

SPIRITUAL REBUILDING

Zechariah was a prophet that worked with Haggai to encourage the rebuilding of the temple. It was necessary for the Jews to have the temple to worship God in the manner He commanded through Moses (**Deut. 12**).

However, it took much more than the right physical structure to serve God (and we are not limited to any physical structure today in Christ—**John 4:23-24**). God required a life of faith in Him, leading them to live right each day (**Isaiah 1:12-17; Micah 6:6-8, Amos 5:21-24**—be careful not to take **verse 23** out of context to condemn instrumental music).

Zechariah emphasized the spiritual restoration that was to accompany the physical restoration of the temple. Some had a question whether to keep a fast in the fifth and seventh months in relation to the destruction of Jerusalem 70 years earlier (**Zech. 7:1-3**). God's answer takes two chapters, saying everything that Isaiah, Amos, and Micah said. God is less concerned about ritual than He is about righteousness from the heart (**8:14-19**).

Including **Zech. 8:18-23**, God used Zechariah to make several prophecies pointing to future glory based on spiritual restoration. Of course, Jesus is the fulfillment of many of these passages. He is the one who makes righteousness in Israel a possibility, and He specifically fulfills several unusual prophecies.

Joshua the high priest is cleansed (**3:1-10**). Jesus will be a high priest that is clean and that will remove all sin at one time (**3:8-9**).

Joshua was given a crown which also represents Jesus being king and high priest at the same time (**6:9-13**). A special sign was given to prove that the prophecy would happen—the rebuilding of the temple (**6:15**).

Another Messianic prophecy (**4:1-14**) is proven by the **same** sign (**4:9**). The rebuilding of the temple works much as the raising up of the temple of the body of Christ (**John 2:18-22, Matthew 12:38-42**). Jesus came so we could be living stones in God's spiritual temple. We must behave accordingly.