

OT-OV

Lesson 139

1. Earlier I taught in part an overview of the Book of Zechariah. We need to review some of that learned and then pick up with new material on page two.

Zechariah: The prophet wrote of the future restoration of Israel and the wonders of the Messiah's Kingdom. He was a contemporary of Haggai and spoke primarily to Judah after their return. He was specifically called to get the people to rebuild the Temple.

1.1. The Prophets and their chronological order:

The Pre Exilic

Joel

Jonah

Amos

Hosea

Micah

Isaiah

Nahum

Zephaniah

Habakkuk

Jeremiah

The Exilic

Daniel

Ezekiel

Obadiah

The Post Exilic

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

HELPFUL CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS:

1. Zechariah and Haggai, began their prophetic ministries in c. 520.
2. 625 - Babylonia is established as a future power by Nabopolassar, an Assyrian
3. 612 - Babylonia defeats Egypt and Assyria at Carchemish

4. 606 Judah is defeated by Babylon and many are deported to begin the seventy year dispersion predicted by Jeremiah in Jer 25:11, two subsequent deportations will follow in 597 and 586.
5. In 539 Cyrus conquers Babylon (end of the Chaldean Empire).
6. In 538 Cyrus authorizes a Jewish repatriation.
7. In 536 some 49,897 Jews return and thus ends the 70 year dispersion.
8. In 535 the Altar and the foundation of the Temple is rebuilt and sacrifices offered.
9. In 535 the work on the Temple is stopped.
10. In 520 Haggai and Zechariah both preach their first sermons.
11. In 520 in the eleventh month Zechariah's eight night visions occur. (Zec 1:7 - 6:8)
12. Haggai and Zechariah awakened the nation from its indifference. The people responded, and the building was completed in 516.
13. Although Zechariah begins with the theme of the restoration of the sanctuary, he touches upon many phases of the spiritual life of the nation, and he treats with remarkable fullness the prophetic events leading up to the Messiah's return and reign.
14. Last week we completed our study of the eight visions which can be summarized as follows:
 - 14.1 The vision of the Red Horse Rider and the multi-colored horses - teaching the watch care of Jesus Christ and His angels over Israel. Zec 1:1-17
 - 14.2 The vision of the horns and the artisans - teaching the judgment of the four eschatological empires abusing Israel. Zec 1:18-21
 - 14.3 The vision of the measuring line - teaching the future greatness of Jerusalem. Zec 2:1-13
 - 14.4 The vision of Joshua the High Priest being accused and exonerated - teaching the mediation ministry of Christ in heaven. Zec 3:1-10
 - 14.5 The vision of the lampstand and the olive trees - teaching a future day when a reclaimed Israel will be the light of the world and the King and High Priest shall be the same. Zec 4:1-4

14.6 The vision of the flying scroll - teaching the discipline of those who take part in dishonest business practices. Zec 5:1-4

14.7 The vision of the lady in the basket - teaching the removal of sin and evil from the land before Christ's millennial reign. The lady is removed to eschatological Babylon on the Shinar Plain. Zec 5:5-11

14.8 The vision of the four war chariots - teaching the maintenance of peace and stability when the Lord reigns. Zec 6:1-8

15. After the eight night visions I taught the crowning of Joshua as described in Zec 6:9-15. Now we are ready for new material and the question of fasting.

16. The Question Concerning Fasting > Zec 7:1- 14

Justice and Mercy, Not Fasting

Zec 7:1 In the fourth year of King Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah on the fourth day of the ninth month, the month of Kislev.

Zec 7:2 The people of Bethel had sent Sharezer and Regem-Melech, together with their men, to entreat the LORD

Zec 7:3 by asking the priests of the house of the LORD Almighty and the prophets, "Should I mourn and fast in the fifth month, as I have done for so many years?"

Zec 7:4 Then the word of the LORD Almighty came to me:

Zec 7:5 "Ask all the people of the land and the priests, 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months for the past seventy years, was it really for me that you fasted?

Zec 7:6 And when you were eating and drinking, were you not just feasting for yourselves? ...

Zec 7:7 Is this what Jeremiah said

Zec 7:9 "Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.

Zec 7:10 Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.'

Zec 7:11 "But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and stopped up their ears.

Zec 7:12 They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the LORD Almighty had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the LORD Almighty was very angry.

Zec 7:13 "'When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen,' says the LORD Almighty.

Zec 7:14 I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations, where they were strangers. The land was left so desolate behind them that no one could come or go. This is how they made the pleasant land desolate."

17. The LORD Promises to Bless Jerusalem > 8:1-23

Zec 8:1 Again the word of the LORD Almighty came to me.

Zec 8:2 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "I am very jealous for Zion; I am burning with jealousy for her."

Zec 8:3 This is what the LORD says: "I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain."

Zec 8:4 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with cane in hand because of his age.

