

**COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE****Visions of Glory**

ZECHARIAH 1:7-2:13

**OVERVIEW**

Nearly 20 years after their return from the Babylonian exile in the time of Cyrus (538 B.C.), discouragement dogged God's people, replacing their earlier enthusiasm. The foundation of the temple had been laid shortly after the initial return, but powerful opposition had prevented any further progress on rebuilding the temple. Faithful obedience was viewed by many as useless: pragmatically, it made more sense to pursue the best life possible in spite of the present difficulties.

Zechariah addressed such discouragement by reminding his hearers that, though hidden, God's envoys were watching everything, and that when the time was right, he would act to reorder the universe. Ultimately God will redeem his flock and rescue his city for his glory and his people's joy. (Adapted from *ESV Study Bible*)

**APPLY // ZECHARIAH 1:1-6**

1. Read Zechariah 1:1-6.
2. What does this passage tell us about the justice of God? The grace of God?
3. What does this passage tell us about the nature of sin?
4. Discuss one specific way this passage applies to our lives today.

**STUDY // ZECHARIAH 1:7-2:13**

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Zechariah 1:7-2:13. It might help to orient the group with the below overview.
  - a. From 1:7-6:15 there are eight visions they reveal God's purpose for the future of Israel, particularly Jerusalem, the seat of the Davidic dynasty and the site of the temple, and Judah.
    - i. *Vision One (1:7-17):* The Lord's Hidden Horsemen. In his first vision, Zechariah sees horsemen, who report to God the condition of the earth and prompt the angel of the Lord to intercede for Jerusalem.
    - ii. *Vision Two (1:18-21):* Judah's Oppressors Oppressed. The second vision describes four horns and four craftsmen, which are symbols of military strength.
    - iii. *Vision Three (2:1-13):* Jerusalem without walls and flourishing. In this vision Zechariah anticipates a renewed Jerusalem, so full of people that it

overspreads its walls. It will attract those Jews who remain in exile, as well as countless Gentiles.

2. *Vision 1:* Before getting into the details, how would you summarize the main point of the first vision?
    - a. This first vision emphasizes that God was lovingly jealous of His chosen people, and would restore them, even though they were troubled at present, and the nations that oppressed them were at ease.
  3. In verse 8, what does Zechariah see? How does he respond?
  4. In verse 10, how does the man (likely an angel) interpret Zechariah's vision?
  5. What does this angelic patrol report regarding the earth?
  6. Why does this prompt the angel of the Lord to cry out, "How long will you have no mercy on Jerusalem..."?
    - a. In short, the nations are at ease with God's people are in turmoil. This is not the way it's supposed to be.
  7. In verses 14-17, how does Lord respond? What's the significance of the Lord saying "my house" and "my cities" shall again prosper?
  8. *Vision 2:* Before getting into the details, how would you summarize the main point of the second vision?
    - a. The second vision elaborates the concept of comfort promised in the first vision. Here we learn how God will execute His anger against the nations that excessively oppressed His people.
  9. In verse 18, what does Zechariah see? How does he respond?
  10. How does the angel interpret the vision?
  11. *Vision 3:* Before getting into the details, how would you summarize the main point of the third vision?
    - a. In this third vision, the Lord guaranteed the future prosperity and expansion of Israel. Jerusalem has a divine protector. As will become clear, this future blessedness must extend beyond the restoration period to messianic/eschatological times.
  12. In 2:1, what does Zechariah see? How does he respond?
  13. How is Jerusalem described in verses 4-5?
  14. In verse 6-7, what does Zechariah command the Israelites to do? Why?
  15. How does the Lord describe his people in verse 9-10?
  16. In verse 10, what does Zechariah command the people to do? Why?
  17. Discuss the ways 2:10-12 point us to the restoration of all things? (cf. Revelation 21:1-5; 22-27).
- General Bible study questions:
    - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
    - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
    - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
    - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
    - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** Are you more aware of God's grace or your rebellion?