

Zechariah

Israel - past, present and future

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All bible quotations are from the New King James

Introduction

The book of Zechariah can be difficult to understand – it seems confusing as it hops about between past, present and future. And what about all these visions?

This study is intended to be helpful guide rather than a deep theological examination.

Context

THE LORD HAS BEEN VERY ANGRY WITH YOUR FATHERS – verse 2.

Return to Me and do not be like your fathers. (3 .. 4)

Who was Zechariah?

A little history – under King Zedekiah Israel had been invaded by the Babylonians and the leading Israelites taken into captivity. Jeremiah had prophesied that the captivity in Babylon would last for 70 years.

The prophet Daniel had become aware of the length of the captivity and petitioned the Lord on Israel's behalf as the 70 years drew to an end. The captivity under the Babylonians ended after Nebuchadnezzar died and Belshazzar had become king. The writing was on the wall and the kingdom was removed from Belshazzar when the armies of Cyrus invaded in 539 BC. (See Daniel chapter 5)

Cyrus was kind to the Jews and encouraged them to return to Jerusalem as we read in Ezra and Nehemiah. Rebuilding of Jerusalem and the temple was begun. (This is the 'second temple' later extended by Herod.)

The historical confirmation of Cyrus is visible in the British Museum. The 'Cyrus Cylinder, reports his conquest of Babylon in 539 BC .

These two prophets are raised up by the Lord – Haggai and Zechariah (Specifically dated to the reign of Darius – see Haggai 1:1 and Zechariah 1:1)

By the time we meet Zechariah Darius is King. Darius is God's instrument in urging the Jews to complete the work of rebuilding and restoration.

At this time Zerubbabel is governor of Judah and Joshua is the high priest.

Haggai's message was sent to stir up action as the rebuilding and restoration had been overshadowed by the peoples' concern for their own dwellings. (Chapter 1 verses 2-4) God's message was 'work (at the rebuilding) for I am with you.'

So now we come to the visions and words of Zechariah. The book of Zechariah will cover past, present and future for Israel and the Jews through visions and his prophetic utterances.

We are in the 2nd year of King Darius and the word of the Lord comes to Zechariah, so we come to the first of a series of visions.

(The ruling power is Media-Persia. (That is the Medes and Persians who were ruling together. In Nebuchadnezzar's vision, which Daniel had explained in Daniel 2, Media-Persia followed on from Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon.)

Chapter 1

Vision 1 Horses Zechariah Chapter 1:7-17

There are two characters in the vision - there is the angel who talks with Zechariah and there is the man who is seen riding a red horse.

In this first vision Zechariah sees the man riding a red horse standing among the myrtle trees. Behind him are horses, red, sorrel (or bay) and white.

Zechariah asks - 'My Lord, What are these?' It is the man who provides the answer - 'these are the ones whom the Lord has sent to go to and fro throughout the earth.' They, the red, sorrel and white horses bring a report to the angel - 'we have walked throughout the earth and all the earth is resting quietly.'

The angel speaks out - '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.'

The Lord's response is 'I am zealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with great zeal.'

I am retuning to Jerusalem with mercy: My house shall be built in it.

The Lord's promise is 'I will again choose Jerusalem.'

So the first vision is a statement of God's intent - the earth is at peace but the Lord is now wanting to move things along. He is zealous for Jerusalem.

Note

Daniels' confession of Israel's sin and his request for mercy and restoration is met with the well known 70 weeks prophecy.

From this we see that there is partial fulfilment – yes, the Lord will choose Jerusalem again, but the fullness of that will come long after the completion of the time of the 70 weeks prophecy. Much of that time is covered in Zechariah's prophecy. At that time the temple would be rebuilt. At a much later date, seen in Revelation 21 Jerusalem becomes the New Jerusalem in which the Lord Himself is its Temple.

The restoration of Israel is also mentioned by Hosea. 'After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up.' (Chapter 6 verse 2) This is a clear chronological promise where one day represents 1,000 years as stated by Peter. (1 Peter 3:8) After 2,000 years of the church age then on the third day (after the Tribulation) the Jews will be raised up.

This points to the coming personal 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ when He returns and Jerusalem is fully restored.

(Horses will be seen again in the book of Revelation where the horses and riders are sent forth as the first 4 seals of the scroll are opened. Only Jesus is worthy to take the scroll and only Jesus is to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing. This is the time of God's future wrath and judgement over the earth in the Tribulation and not to be confused with this part of Zechariah's vision.)

