

**GOSPEL** of *Grace*  
FELLOWSHIP

**Zechariah**

**Jesus Christ, the Righteous Branch**

by Dana Burkinshaw

March 25, 2020

**Meaning of the Name**

The name *Zechariah* means “the Lord has remembered.”

Zechariah was also concerned with rebuilding the Temple, but his visions of the future go far beyond those of Haggai. Zechariah is the most-quoted minor prophet in the NT.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 1

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**F** – Zechariah, a priest, wrote the book of Zechariah. Zechariah was born in Babylon, but his father returned to Judah with his family in 536 BC, following the leadership of Zerubbabel (Neh. 12:4,16)

“In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah” (1:1). This dates to October through November of 520 BC.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 2

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**L** – The book of Zechariah offers an expansive prophetic view of the future. Along with the prophet Haggai, he was instrumental in inspiring his fellow Jews to rebuild the Lord’s temple in Jerusalem (Ezra 6:14). The first eight chapters of Zechariah have to do with that work, and the remaining six chapters look to the future (some scholars believe these chapters were written 30 years later).

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 3

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**L** – The book as a whole outlines God’s program for his people during the “*times of the Gentiles*” (Luke 21:24). Preparing them for their deliverance through the coming Messiah. Though Zechariah wrote about the temple construction that was happening in his day, his eyes were fixed on the future restoration of Jerusalem and the coming Messiah.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 4

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**I**

- Zion’s Sanctuary – eight visions (1-6)
- Zion’s Services – four messages (7-8)
- Zion’s Savior – two burdens (9-14)

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 5

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**G** – No Minor Prophet book reveals more of the scarlet thread of redemption than Zechariah. Three of the eight rapid-fire visions the Lord gave the prophet pointed either to the first coming of the Messiah (called “the BRANCH” in Zech. 3:8) or to Christ’s end-times reign.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**G** – In Matthew 23:35, Jesus refers to the murder of Zechariah at the temple. Some think this is Zechariah the prophet. It is better to equate Matthew’s Zechariah to a different person – the Zechariah found in 2 Chron. 24:20-22.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**G** – The tie-in to the prophet Zechariah comes in vv. 38-39: Jesus lamented the scribes and Pharisees’ failure to recognize not only him but also all the prophets God sent before him: *“your house is left to desolate...you shall see me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”*

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**G** – With those words, Jesus referred to when he would ride into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey, fulfilling Zechariah 9:9. Immediately following that prophecy is a description of Christ’s second coming (9:10). In the end, the Messiah will quell all militant, warlike action around the world and bring peace.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**G** – Now, Zechariah didn’t know when either of these events would occur – that the Messiah riding into Jerusalem on a donkey would take place 500 years after his time, or that the Messiah’s people would still be waiting for his second coming 2,000 years or so after that. Both comings were prophetically foreshortened, being compressed into these two consecutive verses.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**H** – Zechariah ministered as a postexilic prophet, preaching after the Jews returned from exile in Babylon, beginning in 536 BC. After overcoming opposition (Ezra 4-6), the people completed the temple in March of 516 BC.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**H** – Zechariah was a member of the Great Synagogue, a group of priests and leaders who collected and preserved the canon of revealed Scripture.

He was a contemporary not only of Haggai the prophet but also of Zerubbabel the governor and Joshua the high priest.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

12

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**T** – **Faith cancels out fear.** Henry Ward Beecher said, *“Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith.”*

The purpose of anxiety and discomfort is to draw you closer to God, and fear and faith are mutually exclusive. So grab hold of faith, and find out what God has in store for you.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

13

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**T** – **Let God rebuke Satan.** As Zechariah recorded, *“The Lord said to Satan, ‘The Lord rebuke you, Satan!’”* (3:2).

God was the one who defeated Satan at the cross, and God is the one who gives us victory over him today. Instead of trying to talk to Satan, talk to God about him, and then let Jesus answer the door when the devil comes knocking (James 4:7).

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

14

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**T** – **Don’t despise “the day of small things” (4:10).** Be faithful in the smallest details of life at home, at work, and with friends, family, and complete strangers. Even if God is the only one who notices your efforts, that’s all that matters. He honors those who honor him and are faithful in everyday matters.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

15