



**SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Tuesday, 6/14/2022**

**Scripture: Zechariah**

**TITLE: Zechariah – Be Ready**

Typically people are motivated in two ways. First, they are motivated by what they can lose. Should they do or not do something that may result in the loss of something they desire? But people can also be motivated by what they can gain. So motivation is driven by loss or gain. Some might say rebuke or encouragement. Well, the prophet Zechariah was all about encouragement by the coming Messiah.

The Book of Zechariah is a book of preparation for the Messiah. The book was written by the prophet Zechariah. He was a contemporary of Haggai. As you may remember, Haggai had a message of rebuke. So though the setting is the same, the message is different.

The book was written between 520-470 B.C. It likely covers the time of the building and completion of the temple. It's written to the Jews of Jerusalem. There are many great messages in the book, but one that sticks out is that success is not driven by our power but by the power of God. Zechariah 4:6 says, *“So he answered me, ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by strength or by might, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD of Armies.’”*

Though this book is only 14 chapters long and divided into three parts, it is full of Messianic prophecies. So, is Jesus in this book? Practically from beginning to end.

The following are a few of Zechariah's explicit prophecies of Jesus: The angel of the Lord (3:1–2); the righteous Branch (3:8; 6:12–13), the stone with seven eyes (3:9); the King-Priest (6:13); the humble King (9:9–10); the cornerstone, tent peg, and bow of battle (10:4); the good Shepherd who is rejected and sold for thirty shekels of silver, the price of a slave (11:4–13); the pierced One (12:10); the cleansing fountain (13:1); the smitten Shepherd who is abandoned (13:7); and the coming Judge and righteous King (14).<sup>1</sup>

So what's the main thing from Zechariah? Be ready. Be ready to live for Jesus, the Messiah. As we've recognized, you don't perform for God's love; you perform from it. And that motivation should propel us to be ready for Jesus' return. Zechariah 14:9-11 says,

*“On that day the LORD will become King over the whole earth—the LORD alone, and his name alone. All the land from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem will be changed into a plain. But Jerusalem will be raised up and will remain on its site from the Benjamin Gate to the place of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses. People*

---

<sup>1</sup> Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa, *Talk Thru the Bible* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1983), 290.

will live there, and never again will there be a curse of complete destruction. So Jerusalem will dwell in security.”

Jesus is coming again. Many of the prophecies have already been fulfilled. Yet a few remain. The question is will we be ready? If so, then let's live like it beginning today.