

# ZECHARIAH - A STUDY GUIDE

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## THE CENTRAL QUESTION:

### What does this book/story say to us about God?

This question may be broken down further as follows:

- a. Why did God do it/allow it?
  - b. Why did He record it for our study?
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1. Is there anything special about the book of Zechariah? Why was it included in the Bible? Would you have voted for it? Who was Zechariah and what was his background? Who was he speaking to in this book?
2. What is implied by the statement made about the conquerors of Israel, "I was only a little angry, but they added to the calamity?" (Zechariah 1:15; compare 2:8; Micah 4:12,13) How could God talk about Israel as He does in Zechariah 2:8 considering how they were behaving at the time? What about us?
3. In the judgment scene depicted in Zechariah 3:1-5, who are the main actors in this drama? Who is accusing? (compare Revelation 12:9,10) Who is defending? (1 John 2:1; Romans 8:26,27; Job 1:6; 2:1) What role is God the Father playing? (John 5:27) Who is the "angel of the Lord?" **If you could be present as your case is presented in the courts of heaven, with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit present, your guardian angel present, and the devil and his angels present, and after all had been said and your case was put to a vote, could you honestly vote for yourself?**
4. Why does God seem to conduct the business of His government in the open like this, apparently before the entire universe? Who are the only ones who do not seem to be aware of what is going on? Do we have similar scenes elsewhere in the Bible? (See Job 1 & 2; Revelation 12; Daniel 7:9,10) In order to accuse God as he did back in the beginning, Satan had to be a deceiver and a liar, but in order to accuse us does he have to be a deceiver? **If we were to continually keep these matters in mind, would we live the sinful lives that we are currently living?**
5. What makes a person savable? On what basis does God finally admit some to the kingdom and reject others? What is the ultimately crucial information about us that the universe (even our guardian angels) must see in order to feel it would be safe to live next door to us forever without keeping their golden doors locked all the time? If Jesus were to arise and say, "It's true! This person is just exactly as Satan has described him, and he hasn't really changed, but I have decided to forgive him," would that be enough to satisfy the angels and our future neighbors? Or do the angels want to know that we have new hearts and right spirits? (compare Psalms 51:10; John 3:3-8)
6. In light of the fact that the Investigative Judgment is going on at the present time is there any reason that you can think of that really makes sense for committing sin? Is there any sin that makes things better or more pleasant for a person, even here on this earth?
7. Why should we be worried about the heavenly records? When choosing a neighbor to live next door to for eternity, would it be more important to know the complete details of his past life, or that he had a "new heart and a right spirit" and was humbly willing to listen and learn? The only ones who are emphasizing the records are Satan and legalists! How could we be comfortable living forever with God and our guardian angels, realizing that they know everything that we have ever done? **Even if we are going to be lost, do we have any reason to be afraid of God?** How did Jesus treat Judas up to the very end? (John 13:1-30) Isn't it easier in light of this to understand why Romans 1:29 includes "gossips" with the worst of sinners—people who are unsavable? Would God ever make someone uncomfortable by discussing some of his former sins in public?

8. Do we really need an intercessor? (John 16:25-27) Do we need an intercessor to plead with the Father for us? Do we need an intercessor to protect us from the accusations of the Adversary? Was there any type of intercessor between God and the disciples for those three and a half years? How did this whole system of thought get started? (Exodus 20:18,19) Was it necessary for anyone to stand between God and His friend Moses? Do you think God the Father is jealous when people, even small children act as if they are more comfortable with the Son? Or is He willing to wait?
9. Who is able to read the human heart? Can angels? Or only God?
10. What is God trying to say to us in Zechariah 4:6—"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty?" How does the Spirit work? Could God win the Great Controversy with might and power? Does He finally win because He has more power than Satan? Doesn't Satan admit God has more power? (James 2:19) If this was all that needed to be demonstrated, what has God been waiting for? Was God's might and power able to keep the loyalty of God's number one creature—Lucifer? How many were won by God's show of might and power at the time of the flood? At Sodom and Gomorrah? At Sinai? What were His "friends" doing a few days after "the Sinai experience"? (Exodus 32) When Jesus was here on this earth did He demonstrate a lot of "might and power?" Jesus sometimes worked miracles and fed the crowds but as soon as He perceived that they were following Him for this reason, what did He do? (John 6:25-69)
11. What does Zechariah 6:15 imply about the nature of all these prophecies?
12. How could Jerusalem be called "the faithful city" (*RSV, GNB*) or "the city of truth" (*NIV*) in Zechariah 8:3,8? When did (will) this happen?
13. Who are the people and what is the time period being referred to in Zechariah 8:4—"men and women of ripe old age...each with cane in hand because of his age" and "boys and girls playing in the streets?" If this refers to heaven as we often suggest, why are these people getting old? How can anyone get old in the New Jerusalem? Will some remain children forever? If this prophecy was not fulfilled in ancient times, does that mean it will never be fulfilled? Compare this to the statements in Isaiah 11:6-9, 35:1-10, and 65:17-25?
14. At what time in history do you think the prophecy of Zechariah 8:20-23 was fulfilled or will be fulfilled? What time period is being referred to in Zechariah 14:4?
15. Is Zechariah 9:9 clearly a Messianic prophecy?
16. What is implied about the responsibility of leadership in Zechariah 10:2-4?
17. Why are most of these messianic prophecies so mixed up with other equally impressive prophecies which apparently were never fulfilled? Do you think you could have written a paper back in Zechariah's day and clearly picked out the prophecies that would refer to the Messiah to come? Why did the Jews seem to fail to put most of these verses together before they actually were fulfilled? How does this fit with John's statements in John 13:19; 14:29?

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