Chapter 2

Vision 2 Horns Zechariah Chapter 1:18-21

Zechariah's visions are now moving into the fulfilment of the Lord's promise of restoration. First the vision gives a little history and the current situation regarding the powers ruling over the Jews.

A horn represents power. We see that in chapter 8 where Daniel's prophecy is dealing with the rise of Greece. Media-Persia is seen as a ram with two horns and Greece as a goat with a notable horn. The goat defeats the ram – just as history confirms. The horns represent power.

The vision sees 4 horns that have scattered Judah - horns representing powers. The scriptures and history tells us these four powers were Assyria, Egypt, Babylon and Media-Persia. (Greece and Rome would come later)

Then the vision sees 4 craftsmen coming to deal with these powers – to terrify and to scatter them.

We have to remember that whilst we live in the earthly, natural dimension there is also a spiritual, heavenly dimension. It is often stated that what we see in our dimension is a shadow of the spiritual, heavenly reality. So in this context the vision sees the spiritual version. 4 craftsmen ('horn cutters' in this context) were sent to deal with the earthly powers that had scattered Judah.

(Daniel 10:12-14 illustrates this. The answer to Daniel's prayer, which had been heard the first day, had been delayed by spiritual prince of Persia for 21 days and it needed Michael to assist the angel messenger to deliver his message to Daniel on earth.)

When Zechariah sees this vision 3 of the 'horns' have been dealt with whilst the 4th is now ruling. His vision sees the future demise of Media-Persia in due course as things move along in God's purposes.

Chapter 3

Vision 3 Measuring line Zechariah chapter 2

Moving along - a vision which looks far into the future.

The vision sees a man measuring Jerusalem. Angels come with messages. Jerusalem will be inhabited as towns without walls because of the multitudes of men and livestock. 'For I, says the Lord, will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.' Here Zechariah is seeing the time when the Lord will dwell in the midst in person. See Revelation 21

But first - a message - flee from the land of the north. Up Zion. Escape you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon.

Very much messages for our day and the immediate future. We have seen and are seeing many Jews regathering in Israel - many coming from Russia.

The downfall of Babylon is seen in Revelation 17 and 18 where there are details of how the nations, kings and merchants have gone after the riches and luxuries of Babylon pictured as the mother of harlots. The downfall of Babylon sees the collapse of trade with the merchants weeping and mourning as no one buys their merchandise any more.

The Lord's command - 'Come out of her, My people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you share of her plagues.'

The vision is seeing the Jerusalem of the future – the New Jerusalem of Revelation 21. The New Jerusalem of which the Lord says, ‘I am coming and I will dwell in your midst.’ This looks forward to the time when the Lord takes possession of His inheritance.

Chapter 4

Vision 4 High Priest Zechariah chapter 3

Two high priests! Now a vision seeing the immediate future with Joshua and the far future.

Joshua who was high priest at the time and the greater High Priest to come – ‘I am bringing forth My servant THE BRANCH.’

Joshua is first seen in filthy garments being opposed by satan. The filthy garments representing sin are removed from him and replaced with rich robes. The Lord makes promises to Joshua – if he will walk in God’s ways and keep his commands he will have an important role. He will judge His house and have charge of God’s courts, a place amongst those who have gone before him.

The vision sees Joshua established. He and the priesthood are declared to be a wondrous sign of what is to come. Like a shadow picturing something much better....

‘I am bringing forth My servant the branch.’ A reference to Jesus the Man.

(The Branch is prophesied by Isaiah in 4:2-6, Jeremiah 23:5-8 and 33:15-6. ‘In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness ; He shall execute judgement and righteousness in the earth. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety.’)

Also seen before Joshua is a stone with seven eyes. Another reference to Jesus who we know as the stone the builders rejected. (Psalm 118:22, Isaiah 28:16) The seven eyes are said to run to and fro throughout the whole earth – they see everything. (2 Chronicles 16:9)

In that day which is yet come. The vision also looks far into the future when Jesus will reign as King in Jerusalem.

Chapter 5

Lampstand and olive trees Zechariah chapter 4

Having just seen the vision of Joshua, the High Priest, this next vision speaks to Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah. It is about the building of the temple at that time.

Zechariah sees a solid gold lampstand with a bowl on the top feeding seven lamps through seven pipes and asks, 'What are these my lord.'

The answer from the angel is does not seem to reply to the question. The word of the Lord to Zerubbabel is – 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord of hosts.' Rather it is an assertion that whilst he is overseeing the rebuilding it will only be completed by the Spirit of God.

