reacting to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70_{A.D.} by the Romans.
- In verses 4-14 we see Zechariah playing the part of the True Shepherd, Jesus Christ and being rejected by His own people. This prophecy includes the betrayal of Judas Iscariot for 30 shekels of silver, and that the money would ultimately go to buy the Potters

Field (Matt. 27:3-10) This rejection is the reason why the first shepherds are wailing. God has destroyed Jerusalem and dispersed (Diaspora) His people in judgment.

- In verses 15-17 we now see Zechariah playing the part of a foolish shepherd or false shepherd, namely, Antichrist (Dan. 9:27). The Jews had rejected the True Shepherd, but now eagerly accepts the false shepherd who does not care for his flock, but ultimately kills and persecutes the flock of Jews during the Tribulation. In the last verse God promises judgment on Antichrist. He will lose his power (withered arm) and he will lose his intelligence (blind right eye) (cf. Dan. 7:9-14,24-27;8:23-25;Rev. 19:20;20:10)

B. Messiah's Acceptance at Second Advent (12:1–14:21)

1. Israel Attacked (12:1-2)

- We now come to the battle of Armageddon where the armies of Antichrist descend on the little nation of Israel. In the middle of the 7 year pact (Daniel's 70th week), Antichrist breaks the pact and attacks Judah and Jerusalem with all the armies of the nations. The armies come from every direction (cf. Ezek. 38:1-6, 14-16; Dan. 11:40-44; Rev. 9:13-16; 14:20; 16:12-16). Just from the east alone there comes an army of 200 million.

2. God injures and confuses Israel's enemies (12:3-4)

- God divinely intervenes against those that are trying to gain a victory over His people. He confuses and blinds those that are attacking and they begin to kill one another.

3. The beginnings of saving faith in God, emboldens and empowers the Israelites for battle (12:5-9)

- We now begin to see the spark of saving faith. The men of Judah are emboldened and will battle as never before to save Jerusalem. The tide of battle now changes against the nations.

4. Jesus Returns and the Salvation of Israel (12:10-13:1)

- At this very moment the Israelites see Christ coming in the clouds and His feet land on the Mount of Olives.

“I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.”

- I believe that of every Israelite that is left alive at this point will be saved. Chapter 13:1 says, “In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity”.

John MacArthur notes; “This is a symbolic reference to the means of cleansing and purification through the atoning death of the pierced One (cf. 1 Jn. 1:7). This has direct reference to the New Covenant of Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:25-32; Rom. 11:26-29. So the storm that broke upon Israel for the crime of Calvary and has raged with unmitigated fury for long, tragic Centuries will suddenly end and salvation will turn sin into righteousness in the gladness and glory of the kingdom of Messiah Jesus.”

5. Cleansing the Nation of False Prophets (13:2-6)

- Christ has now returned and cleansed the nation of Israel of their defilement. Christ removes the idols, unclean spirits and prophets from the land. All the saved Israelites and any saved Gentiles that have made it through the Tribulation have now entered the kingdom in normal human bodies. These saints of the Tribulation will have babies, lots of babies. These children will be born unsaved and even though Christ is reigning in person on earth for 1000 years there will be unbelievers and even idolaters. Any prophets that dare try to prophesy will be killed by their own parents.

6. A Short Synopsis of Two Advents (13:7-9)

- We now find God speaking. Verse 7 tells us that it was God Himself who struck down His True Shepherd and affirms that Christ is the second Person of the Trinity (My Associate).
- Verses 8 and 9 tell of two-thirds of the Jews who were killed during the Tribulation. The third that was left went through a refining process during the Tribulation and were saved when they repented at the sight of Christ’s second coming. They will call Him their Savior and Lord and thus be restored to covenant relationship with Him.

7. The Day of the Lord (14:1-21)

- We now come to chapter 14 and it is a more detailed version of the chapter 13:8-9 prophecies. In the middle of the 7 year treaty Antichrist will break his pact with Israel; he will outlaw every sort of religion except the worship of him alone. He will blaspheme

God and desecrate the Temple, “the Abomination of Desolation” (Dan. 11:31; Matt. 24:15). Israel will refuse to worship him and they will be attacked by all the armies of the world. It is difficult to say if they all attack at once or if the armies come in stages, but the result will be that Jerusalem will be overrun and one-half of the cities inhabitants will be captured and ravished. The armies will be so sure of their victory that they will be dividing up the spoils of the city in the midst of the city. This signals the end of “Jacob’s Trouble”.

