



**BK WEEKEND**

February 29 & March 1, 2020

## **Zechariah the Prophet (Lesson 4)**

### **Zechariah**

**Unit: Return to the Land**

**Unit Bible Verse: Jeremiah 29:11**

**Bible Story:** When God's people stopped rebuilding God's temple, God sent the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah (zek uh RIGH uh), to give messages to the people. This was God's message: "Return to Me, and I will return to you." God reminded the people about their parents and grandparents and great-grandparents. "The prophets told them to stop sinning, but they did not listen." So, God had punished the people for their sin. "Don't be like them," God said.

One night, God gave Zechariah some messages through eight visions - like dreams, but Zechariah was awake. Each was a different message from God about something that was going to happen. In the first vision, Zechariah saw a man riding on a red horse. Behind him were other horses that had been patrolling the earth. Everything was calm and quiet. But soon the Lord would punish His enemies. The Lord's house would be rebuilt, and His cities would be blessed again.

In the second vision, Zechariah saw four horns - these stood for Israel's enemies. Zechariah also saw four craftsmen, who would defeat those enemies. Next, Zechariah saw a man going out to measure Jerusalem, but the city could not be measured because it was too big for walls. Instead, the Lord would be a wall of fire around it.

In the fifth vision, Zechariah saw a solid gold lampstand, which showed how all the Lord's plans would happen because of His Spirit. Then Zechariah saw a flying scroll, which was a curse on everyone who disobeyed God. In the seventh vision, a woman sat inside a basket. She represented the wickedness of those who worshiped false gods. She was lifted up and taken back to Babylon. In the eighth vision, Zechariah saw four chariots. Like the horses of the first vision, they would patrol the earth.

Then God told Zechariah to collect silver and gold from the people. "Use the gold and silver to make crowns," He said, "and place them on the head of Joshua, the high priest." Joshua's crowns meant that a special king was coming to bring peace for everyone. Zechariah said, "Look, your King is coming to you; He is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." God promised to bless His people and punish the rest of the nations for their sin. One day everyone will worship the Lord.

### **Questions/Discussion**

- 1) How do we know that Jesus is the Messiah?
- 2) How is Jesus different from earthly kings?

**Christ Connection:** God was going to help His people and give them a different kind of king. Jesus is the King who came and rode humbly on a donkey, just as Zechariah said. Because Zechariah's prophecy came true in Jesus, we can have hope and forgiveness of sins when we trust in Jesus.

**Family Activity:** As a family, make and record some predictions about the coming week, such as weather, sports scores, and so forth. Discuss how prophecy and predictions differ.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, You love us. Thank You for sending Jesus, Your Son. Jesus is the King who came to earth, just like Zechariah said. Help us turn from our sin and trust in Him to forgive our sins. In Jesus' name, amen.*



**Unit Summary:** This is the last lesson in this unit. After the Israelites' disobedience led to 70 years of exile in Babylon, God kept His promise to bring His people home to Judah. Prophets encouraged the people to rebuild the temple. The prophet Zechariah told of a future King who would come humbly on a donkey. God later kept His promise to send King Jesus. *Kids will be learning from the books of Ezra, Haggai and Zechariah.*

**Lesson Summary:** Zechariah was a priest who had been born in Babylon. He had returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel. At this time, the prophet Haggai was bringing God's message to His people. The Judean exiles were struggling to finish rebuilding God's temple. In fact, several years had passed without progress on the temple when God called Zechariah to prophesy to His people.

Zechariah's message was twofold: first, look back and remember the past. Second, look forward and prepare for the future. God wanted His people to learn from the mistakes of their parents and grandparents who had ignored the prophets' warnings. Zechariah set out to encourage the people.

The Book of Zechariah is organized into eight visions, four messages, and two oracles. The visions Zechariah saw each symbolized something God would do—such as rebuild Jerusalem, judge Israel's enemies, and remove national sin. (See Zech. 1–6.) A couple of years later, God spoke to Zechariah again. This time, God spoke four messages to respond to a question the people had about fasting. (Zech. 7:3)

In the last six chapters, Zechariah changed the subject to the future of God's kingdom. Chapters 9–12 are rich with Messianic prophecy; the words are quoted often in the New Testament. Compare Zechariah 9:9 with John 12:15; Zechariah 11:13 with Matthew 27:9; and Zechariah 12:10 with John 19:37.

**As you talk with your kids about Zechariah,** emphasize God's promise: "A king is coming." Zechariah's visions were significant to the reality of God's people at that time, but a greater reality awaited. Zechariah pointed to Jesus, the coming deliverer who would be struck and pierced to take away sin. God would deal with His people's enemies. He would cleanse His people. "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'" (Zech. 13:9). Under the rule of King Jesus, our future is incredibly bright.

God was going to help His people and give them a different kind of king. Jesus is the King who came and rode humbly on a donkey, just as Zechariah said. Because Zechariah's prophecy came true in Jesus, we can have hope and forgiveness of sins when we trust in Jesus.

#### **Unit Key Memory Verse: Jeremiah 29:11**

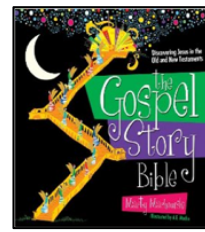
- *Age 2 – 3:* I know the plans I have for you...a hope."
- *Age 4 – 5:* "I know the plans I have for you...plans...to give you a future and a hope."
- *Grade K – 3 & Preteen:* "I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

**Preteen Daily Readings:** This week's (**February 24**) readings are Hebrews 10:11-12, John 1:14, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Corinthians 3:11, Luke 21:5-6 and Ephesians 2:20-22.

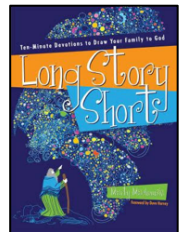
**Family Devotional:** Our desire is for kids to hear from the Bible first at home and then have the message be reinforced at church on the weekend. In addition to, or in lieu of the provided story, you can use these devotionals with your family. These can be purchased in the Berean Café.



**Age 2-5, Pages 154**



**Grade K-3, NA**



**Grade 4-5, NA**