The task looks like a huge mountain, nevertheless it diminishes before Zerubbabel and he will bring it forth with shouts of 'grace, grace to it.'

Furthermore Zerubbabel you will then know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you.' And these seven, the eyes of the Lord which scan to and fro, rejoice to see the plumb line (a reference to the accuracy of truth) in the hand of Zerubbabel.

There is more in the vision because Zechariah sees two olive trees, on the left and right of the lampstand, dripping golden oil into the bowl feeding the lamps. He is told these are the two anointed ones who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.

Who are these two anointed ones? Much of what Zechariah sees foreshadows the book of Revelation. Jesus is seen in the midst of seven lampstands (representing the seven churches addressed by John in Revelation). It is all about witness to Lord and His power and light. In chapter 11 of Revelation we see His two witnesses - these are the two olive trees. Who are they?

The scripture in Revelation does not say so we are left to look elsewhere. In Matthew 17 we are told of the occasion when Jesus took Peter, James and John to a high mountain and was transfigured before them. He appeared shining like the sun, dressed in white and talking with Moses and Elijah. It is at this point that a voice from heaven says to them, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, listen to Him.'

The vision given to Zechariah whilst for the immediate future is also alluding to the future, the future temple and the future when they, Israel, will know that the Lord sent Jesus to them - this why in verse 9, 'Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you,' has capital M for Me. A veiled reference to the Messiah.

Chapter 6

Flying scroll Zechariah chapter 5:1-4

A reminder of the Law and of the result of disobedience.

When the Law was given to Israel they were told of blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience explained in Leviticus 26 and many other places. (i.e. Deuteronomy 27 and 28 have the declaration first of the curses (27:11-26 and then again 28:15-68) and then of the blessing (28:1-14)

The angel speaking to Zechariah tells him - 'this is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole earth.'

So the flying scroll which was 20 cubits by 10 cubits (200 square cubits), with the messages against thievery and perjury is a stark reminder to Israel. The curse covers the whole earth and rests in the houses of these Law breakers to consume them.

So here is a vivid reminder of the Law and the curse that comes for disobedience. At this point it is worth reminding ourselves that the Law was itself unable to save – in that sense it was, whilst perfect, inadequate to save. Salvation is only through Jesus, the Messiah.

See Appendix for more on 200 and the inadequacy of the law.

Chapter 7

Woman in the basket Zechariah chapter 5: 5-11

Immediately Zechariah is told to lift his eyes to see the next vision going forth Sin is going to establish and increase.

Now Zechariah sees a woman sitting in a basket and the angel proclaims - 'This is wickedness,' and thrusts the woman down into the basket and replaces the lead cover.

As he is watching he sees two women coming with wind in their wings to carry off the basket. He asks, 'Where are they carrying the basket?' and is told, 'To build a house for it in the land of Shinar. When it is ready the basket will be set there on its base.'

We meet Shinar in Genesis when Nimrod (great grandson of Noah) was becoming mighty on the earth. He built Babel and other places, in the land of Shinar (10:10). The people had one language at this time and dwelt in Shinar. Nimrod became a mighty hunter before (opposed to) the Lord.

So Shinar is where opposition to the Lord took root. Now Zechariah is seeing Wickedness being established there.

Daniel 1:2 tells us that this is where Nebuchadnezzar took the precious articles he took from the temple in Jerusalem and placed them in his temple - so this is Babylon.

In Revelation (17) we are told of the great harlot, Babylon, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth. Zechariah has been shown the establishment of Wickedness in Babylon. This vision sees wickedness which spread to cover the whole earth as it does today.

Chapter 8 Zechariah chapter 6

Chariots and the coming king

His vision continues. He turns and sees four horses with chariots. The first is red, followed by black, white and dappled.

The horses are four spirits of heaven who go out - the black and white to the north and the dappled to the south - he was not told about the destination of the red horse. The horses go to and fro throughout the earth. Zechariah is then told that the Spirit has found rest in the north country.

There is no further explanation but the word of the Lord comes to him. 'Behold the Man whose name is the Branch.' In the vision Zechariah had been told to make a crown of gold from the gifts brought by three who came from Babylon. 'Place the crown on the head of Joshua the high priest.' (Reminds us of the three gifts brought to Jesus by the Magi, who came from the region of Babylon to see the young child as they followed His star.)

As Zechariah places the crown on the head of Joshua, the high priest, the word of the Lord goes on with a Messianic prophecy, 'He shall build the temple, yes He shall build the temple, He shall bear the glory and sit and rule on His throne. He shall be a priest on His throne.

