



## A MEEK KING AND GOOD SHEPHERD

Our Lord Jesus came to us as a meek King, and as a good shepherd of humiliated sheep, He who accepts Him as King and Shepherd has chosen the good portion. As for him who insistently refuses, he will not have a portion.

+ **The meaning of the name:** God remembers; and his name is connected to prophecy because God mentions the repentance and the effort of his people, so he rises, misses them, becomes incarnate to save them, and works in them with his Holy Spirit; There are opinions that say that this is Zakaria, son of Barkhiya, son of Iddo, whom our Lord mentioned in the Gospel of Woes. (Matthew 23).

+ **Period of prophecy:** After the return of the southern kingdom (Judah) from the Babylonian captivity to Jerusalem.

He and Haggai the prophet prophesied at the same time together (“The prophets Haggai and Zechariah the son of Idow prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel upon them”) (Ezra 5:1).

+ **His most important prophecies:** He prophesied a large number of prophecies related to the Holy Week (the Palm Sunday, Covenant Thursday, and Good Friday, as we will see in the details). Meaning of the name: God remembers, and his name is linked to prophecy because God mentions the repentance and jihad of his people, so he rises and misses them He incarnates to save them, and works in them with His Holy Spirit, There are opinions that say that this is Zakaria, son of Barkhiya, son of Iddo, whom our Lord mentioned in the Gospel of Woes (Matthew 23).

+ **Book Summary:** The first 8 chapters are a group of prophecies whose goal is to deliver the message of repentance to the people. The last 6 chapters are clear prophecies about the Lord Christ and the New Jerusalem. The link between the two texts states that repentance is the condition for accepting the Lord Christ as King and Savior.



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### 1- A call to repentance:

- Zakaria begins with a call to the people that they repent and do nothing like the generation that passed (the evil generation that were taken in captivity as a punishment for their sins and their refusal to repent and their failure to respond to the prophets who spoke to them) (verse 1 to 5).
- The people responded and repented (or so they said) (verse 6).

### + What do we learn?:

- A life of repentance is the only way to prepare to meet our Lord.
- O Lord, give me sincere, continuous, and warm repentance.

**2- Nine visions of the Prophet Zechariah:** Of course, dreams and visions have many symbols, they are not as clear and consequential as reality; Our Lord spoke to Zakaria with dreams as He spoke to Jacob, Joseph and Pharaoh (in the Book of Genesis) and many others; And the visions usually contain a part that applies in reality and part of a prophecy about the future.

+ **REVELATION #1** (chapter #1 verse 8 to 17) and **REVELATION #8** (chapter #6 verse 1 to 8) about 4 horsemen... as if they were 4 angels walking on the earth and telling their news to our Lord (a sign that our Lord always sees what is happening).

- They are in the vision telling our Lord that the world is stable and in peace.
- This means in their days that the kingdom of Persia will defeat the kingdom of Babylon and restore peace on earth.
- And here comes the important question: The 70 years about which Jeremiah said were over, and the people returned from captivity... Is Christ coming now?
- Our Lord answers that the prophecies will be fulfilled, and the Messiah will come, but he did not answer about time.

+ **REVELATION #2** (chapter #1 verse 18 to 21) and **REVELATION #7** chapter #5 verse 5 to 11) about Israel's past sins and captivity.

- **REVELATION #2** about 4 centuries a symbol of the nations that attacked and slayed Israel (like Assyria and Babylon)... After that, these centuries will be broken by 4 blacksmiths (a symbol of the kingdom of Persia).
- Of course, spiritually, the horns symbolize the demons who try to distance a person from our Lord... and the blacksmiths symbolize the men of God who break the trap of Satan.



+ **REVELATION #7** about a woman inside a basket, A symbol of Israel's sins that led to the captivity, Two women came with wings and carried the basket on the land of Shinar (Babylon).

+ **REVELATION #3** (chapter #2) and **REVELATION #6** (chapter #5 verse 1 to 4) about the building of the New Jerusalem.

+ **REVELATION #3**: about one who measures the city... A sign of our Lord's promise that He will build a second Jerusalem and be a lampstand to the nations who will believe and will join the Jews as one people, our Lord... And it contains clear prophecies about the Incarnation and about the glory of the Church of the New Testament.

