

A STUDY THROUGH THE SCROLLS OF SCRIPTURE

Zechariah

Date and Setting of the Book of Zechariah

- Chapters 1-8, same as Haggai. (520-518 B.C.)
 - Temple building has resumed and ongoing until completed in 516 B.C.
- Chapters 9-14, undated. (approx. 480-470 B.C.)
 - Time of Queen Esther

Why two prophets?

Haggai	Zechariah
Exhortation	Encouragement
More Concrete	More Abstract
Concise	Expanded
Present Concern	Future Concern
Take part!	Take heart!
Older activist	Younger visionary

Who was Zechariah?

- Priestly Lineage
- Born in Babylon and returned with other exiles under Zerubbabel
- Younger contemporary of Haggai the prophet

Who was Zechariah?

- Member of Great Synagogue that collected and preserved Scripture.
- According to Gospel of Matthew (23:35) he was murdered between the temple and the altar.
- Zekar-yah= "God Remembers"

God Remembers

- God transcends time.
- He doesn't change, what He is doing only looks different from our perspective.
- God is not confused by this.

In His immediate time, the temple was rebuilt. (Ezra 6:14)

Immediate impact

"And the elders of the Jews were successful in building through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they finished building according to the command of the God of Israel and the decree of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia."

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- There is Hope:
 - Hope for the Jewish people
 - Hope for Gentiles

Individual vs. Collective mindset.

- Affects our Expectations
- Affects our Hope

Individual vs. Collective mindset.

- Our Cultural Norm of Individualism
 - Career fields, Entertainment, Wealth, Clubs, Causes, and Church Membership/Involvement (I choose what is best for ME).
 - Hebrews 9:27; Philippians 2:10-11; Romans 14:10-12

Individual Reality

"... it is destined that each person dies only once and after that comes judgement..."

Hebrews 9:27 NLT

Individual Reality

"...at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father..."

Individual Reality

"...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God."

Romans 14:10-12 NASB

Individual vs. Collective mindset.

- God sees and interacts with us as groups too.
- Group perspectives tend to last longer than our individual perspectives.

Individual vs. Collective mindset.

- As we have been studying the Bible, we have been viewing many groups of people as a 'Collective, mostly homogenous group'
 - I.E. the Egyptians, the Jews, the Canaanites, the Ninevites, etc.

Promises found in Zechariah

- Promises to Groups
- Promises about Groups

Promises found in Zechariah

- Prosperity
- Protection
- Peace
- Pleasing Worship
- Provision for Reconciliation & Restoration

Prosperity & Protection

"Jerusalem will be inhabited without walls because of the multitude of men and cattle within it. For I,' declares the LORD, 'will be a wall of fire around her, and I will be the glory within her midst."

Prosperity & Provision

"When I scatter them among the peoples, They will remember Me in far countries, And they with their children will live and come back."

Protection, Pleasing Worship, Reconciliation

"...all the surviving Philistines will worship our God and be adopted as a new clan in Judah."

Peace, Provision for Reconciliation & Restoration

"Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold your King is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey. Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey...and He will speak peace to the nations, and His dominion will be from sea to sea..."

Provision for Reconciliation & Restoration

"...If it is good in your sight, give me my wages...So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages. Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter, the magnificent price at which I was valued by them"

- Nearly 500 years have passed since Zechariah has prophesied.
- Jewish people are still looking for the Messiah.
- Jesus collects a group of followers and they come to believe He is the Messiah.

- Peter confesses of Jesus, "You are the Christ"
- Jesus showed His disciples how He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things.
- Peter rebukes Jesus for saying these.
- Jesus says Peter's not setting his mind on God's purposes.

- After the trial, crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus presents Himself alive to his disciples many times.
- At the final time they ask, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the Kingdom to Israel?"
- He responds, "It is not for you to know the times or epochs which the Father has fixed..."

- He says, they will receive power...they will be His witnesses.
- Then He was lifted up while they were looking on.
- They are told, this Jesus will come in just the way you watched Him go into Heaven.
- Then they returned from the Mt. called Olivet.

 Back to Zechariah, chapter 14. Some really bad things will happen on the day of the LORD, as the nations fight against Jerusalem, but then something amazing happens... "Then the LORD will go out to fight against those nations....On that day, His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives will split apart, making a wide valley,...for half the mountain will move north and half toward the south..."

"...you will flee through this valley... on that day, life-giving waters will flow out from Jerusalem...And the LORD will be king over all the earth. There will be one LORD—His name alone to be worshiped."

"...In the end, the enemies of Jerusalem who survive the plague will go up to Jerusalem each year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty and to celebrate the Festival of Shelters..."

What just happened?

- In Matthew: Jesus' disciples were fully aware of their location when they asked if He was going to restore the nation at this time. They were in the very place Zechariah said it would happen.
- They are told Jesus will return just as He left, meaning when He returns, his feet will be on the Mt. of Olives.

How was their hope affected?

- Initial disappointment that now was not the time.
- Growing in understanding the new task they were given to be His witnesses.
- Bursting Joy that their hope would someday be realized even if different than they had understood.

How is God calling you to respond?

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