'And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.' That is both roles - the role of king and the role of priest will be characterized by peace.

Looking from our position 2,500 years on, we can see how the visions are partly fulfilled in Joshua and we see the then 'veiled' references to the greater fulfillment in the Messiah, Jesus who is the only one who can bear the glory and rule as King and Priest.

Chapter 9 Zechariah chapter 7

The history of disobedience

Now we are in the 4th year of Darius and questions about fasting and weeping which the people had been doing for many years.

The word of the Lord came to Joshua reprimanding them for their self centered actions and the history of disobedience. You should have obeyed the word of the Lord through the former prophets. (Instead of pretending to fast for the Lord.)

Nevertheless the Lord spoke further, 'Execute true justice. Show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart against his brother.'

Following on from the visions one might have expected a compliant response – 'but they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear.' That was just like those who had gone before them which led to the 70 years in captivity.

Also just like the ruling authorities in Jesus day – even though they saw Jesus fulfil all the scripture relating to the Messiah, including wonderful miracles, nevertheless their refusal to accept Him was absolute.

Disobedience resulted in the Jews being scattered among the nations.

So nothing changed and the course is set. God's promises will be confirmed, but also the coming judgement and desolation. Disobedience reaps its reward, but the Lord will deal with it and reign supreme.

Chapter 10 Zechariah chapter 8

God's future for Jerusalem

Regardless of their disobedience and refusals the Lord's plans will not be thwarted. In the rest of the prophecies of Zechariah the Lord lays out His vision for Jerusalem and the things which lead up to its fulfilment.

The chapter confirms, 'I am zealous for Zion with great zeal: with great fervor I am zealous for her.' It now goes on with promises that it will be marvelous in the eyes of the remnant that will be there. The Lord has great plans to bless and prosper.

Many nations will be drawn to Jerusalem to seek the Lord. His people will be saved and brought back from the east and from the west.

'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'

The tables are now completely turned – where Jews have been despised and rejected worldwide, now in this future time, they will be sought after by everyone.

This is looking forward to the time after the day of Lord. We know this as the Millennium when Jesus is now reigning Himself as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. There is much to come.

Jesus on the throne as King and as High Priest
(Hebrews 2:17 and 4:14)

Chapter 11 Zechariah chapter 9

Israel defended and the coming King

The first 8 verses explain how, in past days, the Lord has defended Israel and dealt with her enemies.

Because of the blood of your covenant God's promises to Israel will be fulfilled.

Then: '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.' The King will come as your deliverer - 'The Lord their God will save them in that day.'

The New Testament records the fulfilment of this prophecy as Jesus is arriving at Jerusalem before His rejection and crucifixion. (Matthew 21 onwards) The crowds are crying out, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest.'

However:

The rejection by the Scribes, the Pharisees and Jerusalem leads Jesus to condemn their actions and to say to them 'See, your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'

So we see that God's plan and promise has to wait. Hosea proclaimed, 'come let us return to the Lord; for He has torn but He will heal us; He has stricken but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us: on the third day He will raise us up.' Hosea 6:1-2

Had Israel welcomed Jesus when He came to them, fulfilling much of Zechariah's prophecy, He would have established His kingdom. But their rejection means a two day wait (2,000 years). At this time the word of the Lord goes to the Gentiles and the church is established.

At a future time He will come again when the Jews call for Him 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'

Chapter 12 Zechariah 10 and 11

Jews regathered and more rejection

After the rejection of Jesus the Jews enter the 2 day or 2,000 year wait. During this time they are re-gathered and strengthened – which we have been privileged to witness particularly since the second world war.

The word of the Lord concerning the regathering of Israel is repeated again because of God's mercy. Now looking forward to the millennial reign of Jesus.

But there is a difficult time for Israel and the Jews to come first. They had rejected Jesus and here we see that process in chapter 11. 'Thus says the Lord, 'Feed the flock for slaughter.' Here Zechariah is seeing Jesus' rejection – 'I will not feed you. Let what is dying die and what is perishing perish. Let those who are left eat each other's flesh.'

He, Zechariah breaks the two staffs he is holding, one called Beauty (or grace) and the other Bonds (or unity). We are told this pictures the severance of the covenant made with the people and the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

The picture now sees Jesus as the shepherd making a request for wages - 'if it is agreeable to you give (Me) my wages; and if not refrain.' They measure out 30 pieces of silver, which he takes and throws to the potter.

