

Jesus in Zechariah
Part 1
Zechariah 1-8
16021-D March 13, 2016

- I. **Jesus was always giving people hope. Not just pep talks, but real hope for the future.**
 - A. There was a sense when you were with Him that everything was going to be OK.
 - B. Yet, he told the absolute truth, even when it was not warm and fuzzy. (Lk.14:25ff)
 - C. That's why even when they were confused, they stayed with him. Jn.6:68
- II. **Zechariah brought a strong message of hope.**
 - A. **The Prophet:**
 - A.1. A priest as well as a prophet, like Jeremiah & Ezekiel.
 - A.1.a) Descendant of Iddo, one of the priests that came from Persia
 - A.1.b) Zechariah may have been born in captivity
 - A.1.c) Younger than Haggai
 - A.2. Primarily interested in the internal and spiritual motivations of the people, where Haggai was concerned with just getting going on the project.
 - A.2.a) Both approaches were and are needed.
 - B. **The Circumstances in 520 BC. Discouragement and distraction.**
 - B.1. The people were discouraged (Ezra/Nehemiah)
 - B.1.a) They had come back from Babylon (not all, but many, some 50,000) in 538-7 BC.
 - B.1.b) But initial enthusiasm had given way to struggle in the face of political and economic stress. Struggling community of faith in 520 BC, rag-tag, discouraged pioneers.
 - (B.1.b.1) Without consensus (some were not into the project)
 - (B.1.b.2) Without a temple—the central relational connection with YHWH
 - (B.1.b.3) Without a serious identity in the surrounding world (no respect)
 - (B.1.b.4) Without confidence in God's blessing -- Feeling guilty:
 - (B.1.b.5) Without a clear understanding of the difference between Babylonian life and Covenant life in the Land.
 - (B.1.b.5.a) They had brought some "baggage" from Babylon.
 - B.2. Their Leaders were discouraged: Trying to do the right thing, but getting little support.
 - B.2.a) Joshua the High Priest
 - B.2.b) Zerubbabel, the Governor (David's descendant)
 - B.3. But the Lord wasn't discouraged at all—He never is because he knows what He's doing.
 - B.3.a) Feb 15th 520 BC Zechariah the prophet had eight consecutive visions, which were to encourage the people of Israel:
 - C. **The Book: Unique in three ways in OT:**
 - C.1. **Most Messianic -- lots of material pointing to Jesus**
 - C.1.a) Quoted 41 times in NT
 - C.2. **Most Apocalyptic**
 - C.2.a) Three basic elements of Apocalyptic (revelatory)
 - (C.2.a.1) Visionary: The prophet sees things in a dramatic visionary form
 - (C.2.a.2) Symbolic: The visions contain symbolized truth in the form of animals, trees, elements of creation, but representing actual historical people, places, things in the course of redemption history
 - (C.2.a.3) Futuristic: The visions speak of the future. Near and far, often end times
 - C.3. **Most Eschatological**
 - C.3.a) More about the end times in Zechariah than in any other OT book.
 - C.3.b) The first 8 chapters are dual prophecy foreshadowing Christ's High Priestly ministry.
 - C.3.c) Entire last 6 chapters are about Israel's restoration and deliverance in the end.

III. The Message: Deep Encouragement to Discouraged Disciples

A. Come back to Me... 1:1-6.

A.1. *Discouragement had made them drift away from their initial commitment*

B. I am planning more than you think: 1:7-6:15. *They had lost their grasp of being called to a greater plan.*

B.1. 8 Visions and a Crown. *All occurred on Feb 15, 520 BC*

B.1.a) The Earth Patrol. 1:7-17

(B.1.a.1) *The Lord knows what's happening in the world*

(B.1.a.2) *But he's focusing on what's happening with His people, Israel.*

B.1.b) The Four Horns. 1:18-21

(B.1.b.1) *God's people's (Israel's) enemies will be defeated.*

B.1.c) The Surveyor. 2:1-13

(B.1.c.1) *Measuring Jerusalem for a blessing (4)*

(B.1.c.2) *God keeps His promises*

B.1.d) The High Priest and the Accuser. 3:1-10 (The Gospel According to Zechariah)

