

OUR FELLOWSHIP IN THE WORD  
Reading Guide for October 9-15, 2017

ZECHARIAH

*Also to the first wave of exiles returning to Jerusalem from Babylon.*

- MON CH. 1:** The exiles are warned not to be disobedient like their forefathers. Zechariah's visions of the horseman and the horns, two of eight visions, assured Judah that, while the nations that persecuted them were at ease, one day God would cast them down; He is zealous for his people.
- TUE CH. 2:** Zechariah's third vision is of a man (or angel?) with a measuring line for measuring Jerusalem, perhaps for the rebuilding of the wall. But, the prophecy's message is that walls are not essentials — the LORD will be her wall of fire — nor practical — because of the multitude of people that will inhabit her. God will make the nations that Judah served her servants.
- WED CH. 3:** In the fourth vision, Joshua the high priest stands before the angel of the LORD in filthy clothes; Satan is there to accuse him. The LORD clothes Joshua in proper high priest garb, charges him to walk obediently, and promises to send the Branch (Messiah), who'll remove iniquity swiftly and thoroughly.
- THU CH. 4:** In the fifth vision, Zechariah asks about a seven-lamp lampstand that lights the whole earth exposing everything before the LORD. The two olive trees are *two anointed ones*, perhaps Joshua and Zerubbabel, who, empowered by the LORD's Spirit, is a shadow of the coming Messiah.
- FRI CH. 5:** The sixth vision is of a large scroll flying over the land as a curse on thieves and those who swear falsely by the LORD's name. They will be purged from the covenant. The seventh vision is of a woman in a basket who is Wickedness. Two winged women take her away to Shinar, which is Babylon.
- SAT CH. 6:** This last vision, like the first, features horses and speaks to the condition of the earth. However, in the first vision the nations are at ease, but in this last vision God is *at rest* because the four chariots representing his Spirit have gone out over the whole world. God instructs Zechariah to call certain exiles to furnish gold and silver for a crown for Joshua, who represents the Branch, who'll reign as Priest and King forever.
- SUN CH. 7:** Chapters 7 & 8 should be seen as one. The LORD's response to the Bethelites' question about fasting was to question their motives. He reminds them how their forefathers' hearts were *diamond-hard* against the LORD and his prophets. So the LORD scattered them among the nations.