+ **REVELATION #6**: of a scroll (wrapped message) that flies in Jerusalem... that punishes thieves and liars... a reference to the word of our Lord that purifies the new Jerusalem of sins.

+ **REVELATION #4** (chapter #3) and **REVELATION #5** (chapter #4) about the coming of the Lord Christ to the repentant people through His symbols (the 2 who were leading Judas at that time).

+ **REVELATION #4**: about Joshua (the high priest). He was (figuratively) clothed in the sins of Israel as dirty clothes... Our Lord removed this garment from him and gave him a new priestly garment and a new turban (a symbol of the grace of our Lord)... and an angel appeared to him and He told him that if he led the people to true and continuous repentance and was faithful in his service, our Lord would reward him and his share would be between the angels and the saints (verse 7 and 8).

- Of course, this part means that our Lord helps the priest and the servant who is full of spirit despite the difficult circumstances.

+ **REVELATION #5** about Zerubbabel (the leader who was a descendant of David)... Two olive trees supplying a lampstand (a symbol of our Lord's curse on his people) with oil, to light it... The two trees are symbols of Joshua and Zerubbabel (who was leading the work to rebuild the temple).. Our Lord said that work is never accomplished by mere human efforts, but by the grace of the Spirit of our Lord.

- In the Book of Revelation, we hear again about the lampstand and the two olive trees (Revelation 11).



+ **REVELATION #9** (chapter #6 verse 9 to 15) about Joshua, the second priest... who wore a gold crown (a symbol of Christ, the high priest of the New Testament)... and Zechariah says that this glory would happen if the people repented and obeyed our Lord. (verse 15).

### + What do we learn?

- This part is very rich... But let us focus on the fourth prophecy... Our Lord is the one who will clothe his priests and servants with grace and give them glory and wisdom if they are honest, loyal to Him, and fervent in spirit.
- O Lord, you are the one who changes the tattered and dirty dress of my life and clothe me with your grace and overflows with your splendor and glory...I praise you my Lord.

### 3- A conclusion from the visions:

- They were asking: Is Christ coming for salvation? Are the years of captivity and the destruction of the temple concluded? Is this the time for the end of sorrows?
- Zechariah reminded them again that their fathers did not respond to the prophets with sincere repentance, so the captivity came (chapter #7).
- And he said to them, in order for you to see Christ, you must repent and be faithful to our Lord (chapter #8).
- Thus, Zacharias reversed the question... They say: When will the Messiah come? He asks: Are you ready for the coming of Christ?

### + What do we learn?

- Many times, we focus on details that do not concern us a lot and are not necessary for us... Like the one who is trying to know exactly the second coming is when... Sir, focus on saving yourself because this is the most important thing for you.
- Oh Lord, let me not occupy myself with any issues except my repentance, my salvation, and my readiness to meet You.

### 4- Prophecies of Holy Week:

- In chapters #9 and 10, Zechariah predicts his most famous prophecy about the entry of the Lord Christ into Jerusalem on the day of the palm Sunday... riding on a colt and entering Jerusalem as a king.



+ **IN CHAPTER 11:11** our Lord likened Himself to the Shepherd (the Good Shepherd) who sought to save his sheep from the corrupt shepherds... But the people rejected this Shepherd... and the leaders of the people (the Corrupt Shepherds) also rejected Him... So our Lord left the people of Israel to those corrupt shepherds.

- And the question arises: Will the people of Israel's rejection of Christ continue forever? Will see the answer in the second part.

### + **What do we learn?**

- The prophecies of the Old Testament are very accurate about events in the life of our Lord Jesus... That's why our Lord told the Jews to search the books, because they testify of him... The Bible is one unit and we can see our Lord Jesus in it all.

- Oh Lord, let me when I read the Old Testament my focus remains: Where are you in this text? not just stories or words that I read and that's it.

### **5- Prophecies of the New Jerusalem:**

- The answer to the question: No...because our Lord will pour His Spirit into their hearts so that they may repent of their rejection of the Lord Christ (chapter #12 verse 10).

- And our Lord will come as a just judge and judge the world with justice and put an end to evil.

+ **CHAPTER #14** talks about the New Jerusalem, which gathers believers from all corners of the earth... and will be like the Garden of Eden... and in it the river of life (the Holy Spirit) flows from the temple and heals all of creation.

