Key Thought: Future Hope
Key Verse: 4:6

Time: 520-516 BC. He was a contemporary of Ezra, Nehemiah and Haggai

Circumstances: Refer to previous lesson on Haggai as circumstances were same in both books.

This book is full of visions and oracles which are most difficult to understand because mingled and intermingled with so much which is both near and far off.

I. Chapters 1-8
   2. 1:7 to 6:15 – A series of eight symbolic visions
      a. 1:7-17 – Horses and riders showing God’s care for His people and affirming “my house shall be built” (verse 16)
      b. 1:18-21 – Four horns and four carpenters. Shows comparative safety of Israel among contending powers and so time for building temple. Horns may show kingdoms which overthrew Israel. Then carpenters symbolize their powerlessness toward Jews at that time.
      c. Chapter 2 – Man with measuring line. Teaching God will repeople, protect and dwell in Jerusalem and will expand it into a metropolis in which His presence will be the glory.
      d. Chapter 3 – Jehovah, the high priest, bearing clad in garments indicating he bears the sins of himself and his people.
      e. Chapter 4 – Golden candlesticks and two olive trees. Teaching that the visible must give place to the spiritual, and that through “the two sons of oil” the light of God’s temple will burn. “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit,” verse 6.
      f. 5:1-4 – The flying roll. Teaching that God has in His law pronounced a curse upon wickedness and will “cut off” sinners.
      g. 5:5-11 – The ephah. Personifying wickedness as borne far away and teaching that when temple is rebuilt sin will actually be removed from land.
      h. 6:1-9 – The four chariots issuing from the presence of the Lord. Teaching God’s protective providence will be over all His people and their sanctuary.

   These visions followed the coronation scene, 6:9-15, in which Joshua is crowned and made typical of the Messiah-Branch.

   3. Chapters 7 and 8 – Zechariah’s answer to deputation concerning fasting, in which he
answers that Israel should not fast but hold festivals and that many nations shall join them in seeking the Lord (8:12-13).

II. **Chapters 9-14 – Made up of two “burdens”**

1. Chapters 9-11 – Revelation of promise to the new kingdom
   a. Chapter 9 – Judah and Israel, reunited and made victorious over their enemies, are promised a land and a king
   b. Chapter 10 – Israel is saved and strengthened
   c. Chapter 11 – Israel is to be punished for rejecting the shepherd care of Jehovah

2. Chapters 12-14 – A revelation describing the victories of the new kingdom and the coming day of the Lord. This section is future and presents three distinctly future pictures.
   a. Chapter 12 – How Jerusalem shall be besieged by her enemies but saved by God’s intervention.
   b. Chapter 13 – How a remnant of Israel, purified and refined, shall be saved.
   c. Chapter 14 – How all nations shall be under dominion of God and everything shall become holy.

*Taken largely from outline of Dr. Geo. L. Robinson.*