(B.1.d.1) **3:4-5.** *Remove the filthy garments and replace them with clean...*

(B.1.d.2) *The HP (Joshua) bearing the filth (terrible word in Hebrew, excrement, EBC)*

(B.1.d.3) *The Accuser (Satan = Accuser) insisting that God cannot bless a sinful race*

(B.1.d.4) ***The Branch...Mystery Hero of the OT.***

B.1.e) The Supply of Oil. 4:1-14

(B.1.e.1) **4:6** -- *not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord*

B.1.f) The Flying Scroll. 5:1-4

(B.1.f.1) **5:3.** *the curse of the Law against all human evil*

(B.1.f.2) *The judgment of God in both tablets of the Law against all evil*

(B.1.f.2.a) *Not living under the Name of YHWH*

(B.1.f.2.a.i) *Swearing falsely in YHWH's name.*

(B.1.f.2.a.ii) *Violation of the first 4 commands.*

(B.1.f.2.b) *Not living with integrity in society.*

(B.1.f.2.b.i) *Stealing (etc.) Violation of 5-10 of commands*

B.1.g) The Wicked Woman. 5:5-11

(B.1.g.1) *Evil has a home—Babylon (Shinar).*

(B.1.g.2) *Babylon = WorldThink in Rev. Flesh Life*

(B.1.g.3) *God has power over the evil and sends it back to where it came from*

(B.1.g.4) *Where to you want to live? Evil is over there. You, come over here.*

B.1.h) The Earth Patrol (again) 6:1-9

(B.1.h.1) *Chariots (war patrol) are God's army in the invisible realm.*

(B.1.h.2) *God is on the move. The Lord of Hosts = the Lord of Armies,*

B.1.i) The Priest/King called Branch. 6:9-15.

(B.1.i.1) Note: this is not a vision, but a real event, an acted prophetic parable

(B.1.i.2) *Joshua receives a Crown? A Priest King?*

(B.1.i.3) *Who could this be...?*

C. So... Stop acting religious and start really trusting Me. Ch.7-8

C.1. Dispense with man-made fasts that were more about Jerusalem than about Me. 7:1-7

C.1.a) *They had created fasts for Jerusalem's fall, but they missed the point of the discipline. God wants them to think like He does.*

C.2. Do what I told you regarding your society and relationships! 7:8-14; 8:16-17

C.2.a) *Learn a lesson from your forefathers who didn't listen to Me.*

C.2.b) *Let justice and rightness prevail in all your society.*

C.3. I am going to bless you, so be strong and stop being afraid. 8:7-13

C.3.a) *Fear Not! Let your hands be strong! (8:9, 13)*

C.3.b) *My plans for you are better than you can imagine...*

IV. **As Christians we are grafted in to the hope Zechariah speaks of. Five Ways to Stay On Track:**

A. **Cling to Joshua. Ch.3; 6:9-15; 2 Cor.5:20-21**

- A.1. He is the High Priest who wore all our filth as our representative, and gave us all his goodness as our own.
- A.2. *Keep meditating on the gospel until you intuitively and constantly view yourself this way.*
- A.3. We live in the inaugurated Kingdom that Zechariah promised would come in the future through that greater Joshua, the Branch.

B. **Let the oil flow: rely on the dynamic of our New Life in the Spirit. 4:6; Titus 3:5-8**

- B.1. In that era, only the few leaders had the Spirit as an anointing. But in the New Covenant, we all do. Acts 1:8
- B.2. God is at work in and through you. Trust Him and not your own strength.
- B.3. Even in Christian ministry, we forget this and it causes worry, anger, etc.

C. **Strengthen your grip. 8:9, 13; Phil.2:12-13.**

- C.1. Your hand does matter, and your work is important.
- C.2. Don't give up doing what is good. Gal.6:9

D. **Leave Babylon in Babylon: Ch.5, 2 Cor.7:1**

- D.1. The Word of God does convict and judge
- D.2. Evil is restrained and sent packing

E. **Keep your eyes on the horizon. 8:11-13; 2 Cor.4:16-18**

- E.1. Focus on the future grace as much as the present work. 8:13
- E.2. We are hope-based people and we often lose track of that amazing future.