Zec 8:5 The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there."

Zec 8:6 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "It may seem marvelous to the remnant of this people at that time, but will it seem marvelous to me?" declares the LORD Almighty.

Zec 8:7 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west.

Zec 8:8 I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God."

Zec 8:9 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "You who now hear these words spoken by the prophets who were there when the foundation was laid for the house of the LORD Almighty, let your hands be strong so that the temple may be built.

Zec 8:10 Before that time there were no wages for man or beast. No one could go about his business safely because of his enemy, for I had turned every man against his neighbor.

Zec 8:11 But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as I did in the past," declares the LORD Almighty.

Zec 8:12 "The seed will grow well, the vine will yield its fruit, the ground will produce its crops, and the heavens will drop their dew. I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people.

Zec 8:13 As you have been an object of cursing among the nations, O Judah and Israel, so will I save you, and you will be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong."

Zec 8:14 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Just as I had determined to bring disaster upon you and showed no pity when your fathers angered me," says the LORD Almighty,

Zec 8:15 "so now I have determined to do good again to Jerusalem and Judah. Do not be afraid.

Zec 8:16 These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts;

Zec 8:17 do not plot evil against your neighbor, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this," declares the LORD.

Zec 8:18 Again the word of the LORD Almighty came to me.

Zec 8:19 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "The fasts of the fourth, fifth, seventh and tenth months will become joyful and glad occasions and happy festivals for Judah. Therefore love truth and peace."

Zec 8:20 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Many peoples and the inhabitants of many cities will yet come,

Zec 8:21 and the inhabitants of one city will go to another and say, 'Let us go at once to entreat the LORD and seek the LORD Almighty. I myself am going.'

Zec 8:22 And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the LORD Almighty and to entreat him."

Zec 8:23 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "In those days ten men from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, 'Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.'"

18. The Two Burdens Of Zechariah > Chapters 9 -14

18.1 The First Burden > 9:1 -11:17

18.1.1 Judgment On Israel's Enemies - Tyre, Sidon, and Philistia > 9:1-8

Zec 9:1 The word of the LORD is against the land of Hadrach (a Syrian city destroyed by Alexander) and will rest upon Damascus-- for the eyes of men and all the tribes of Israel are on the LORD--

Zec 9:2 and upon Hamath (a city near Damascus also destroyed by Alexander) too, which borders on it, and upon Tyre and Sidon, though they are very skillful.

Zec 9:3 Tyre has built herself a stronghold; she has heaped up silver like dust, and gold like the dirt of the streets.

Zec 9:4 But the LORD will take away her possessions and destroy her power on the sea, and she will be consumed by fire.

Zec 9:5 Ashkelon will see it and fear; Gaza will writhe in agony, and Ekron too, for her hope will wither. Gaza will lose her king and Ashkelon will be deserted.

Zec 9:6 Foreigners will occupy Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines.

Zec 9:7 I will take the blood from their mouths, the forbidden food from between their teeth. Those who are left will belong to our God and become leaders in Judah, and Ekron will be like the Jebusites.

Zec 9:8 But I will defend my house against marauding forces. Never again will an oppressor overrun my people, for now I am keeping watch.

18.1.2 The Coming of Zion's King > 9:9 -11:12

Zec 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey ...

Zec 9:13 I will bend Judah as I bend my bow and fill it with Ephraim. I will rouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and make you like a warrior's sword.

Zec 9:14 Then the LORD will appear over them; his arrow will flash like lightning. The Sovereign LORD will sound the trumpet; he will march in the storms of the south,

Zec 9:15 and the LORD Almighty will shield them. They will destroy and overcome with sling stones. They will drink and roar as with wine; they will be full like a bowl used for sprinkling the corners of the altar.

Zec 9:16 The LORD their God will save them on that day as the flock of his people. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown ...

Zec 10:8 I will signal for them and gather them in. Surely I will redeem them; they will be as numerous as before.

Zec 10:9 Though I scatter them among the peoples, yet in distant lands they will remember me. They and their children will survive, and they will return.

Zec 10:10 I will bring them back from Egypt and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them to Gilead and Lebanon, and there will not be room enough for them.

Zec 10:11 They will pass through the sea of trouble; the surging sea will be subdued and all the depths of the Nile will dry up. Assyria's pride will be brought down and Egypt's scepter will pass away.

Zec 10:12 I will strengthen them in the LORD and in his name they will walk," declares the LORD ...

18.1.3 The Coming of the Uncaring Shepherd >11:16-17

Zec 11:16 For I am going to raise up a shepherd over the land who will not care for the lost, or seek the young, or heal the injured, or feed the healthy, but will eat the meat of the choice sheep, tearing off their hoofs.

Zec 11:17 "Woe to the worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! May his arm be completely withered, his right eye totally blinded!"

End Lesson