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THE MINOR PROPHETS
BOOK 12 – ZECHARIAH

Zechariah and Haggai were both prophets that prophesied in the same time period. Haggai's prophetic word came in the 6th month of King Darius' second year as king. Zechariah's word came five months later.

Haggai was primarily concerned with rebuilding the house of God, the Temple, and concluded in the last four verses with the future prophecy of the Great Tribulation and the rulership of the King of Kings.

Zechariah's main focus was on future events. Some of those events were historical events that would occur over the next 500 years. Other events were directly predictive of the coming Messiah and His future kingdom. It is the most Messianic oriented book of the minor prophets, and it can be said that it even rivals Isaiah in its Messianic messages and prophecies. It would warrant a deeper in-depth study at a later pointing following this brief introductory series. Micah and Daniel would also bear deeper study.

Zechariah received much of his word from the LORD by visions during the night. God sometimes uses visions, like profound dreams upon ones' bed at night that come to both believers such as Joseph and unbelievers such as Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar. Zechariah chapters 1-6 received ten such visions, and God gave him the interpretations.

Zechariah also received word directly from God separate from the night visions. In chapter 7, God rebuked the captives as they were in Babylon 70 years because their fastings were ungodly and not truly given unto God. They were rebuked for not heeding the prophets of the past.

In chapter 8, God reaffirms His ultimate purpose for Israel. In chapter 9:1-6 it speaks of how God will cut off the surrounding nations. Starting in chapter 9 verse 7 and onward, Zechariah prophesies of Messiah, both of His first and second advent (coming).

Zechariah 9:9 tells of Jesus' "Palm Sunday" entrance into Jerusalem on an ass (donkey). Verses 12-13 tell of His betrayal for 30 pieces of silver and the purchase of the potter's field which was bought with Judas Iscariot's money and used for his burial.

Zechariah 12:6 prophesied the re-establishment of Israel (Jerusalem), and how Israel shall look upon Him whom they had pierced and shall mourn (vs. 10.) In verse 11 it speaks of the valley of Megiddo (Armageddon).

Chapter 13 speaks of the fountain of blood (Jesus' blood). Chapter 14 speaks of Christ's second coming in verses 4, 9 and 16. We shall dig into these marvelous chapters (12-14) at a later date in a separate study because there is so much there on the future kingdom of Christ.