

# A Visitor's Guide to the Old Testament

## A Quick Discussion Guide on the Book of Zechariah

1. There are TWELVE Minor Prophets... we have studied ELEVEN of them to this point. Identify *at least one* distinctive feature for each of the Minor Prophets we have studied so far:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hosea:</li><li>• Joel:</li><li>• Amos:</li><li>• Obadiah:</li><li>• Jonah:</li><li>• Micah:</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nahum:</li><li>• Habakkuk:</li><li>• Zephaniah:</li><li>• Haggai:</li><li>• Zechariah:</li></ul> |
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2. Write your memory passage below:

3. Sample the prophetic styles within the Book of Zechariah:

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|-----------------------|----------|
| ➤ A vision            | 5:1-4    |
| ➤ A symbolic act      | 6:9-15   |
| ➤ A prophetic message | 7:1-8:17 |
| ➤ An oracle           | 14:1-21  |

Pick one of the above samples and determine:

- 1) Is it easy or difficult to understand?
- 2) What does this passage teach?
- 3) Since this was written after the Babylonian Captivity and return, when has this prophecy taken place or when will it take place?

4. One commentator writes, "Does our religion elevate ritual above morality? That is the burden of Zechariah's stinging review of earlier Jewish history (7:8-12)." (D. A. Carson) Zechariah wants to know whether it's become more important for them to follow the right rituals than it is to "show kindness and mercy to one another" (7:9).

Our religious practices are very different from theirs: they fasted, made sacrifices, celebrated feasts, etc. We attend church, serve on committees, go to Bible studies, give offerings, volunteer for SS and VBS, sing in the choir, etc. What would be the signs that your religious observances have begun to trump kindness and mercy?

5. How many prophecies concerning the Messiah can you find in the Book of Zechariah?