### + **What do we learn?**

- We are in a very great glory in the New Testament... Our Lord Jesus came and gave us salvation... And the Holy Spirit is inside each one of us and works in the whole church.

- Oh Lord, let me feel the glory that I am in.. and stabilize in you and in your church and your word; because on the day of your second dreadful coming, I will be ready with joy.





### + Verses summarizing the book:

Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Return to Me,” says the Lord of hosts, “and I will return to you,” says the Lord of hosts. Zechariah 1: 3

- No matter how far one is from our Lord, this rule applies: If you repent and return, our Lord is present, A good and nostalgic father accepts his children (as a father accepts a prodigal son).

“Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? Yet surely My words and My statutes, Which I commanded My servants the prophets, Did they not overtake your fathers? “So they returned and said: ‘Just as the Lord of hosts determined to do to us, According to our ways and according to our deeds, So He has dealt with us.’  
Zechariah 1:5 and 6

- Where are your fathers?: The people who refused to repent had a difficult fate in the end (the captivity).

- Do the prophets live forever?: The voice that comes to you is telling you to repent (as the prophets used to work with the people), it will not last long... Do not distinguish the Holy Spirit that is inside you by rejecting and postponing repentance.

- My words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, didn't your fathers understand?: All that our Lord said through the tongues of his prophets happened. How long will take us?

- So, they came back (the most important part): We think, we are convinced, and we make a decision to repent... and this decision continues.

Then the Angel of the Lord answered and said, “O Lord of hosts, how long will You not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which You were angry these seventy years?” And the Lord answered the angel who talked to me, with good and comforting words. Zechariah 1: 12 and 13

- This explains to us the role of intercession (when we intercede with angels and saints) and it turns out that our Lord is always the manager of goodness for his children.

“Many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you. Zechariah 2:11

- This is the glory of the New Jerusalem (the Church of the New Testament)... the universal Church that unites all nations.



### + Verses summarizing the book:

‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the Lord of hosts. Zechariah 4: 6  
- A very comforting verse... It simply means that our Lord, in His Holy Spirit, is the one who gives us success.

‘Every thief shall be expelled,’ according to this side of the scroll; and, ‘Every perjurer shall be expelled,’ according to that side of it.” Zechariah 5: 3

- The New Jerusalem (the Church of the New Testament) There is no place for those who refuse to repent... Our Lord, as He is a merciful God who gave us salvation, is a just judge for everyone who rejects or underestimates this salvation.

“But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear. Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the Lord of hosts. Therefore it happened, that just as He proclaimed and they would not hear, so they called out and I would not listen,” says the Lord of hosts.

### Zechariah 7:11 to 13

- Our Lord is sad from His people who told them His commandments through His prophets, and they were stubborn and refused to listen, They made their hearts diamonds (diamonds are very strong in cutting things), So the Lord says as a result of this refusal from them, I will not hear them when they ask me.

- Before I say: ‘I pray a lot and our Lord does not hear,’ I must ask myself: ‘Do I hear the voice of our Lord’?

These are the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor; Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace; Zechariah 8: 16

- Our Lord wants mercy, not sacrifice, He wants a life of true repentance, real change, and fulfillment of His commandments.



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### + Verses summarizing the book:

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9: 9

- Daughter of Zion = Daughter of Jerusalem = every human soul.
- Rejoice = new era.
- This is a clear and precise prophecy about Palm Sunday: Our Lord entered as a king, but in a meek manner, entered as a victorious person.
- A Colt = A sign of the Jews (as Isaiah 1).
- The Foal = a sign for the nations (it has never been ridden before = we did not know our Lord before that and did not have any spiritual experience).
- God is responsible for the salvation of all.

### + Interpretation of some verses:

So I said, “Where are you going?” And he said to me, “To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length.” Zechariah 2: 2

- The one who measures this is the angel of God, just like what we read in the Book of Revelation about measuring the New Jerusalem, a symbol of the church and the human soul.
- The meaning here is that our Lord measures man... his heart, his deeds, his love and his striving, Our Lord weighs everything, Blessed is he who when weighed by scales, was found with no imperfections.

For I,’ says the Lord, ‘will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.’ ”Zechariah 2: 5

- This is the glory of the New Testament, Our Lord surrounds the Church with a wall of fire (angels and saints) And His glory by himself in our midst (Emmanuel our God is in our midst now).