Matthew chapter 26 and verses 14-16 sees the fulfilment of this part of the prophecy as Judas agrees to betray Jesus and the chief priests count out 30 pieces of silver.

After betraying Jesus and seeing that He was condemned by the chief priests and elders of the people, Judas sought to return the 30 pieces of silver. He was rejected, 'what is it to us' they said to him. Judas threw the silver down in the temple. The chief priests took the silver but would not put it into the treasury as it was 'blood money.' So they bought the potter's field for a burial place for strangers. So the prophecy of Zechariah was completely fulfilled.

Finally the warning that a worthless shepherd will rise up who will not care, not heal, not feed those who are still standing, rather he will consume them. Woe to him, for the Lord is against him. This is the beast from the sea of Revelation 13 - this is the antichrist.

So the prophecy of Zechariah is moving into the period of the tribulation.

Chapter 13

The Day of the Lord Zechariah chapters 12 - 14

Zechariah's prophecy gives some details of the Day of Lord. The Day of the Lord actually starts with the removal of the born again believers from the earth at the rapture so that the man of sin (antichrist) can be revealed. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4) The 'Day of the Lord' takes in the 7 year period of the tribulation and will end with Jesus return to earth with His bride.

In this period Jerusalem becomes a cup of reeling and a heavy stone for all the peoples of the earth (12:1-9). All the nations of the world gather against Jerusalem at the battle of Armageddon.

Towards the end of the 7 years the Spirit of grace is poured on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (12:10) They will 'see' Him whom they pierced and there will be great mourning in Jerusalem and the land. (12:10-14)

More details are revealed:

Prophecy must cease. (13:1-6) This is said in relation to false idols, prophets and the unclean spirits who falsely speak in the name of the Lord. A son still prophesying lies in the name of the Lord is to be put to death by his parents.

During this time 2/3rds of the Jews are cut off - only 1/3rd survive. (13:8) Then 'they will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people' and each one will say, 'This the Lord is my God.' (13:9)

The Lord returns to defeat antichrist and the nations which have gathered against Jerusalem. (14:3-4)

More details are revealed:

Chapter 14 - the battle against Jerusalem. (which we call the battle of Armageddon). The Lord goes forth to fight against the nations. On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives.

The Mount splits in two and a valley for the Jews to flee through. (14:4-5)

'Thus the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with you. (14:5 and Revelation 19)

The earth goes dark - this is whilst the nations are dealt with. (14:6 and 12-15.)

In one day known only to the Lord it shall come to pass. Now the Lord shall be King over all the earth. (14:9)

Chapter 14

Holiness to the Lord Zechariah 14:16-21

The culmination of the prophecy of Zechariah sees Jesus established as King, as the Lord of hosts, in Jerusalem. The nations are now required to come every year to worship at the Feast of Tabernacles. (14:16)

HOLINESS TO THE LORD becomes like a watch word (14:20-21)

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Appendix

‘It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings to search out a matter.’ Proverbs 25:22

In that context there is a hidden reference to the inadequacy of the law in the vision of the flying scroll.

20 cubits by 10 cubits makes the scroll 200 square cubits. In the scripture there are places where the number 200 refers to inadequacy.

Achan, in Joshua 7:21, took forbidden spoils from Jericho, including 200 shekels of silver. His desire for the things of this world rather than obedience to the instructions of the Lord rendered him inadequate, as the things of this world are inadequate.

Absalom is described as being much praised for his good looks. – there was no one in all Israel like him. Every year his hair was cut because it became heavy on him. 200 shekels was the weight of his hair. Absalom’s death came when his head was stuck under a great terebinth tree. His great beauty was inadequate to save him.

Micah stole 1100 shekels of silver from his mother but then relented and returned them. The mother then had 200 shekels of silver made into a carved and molded image. Micah made an ephod and household idols setting up a shrine. At that time there was no king in Israel and everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

His 'homemade' religion was seen to be inadequate when the tribe of Dan stole the image and the household idols. Judges 17:4-6.

David killed 200 Philistines but that was inadequate to placate Saul. (1 Samuel 18:25-27)

Abigail made 200 loaves of bread and 200 cakes to placate David – but this was insufficient to save her husband. (1 Samuel 25:37-38)

David leaves 200 men behind because their strength was insufficient – thus inadequate. (1 Samuel 30:21)

Philip's answer to Jesus that 200 denarii of bread would not feed the 5,000 demonstrates the inadequacy of both Philip's answer and of money – Jesus knew what He was going to do! (John 6:5-7)

My thanks to Jonathan Hill, author of 'Unlocking the Biblical Watch of Messiah's return' for this insight.

