



## Week 34 Zechariah

Every Sunday evening at [Bible Explorer](#) we will explore the question

***'What does this book from the Bible mean for us today?'***

### **'Be prepared'**

#### **Background**

Zechariah came from a family of priests & with Haggai was closely involved in the rebuilding of the temple following the return from exile.

Like Daniel & Ezekiel, he was a visionary. His book at one and the same time imparts the wisdom of the earlier prophets and brings the events of the future into sharp focus.

#### **Main theme**

The main theme of the book is the **Messiah** (Hebrew 'anointed one' / Greek 'Christ'), but also is a message of comfort and encouragement for God's people.

Jerusalem will be rebuilt, prosperity will return and God's anointed one – priest & king – the Messiah will rule.

**But...** there are still things to be done.

The temple has not been rebuilt, God's people have not finished the task.

#### **Application**

I think that this is where the book can apply to us. Christians need to wake up wherever they are.

God's people in Dorking, in Poznan, have a job to do.

Book centres around the coming Messiah and the extension of His Kingdom – His rule & reign.

In Zechariah many verses point to the coming Messiah, the prophet foresees these things.

The temple rebuilding has begun amid great excitement, but the early enthusiasm (Greek: 'en theos' – in God) had waned and 16 years later remained unfinished.

Enter Zechariah, commissioned by God to motivate the workers, the people, to finish what they had begun. Zechariah is an encourager. His message is one of consolation.

#### **The Messiah**

The temple will be no ordinary building, but will house the Messiah himself...

'All hands on deck, all hands to the task – for the King is coming!' (9:9)

And that future blessing 0 including both 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> comings of Christ depend on present obedience to the will of God.

The Messiah's Kingdom extends to all areas where His rule & influence are seen...

Not just the church, not just God's people – but it's our influence on those around us, the impact we have that enables God's will to 'be done on earth as in heaven'.

Wherever we are – our homes, towns

Whatever we do – our work, in our families, even interests and hobbies...

may be used to further God's Kingdom .



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**'Be prepared'**

I have opportunities as a scout leader, or in historical re-enactment groups, to reach out to people who would never hear the Gospel if myself and other Christians weren't there.

(St. Paul's support is especially important in the summer months and other holiday periods when we're involved in Missions, Outreach Exhibitions, camps and clubs when we have no income).

Baden-Powell said 'It is curious to me that men who profess to be good Christians often forget, in a difficult ("or in other... " Dale) situations to ask themselves the simple question: "What would Christ have done under the circumstances? And be guided accordingly.'

B-P added 'Try it next time you are in any difficulty or doubt as to how to proceed.'

What would Jesus do?

'Be prepared'

Matthew 5:13-16 - a key to reaching people – being salt & light...

I Peter 3:15-16a – verses that have directed our Mission in Poland from the very beginning.

"Always BE PREPARED to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..."

**'Always BE PREPARED..'**

Zechariah's message of comfort and encouragement as he sees God's plan for the future...

**"All hands on deck, all hands to the task – for the King is coming!"**