

## “Zechariah: Very Popular in the New Testament!”

A. Quotations and allusions: the many ways in which the NT uses the OT for various purposes.

See the insightful article by I. Howard Marshall “An Assessment of Recent Developments,” in *It is Written: Scripture Citing Scripture*, ed. D.A. Carson and H.G. M. Williamson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988), 1-21. Note especially his section “Types of Use of the OT.” A number of other works also seek to understand these phenomena: Beale, G.K. and D.A. Carson, eds. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007; Baker, D.L. *Two Testaments, One Bible*. Leicester: InterVarsity, 1976, 2d ed. 1991. But it is not a simple subject!

**Marshall lists seven different ways in which the NT writers made use of the OT (pp. 9-10) adapted here:**

1. The language of the OT influenced the way the NT writers wrote (i.e., semiticisms).
2. The style of the OT (even its Jewish/Greek translation—the LXX) influenced the NT writers.
3. The NT’s straightforward ‘literal’ reference to events recorded in the OT (historical references).
4. The ‘literal’ reference to divine commands (in order to show continuation or abrogation).
5. The ‘literal’ reference to prophecies that found their fulfillment in NT events.
6. The typological use of the OT to show a correspondence between that event and a similar event in the NT (recapitulation).
7. The allegorical use that draws parallels between an OT story and a contemporary situation or piece of teaching.

B. Notice the many occasions in which New Testament writers referred to Zechariah. This tabulation is from appendices to *The Greek New Testament*, ed. Kurt Aland *et al*, Third Edition (Stuttgart: United Bible Societies, 1983), 898, 910.

### Direct Quotations

8:16 Eph 4:25

9:9 Mt 21:5  
Jn 12:15

11:12-13 Mt 27:9-10

12:10 Jn 19:37

13:7 Mt 26:31  
Mk 14:27

### Allusions and Verbal Parallels

1:1 Mt 23:35

1:3 Jas 4:8

1:6 Re 10:7  
Re 11:18

1:8 Re 6:2  
Re 6:4  
Re 19:11

2:1-2 Re 11:1

2:6 Mt 24:31

2:6,10 Mk 13:27

2:10 Re 21:3

3:1 Re 12:10

3:2 Jd 9  
Jd 23

4:2 Re 4:5

4:3 Re 11:4

4:10 Re 5:6

4:11-14 Re 11:4

6:2 Re 6:4  
Re 6:5

6:3 Re 6:2  
Re 19:11

6:5 Re 7:1

6:6 Re 6:2  
Re 6:5  
Re 19:11

8:6 LXX Mt 19:26  
Mk 10:27

8:17 1 Cor 13:5

8:23 1 Cor 14:25

9:2-4 Mt 11:21-22;  
Lk 10:13-14

9:10 Eph 2:17

9:11 Mt 26:28  
Mk 14:24  
Lk 22:20  
1 Cor 11:25  
He 13:20

10:2 Mt 9:36  
Mk 6:34

11:12 Mt 26:15

12:3 LXX Lk 21:24  
Re 11:2

12:10 Mt 24:30  
Re 1:7

12:11 Re 16:16

12:12 Re 1:7

12:14 Mt 24:30  
Re 1:7

13:4 Mk 1:6

13:7 Mt 26:31, 56  
Mk 14:50  
Jn 16:32

13:9 1 Pe 1:7

14:5 Mt 25:31  
1 Th 3:13  
2 Th 1:7  
Jd 14

14:7 Re 21:25  
Re 22:5

14:8 Re 22:1

14:9 Re 11:15  
Re 19:6

14:11 Re 22:3

## — A Spectrum of Views on the Use of Zechariah in the NT —

“Interpreters have long recognized the role of Zechariah 14 in Mark’s account of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem (Mark 11). Jesus begins on the Mount of Olives (Mark 11:1), which is where God stands in Zech 14:4. Entering Jerusalem, in a way that reflects Zech 9:9, Jesus is hailed as king (Mark 11:9-10), echoing Zech 14:9. Jesus comes finally to the Temple (Mark 11:15), as all people do in Zech 14:20-21. In the Temple, Jesus drives out those engaged in trade (Mark 11:15-16, interpreting Zech 14:2 as does the Targum to Zechariah.”

