

II. AN OVERVIEW SUMMARY OF THE BOOK OF ZECHARIAH

A. General outline:

- I. Prolegomena 1:1-6
- II. The Visions 1:7, 6:15
- III. The History 7:1, 8:28
- IV. The Burdens 9:1, 14:15
- V. Epilogue 14:16-21

B. Commentary on content:

These divisions of outline are frightfully general but the total book may be divided along the lines of visions, history and prediction. The fact is that the first 6 chapters let the Hebrews know of God's will for the temple rebuilding and the last 6 indicate the necessity for the rebuilding. The intermediate chapters take up the historical problems that marked the age in part. Both visions and predictions are enormously valuable in Zechariah as means of stimulating the people as as means of pushing us on to further activity in our day and age. The practical value of the book on this line is vry great.

The visionary section is rich in symbolism and in giving grounds for a fuller study of biblical symbols.

The burden section is rich in prophecies Messianic, etc., and has often been called the equal of the New Testament Revelation.

All of these things weave together to make the book the interesting study that it is. We learn a good bit about God's methods and dealings in historical perspective. We also pick up some information about His future plans as well and we glean a large amount of material regarding our responsibility to the work of the Lord.

III. THE VISION MATERIAL

A. General Summary:

The prophetic ideal is to see and describe. We find this in classic form in Zechariah. The prophet sees and describes the revelatory sights in a series of visions. He does not fill in all the details but does give a general meaning to the whole. The result is that we are able to see broadly the meaning of the vision. From this we become students of lesser intended ideas, meanings, and suggestions.