- By now two-thirds of the Israelites have been killed and God has had enough. To protect the one-third remnant of Jews from being destroyed Christ now returns. When His feet land on the Mount of Olives and the mount will split in two. A worldwide earthquake hits the earth like there has never been before (Rev. 16:19-21). All the cities of the earth will be demolished, islands will disappear and the whole topography of the earth will be transformed for the start of the Kingdom. Israel will be flattened like a plain and Jerusalem will be split into 3 parts, water will flow out from under the Temple mount and the waters will flow from the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea (Ezek. 47:1-8). The valley that will be formed from the splitting of the Mount of Olives will allow those remaining in Jerusalem to escape into the desert. This valley is called the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:14). As the Jews flee the city, the light of the sun, moon and stars will go out and they will be replaced by the light of the glory of Christ. By the word of Christ’s mouth the enemies of God and of Israel will rot where they stand. Peace has finally come to Jerusalem, to Israel and to the world as a whole. Christ now reigns on the earth and He rules with an iron rod. The raptured Church, all OT saints and the saints who were martyred in the Great Tribulation will reign on the earth with Christ also. We came with Him at His second coming and we were there to watch Him put an end to it all. In the Kingdom there will be a population explosion and prosperity like the world has never seen before, because the curse has been lifted. The most menial task will be dedicated to the service of the Lord (“Holy to the Lord”, verse 20). All the nations of the earth will make pilgrimages to Jerusalem to worship the Lord and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.
- Many people have asked, “why the reign of 1000 years? Why doesn’t Christ just come back and judge the sinners, throw Satan

and his demons into Hell and begin His eternal reign in the new Heaven and the new Earth? Why is Satan bound and yet there is still sin? I think I might have an answer.

- Let me set the scene for you...Christ has returned with all the Saints to reign on the earth for 1000 years. Satan and his angels are bound and thrown into the Abyss for the same amount of time. The Antichrist and his false prophet have been thrown alive into the Lake of Fire. In the Valley of Jehoshaphat, Christ separates the sheep from the goats. The sheep go into the Kingdom and the goats go into Hades where they and all other unsaved souls await the Great White Throne Judgment. The curse has been lifted from the earth and the earth produces like never before since the curse began. The unglorified Saints, Jews and Gentiles are having children like never before. People who could never have children before are having children. These children will be born with their sin nature intact, so there will be sinful people in the Kingdom. There are no wars. There are no natural disasters, so the population just explodes. Someone who dies at 100 years old will still be considered a child. As I said, Christ is here on earth! People are making pilgrimages to Jerusalem to worship their King in person. If any nation chooses not to come worship they will be afflicted with no rain. The Perfect Ruler reigns over the whole earth and there is joy and peace and prosperity. And yet, there will be people who will not put their faith in our risen Savior. They will not believe in Him and only pretend to follow Him; and it won't be just a few rebels, there will be a multitude of unbelievers. How? How can you have unbelief in the midst of Christ's earthly reign? Beloved, I think the answer lies in the first letter of the acronym T.U.L.I.P., Total Depravity. I think the main purpose that God has for the Millennial Kingdom is to show everyone the total depravity of man. Satan is bound and yet man rebels against God. The curse is lifted and yet there is still sin. The glory of God is dwelling with us here on earth, reigning with perfect justice and fairness, and still man goes his own way. It is incredible to think of it, but the Bible has been telling us from beginning to end of how depraved we are; "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Nowhere in the Bible does it say that the devil is responsible for our sin. "The devil made me do it" just doesn't cut it. Everyone who has ever been born has the same propensity for sin. Only after we have been washed by the precious blood of

Jesus are we freed from the bondage of our sin nature. This does not mean we never sin; it just means that we have a choice now. We can choose to sin, or choose not to sin. Before our conversion, we could do nothing but sin. The Bible tells us that every deed done apart from the Spirit is sin. We have been freed by precious blood beloved! So this gives cause for me to believe that the Millennial Kingdom is another amazing showing of God's grace and mercy.

2 Peter 3:9 tells us that, "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."

- Jesus lived, died and rose again for us because we had nothing to offer in and of ourselves. The Kingdom is peaceful, prosperous, joyful, and full of laughter; calamities have ceased, Satan has been bound, the Perfect Ruler has been established on His throne; and yet, men still sin and rebel against God; the God that they can see and touch and hear. That, my beloved is Total Depravity.

Christ is the theme in each chapter of the book of Zechariah:

1. He is the "Riding One"
2. He is the "Measuring One"
3. He is the "Cleansing One"
4. He is the "Empowering One"
5. He is the "Judging One"
6. He is the "Crowned One"
7. He is the "Rebuking One"
8. He is the "Kingly One"
9. He is the "Blessing One"
10. He is the "Rebuking One"
11. He is the "Shepherding One"
12. He is the "Returning One"
13. He is the "Smitten One"
14. He is the "Reigning One"