— Ben C. Ollenburger, *“The Book of Zechariah: Introduction, Commentary, and Reflections,”* The New Interpreter’s Bible, 840

“The New Testament quotes Zechariah seventy-one times. Thirty-one of these are in Revelation and twenty-seven in the Gospels. The second half of Zechariah is the source of the more familiar passages cited in the New Testament. For example, Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey shows that he is the king whom the prophet foretold (Zechariah 9:9-10; Matthew 21:4-5; John 12:14-15). For betraying the Lord, the chief priests paid Judas thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:31), which he subsequently cast into the temple (Matthew 27:3-5). Matthew interpreted this to be a fulfillment of the Old Testament (cf. Matthew 27:9, which mentions Jeremiah but is a quote from Zechariah 11:12-13). Zechariah 13:7 says, ‘Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ This was fulfilled when the disciples abandoned Jesus during the trial and crucifixion (Matthew 26:31,56). A double fulfillment is recorded for Zechariah 12:10, which predicts mourning for a pierced one by those who pierced him: first, when Jesus’ side was pierced on the cross (John 19:34-37), and second, when Jesus returns at the end of time (Revelation 1:7).”

— William B. Nelson, Jr. in *Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*

“Zechariah is not only the longest of the books of the twelve Minor Prophets, it is one of the most frequently quoted. There are seventy-one quotations from or allusions to Zechariah in the New Testament. One third of these appear in the Gospels and thirty-one are found in the book of Revelation (including twenty from chapters 1–8 and eight from chapters 9–14). Of all the Old Testament books, Zechariah is second only to Ezekiel in its influence on the book of Revelation.”

— Walter C. Kaiser, *Mastering the Old Testament*, 285

“Zechariah is second only to Isaiah in its number of messianic passages. Among Zechariah’s explicit references to Christ are the angel of the Lord (3:1-2); the righteous Branch (3:8; 6:12-13); the King-Priest (6:13); the cornerstone, tent peg, and bow of battle (10:4); the good shepherd who is sold for thirty pieces of silver (11:4-13); the pierced One (12:10); and the coming Judge and righteous King (14).”

— Charles Swindoll

“No Old Testament prophet has more prophecy concerning Christ, Israel, and the nations in so short a book. Zechariah predicts the second coming, the reign of Christ, His priesthood, His kingship, His humanity, His deity, His building of the temple of the Lord, His coming in lowliness, His bringing of permanent peace, His rejection and betrayal, His return to Israel as the crucified one, and His being smitten by the sword of the Lord.”

— *Scofield Reference Bible*

“The book of Zechariah is densely mined for quotations by the NT, whose authors discerned in it several prophecies concerning the Messiah’s coming. The clearest instances come from Zechariah 8:16 (in Eph. 4:25), Zechariah 9:9 (in Matt. 21:5 and John 12:15), Zechariah 11:12–13 (in Matt. 27:9–10), Zechariah 12:10 (in John 19:37), and Zechariah 13:7 (in Matt. 26:31 and Mark 14:27). In addition to these are numerous allusions, which are sometimes difficult to assess; one estimate, however, finds about 54 passages from Zechariah echoed in about 67 different places in the NT, with the lion’s share of these found in the book of Revelation.”

— *ESV Study Bible*

“One of the great ironies concerning the book of Zechariah is its relative obscurity to the modern church contrasted with its profound significance to the early church. Unfortunately, students of the Bible rarely study Zechariah today. However, strong reasons exist for suggesting that the book ascended to a place of paramount importance to the writers of the New Testament and to the early church at large.

“The book of Zechariah exerted a profound influence over the New Testament, particularly in the realm of Messianic passages—a point long noted by New Testament scholars. Several important themes from the book figure prominently in the New Testament. One of the most important of these is the shepherd-king. From Zech 9:9 the King who rode into Jerusalem on a “donkey” reemerges in Matt 21:5 and John 12:15. C. H. Dodd even suggests that Zechariah provided the Gospel writers with material of equal importance to the very *testimonia* [their eyewitness accounts] of Christ’s ministry.”

— George Klein, *Zechariah*, NAC, 61-2