For thus says the Lord of hosts: “He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye Zechariah 2: 8

- Christ says: After glory (in which our Lord is at the right hand of the Father), God the Father sent him for the salvation of the whole world (all nations, even those who were plundering the Jews), Our Lord incarnated for our salvation, we are very precious to Him.





### + Interpretation of some verses:

Then speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, saying: “Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the Lord; Zechariah 6:12

- A prophecy of the Incarnation... Our Lord, in His incarnation, took the form of a servant... Branch = Nazarene (a prophecy about the Lord Christ)... And with His approval, our Lord said of Himself that I am the true vine.

“As for you also, Because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to the stronghold, You prisoners of hope. Even today I declare That I will restore double to you. Zechariah 9:11 and 12

- You Too = Old Jerusalem (Old Testament Church).
- Prisoners = Old Testament fathers who entered Hell and slept in the hope of resurrection
- The blood of your covenant = the blood of Christ.
- A waterless pit = a hell without consolation (without the work of the Holy Spirit).
- Stronghold = Paradise.
- Return to the stronghold= After the cross, our Lord descended into Hell and ascended the souls of my Old Testament friends to Paradise.
- Double to you = once with redemption and entering Paradise... and the second time in the second coming (entering the kingdom).





### + Interpretation of some verses:

So I fed the flock for slaughter, in particular the poor of the flock. I took for myself two staves: the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bonds; and I fed the flock. I dismissed the three shepherds in one month. My soul loathed them, and their soul also abhorred me. Then I said, "I will not feed you. Let what is dying die, and what is perishing perish. Let those that are left eat each other's flesh." And I took my staff, Beauty, and cut it in two, that I might break the covenant which I had made with all the peoples. So it was broken on that day. Thus the poor of the flock, who were watching me, knew that it was the word of the Lord. Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter. Then I cut in two my other staff, Bonds, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel. Zechariah 11:7 to 14

- in particular the poor of the flock: Before our Lord there was no good shepherd, he said the sheep were weak and humiliated.
- Beauty (grace): the grace of salvation and the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Bonds (ropes): God wants us to connect with Him to enjoy His grace (repentance and secrets).
- I dismissed the shepherds: the literal old shackles and the ways of the old shepherds (like the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees).
- Those who do't want to walk behind the shepherd will walk on their tracks and perish.
- And I took my staff, Beauty, and cut it in two: the Jews rejected the new covenant.
- Thus the poor of the flock, who were watching me: the sheep that were still waiting for the Good Shepherd.
- "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.": the shepherd says to the Jews who refused: I served you a lot and sponsored you a lot from the time of Moses, give me my wages.. and if you don't want it, it doesn't matter.
- So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver (the price of Christ with the priests... the price they gave to Judas).
- And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter": Throw it at them! Is this the price of love and care for all this period?! (This is what Judas did when he returned the silver... and the Jews bought with money the potter's field a cemetery for strangers... an indication that every stranger who comes enjoys the bosom of our Lord Jesus).



### + Interpretation of some verses:

- Then I cut in two my other staff, Bonds, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel = salvation ended the covenant with the Jews by their rejection of Christ.. Our Lord is no longer their God alone, but has become the God of everyone who believes in Him (Jew or Gentile).

And one will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?' Then he will answer, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends. "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, Against the Man who is My Companion, " Says the Lord of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered; Then I will turn My hand against the little ones. Zechariah 13:6 and 7

- 'What are these wounds between your arms?' = This is a question for the Good Shepherd... One asks our Lord: What has happened to you? Our Lord said, This is the torment that he saw from the Jews.

- "Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered = what happened at the time of Jesus' arrest on the night of Good Friday.

- Then I will turn My hand against the little ones = the persecutions of the early church.

It shall be one day Which is known to the Lord-Neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen That it will be light. And in that day it shall be That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea And half of them toward] the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur. And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be "The Lord is one," And His name one. Zechariah 14:7 to 9

- But at evening time it shall happen = what happened at the time of the cross... It was darkness over the whole earth... After that the light returned for a while.

- Living water = a sign that our Lord came out of it blood and water on the cross... Water is a sign of the Holy Spirit who will fill the church.

