

What You See Is What You Get

Chapter 15

Audio Lesson: Old Testament number 88



Objective: To understand the context and the messages of Zechariah's visions.



"Shout and be glad, O Daughter of Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you," declares the LORD. "Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you."

—Zechariah 2:10-11

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the LORD Almighty.

—Zechariah 4:6

God gave eight visions to Zechariah to encourage and strengthen people who were powerless and discouraged. The exiles who had returned to Jerusalem had few weapons, lots of enemies, and an enormous task in front of them. They were focused on their problems and could not see how they would ever rebuild the temple with so many obstacles before them. But Zechariah's visions pulled back the veil and showed them how God was working to accomplish His purposes. His prophecies gave hope and strength to God's people.



1. True or false? God has the power to do anything to solve our problems and help us grow in the process.
2. True or false? Not even a prophet like Zechariah can see God working behind the veil.
3. True or false? Faith is, among other things, the evidence of what is unseen.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. What is the source of the strength of God's people?
 - a. Their own courage
 - b. Government funding
 - c. Words of encouragement
 - d. The Spirit of God
5. Why is it important for those who serve God to see Him?
 - a. When we see how powerful He is, we learn to depend on His strength.
 - b. Seeing God makes us superior to others.
 - c. Those who see Him will never have enemies again.
 - d. We cannot see Him because He does not reveal Himself.
6. What was Zechariah's normal pattern for telling his visions?
 - a. He described them in language no one could understand.
 - b. He wrote them down and sent them only to the priests.
 - c. He focused on a problem and then pulled back the veil to reveal God working on that problem.
 - d. He focused on God and then told the people they should be spiritual enough to see the same visions.
7. What does God do when His people are not in the place He wants them?
 - a. He only blames them for the trouble they have caused.
 - b. He is able to deliver and move them to exactly the right place.
 - c. He gives up on them and chooses another people.
 - d. He tells them they have missed their opportunity and can never be restored.
8. What was the purpose of Zechariah's first vision?
 - a. To stir up God's people for battle
 - b. To encourage God's people in a time of transition
 - c. To show God's people how much danger they were in
 - d. To point out which laws God's people had disobeyed
9. What message did God give His people in Zechariah's vision of the four horns?
 - a. That they would become more powerful than the four nations
 - b. That they would become herders of cattle and sheep
 - c. That He would place them between four mountains.
 - d. That He would overthrow the mighty nations that had scattered Judah.

10. What did Zechariah prophesy of the future Jerusalem?
- a. That it would be very great and need no walls
 - b. That it would one day be conquered and never again restored
 - c. That it would be ruled by Zechariah himself
 - d. That only people who lived in Jerusalem could be saved

11. How did Satan try to make the returned exiles lose heart?
- a. He tempted them to eat of forbidden trees.
 - b. He accused the high priest of still being stained with sin.
 - c. He sent a vast army to intimidate and destroy them.
 - d. He caused a famine in the land.

*The Lord is my strength
and my shield; my heart
trusts in him, and I am
helped. My heart leaps
for joy and I will give
thanks to him in song.*
—Psalm 28:7

12. What was the message of the flying scroll?
- a. God's Word is hard to understand.
 - b. The Bible is a supernatural book.
 - c. God knows about evil and will deal with it.
 - d. God will send His Word to those who need it.



What situations in your life are too difficult for you to deal with? Who does God want you to depend on for strength? What does His Word say to encourage you?



Thank God that He is always working in your life, even when you cannot see what He is doing. Ask Him to show you more of His power and His promises.



Going Deeper

1. What is the devotional and practical application for you personally of the literary form used by Zechariah, when he focuses a problem and then pulls back the veil, showing how God is working behind the scenes of that problem to provide a solution? _____

2. How do you apply the first vision of Zechariah, which shows God working behind the scenes to help His people through a difficult time of transition? _____

3. Of the eight times Zechariah does this in his prophesy, which one meant the most to you, and why? _____

4. Since Haggai had addressed the same problem of finishing the second Temple so successfully, why did Zechariah believe the same obstacle needed to be addressed again? _____

5. In what ways was his message and method different from that of Haggai? _____

6. Why did Zechariah prophesy the coming of the Messiah more than any other prophet except Isaiah? _____

7. What was the dynamic to which Zechariah directed the discouraged, impotent people of God who had no military, or weapons of any kind with which to defend themselves (Consider 4:6)?