The Law – its inadequacy.

Given by God, through Moses, for the Jewish nation.

Given with promise of immense blessing if kept and dire consequences if broken. (Deuteronomy 28)

Problem - mankind is fallen and has no chance whatsoever of keeping the law ... so

... Paul to the Galatians (3:24) makes it clear - 'the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ.'

So what is the current position of the law:

Taken away and nailed to a cross. Colossians 2:14

Annulled – Hebrews 7:18

Obsolete – Hebrews 8:13

It is inoperative so far as we are concerned because we are dead to it – Romans 7:1-6.

Abolished - (Greek *katargeo* means rendered inoperative) 'having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is the law of commandments...' Ephesians 2:15
Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes – Romans 10:4

The law was a ministry of death and condemnation -(2 Corinthians 3:7-18) and by the law is the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20) - it brings wrath (Romans 4:15) - it causes sin to abound (Romans 5:20)

The Jerusalem Council settled it - it is not necessary to keep the law (but everyone should abstain from things offered to idols; from blood (no black pudding!); from things strangled, and from sexual immorality (fornication – which is illicit intercourse). Acts 15:29.

We are rendered inoperative so far as Christ is concerned if we try to be justified by keeping the law (Gal 5:4)

The Law condemns but is inadequate to help or save.

Only Jesus

The point is that only Jesus is able to save. Only Jesus is able to be King and High Priest. Only Jesus will come to reign as King and High Priest. The prophecy of Zechariah confirms this through visions and prophecy.

Schedule of relevant scriptures

The Law - Scriptures regarding the present position of the law

The law of commandments rendered inoperative

- Ephesians 2:14-15 The middle wall of partition broken down, the law of commandments 'katargeo' in His flesh. (katargeo = rendered inoperative)
- Colossians 2:14 The 'certificate of debt' taken out of the way and nailed to the cross (releasing the benefits of 'promise by faith' through Abraham)
- Galatians 3:13 Redeemed from the curse of the law
- Hebrews 8:13 The old covenant made obsolete
- Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law.
- 2 Corinthians 3:11 Law passing away
- Romans 6:14 Not under law but grace
- Galatians 2:16 No justification by works of the flesh
- Galatians 2:19 Dead in Christ is dead to the law - therefore no power remains
- Hebrews 7:18 Law annulled. (Jesus could not be High Priest under the law)
- Romans 7:1-6 Dead to law now married to another.

The purpose of the law

- 2 Corinthians 3:7 Ministry of death (see also Ro 7:10)
- 2 Corinthians 3:9 Ministry of condemnation
- Romans 3:19-20 Speaks to those under law bringing guilt but cannot justify
- Romans 5:13 Instituted so that sin could be imputed
- Romans 7:5 Stirs up sin
- Romans 7:8 By existing allows sin to produce evil desires
- Galatians 3:24 Law a tutor to bring us to Christ
- Galatians 3-22 Law confines all under sin
- Hebrews 10:1 A shadow of things to come.

Result of the law

Romans 4:15 Law brings wrath

Galatians 5:4 Renders us inoperative or idle in Christ if we seek its justification

Galatians 3:10 Works of the law are doomed to barrenness

All things lawful for believers

1 Corinthians 6:12, 10:23 All things lawful, but not all things are helpful

Galatians 5:14 Love your neighbour - fulfil the whole law.

Other titles:

The ICCC – Transformed Working Life series:

Inherent Power

Work is a 1st class calling

No one can serve two masters

Hope - the certainty of future blessing

Faith or presumption

Hearing God speak

Working from rest

Renewing the mind

Be strong in the battle

Anointing

Fruitfulness

Other booklets written for ICCC

Powered by grace

Works of power - now is the time

Stand tall - take your position

Transformed Working Life - quick view

Inspiration from Word for the week – volumes 1-4

Other publications

Will the church be caught away?

Explaining the future.

Rightly dividing the word of truth.

So that's what it's all about (overview of the bible account)

*Daniel (introductory level)

*Revelation (introductory level)

Ostrich Christianity

Israel and the church not in competition

Favour - enjoying the children's bread.

What should we do with money?

Going for Gold – the testing and stretching of our faith

After Brexit – the nature of the battle ahead
Last Orders
Wisdom
The King is coming
Health and Healing
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Understanding the parable of the 10 virgins
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