

August 30th Sunday 2015

Text: Isaiah 41:1 – 7

Topic: I Am He!! That Is Our God

In this passage, God again proves that he and he alone, is the Lord of all historical processes. He is the only one who is capable of making things to come to pass as he wills it. He is the only one who announces before hand what will happen and then, brings it to pass.

God is in total control of everything and He always put his powerful word into effect. Even in the midst of trouble God has not ceased to be the God of the Israelites. He said to them “do not fear for I’m with you” and again he said “I will strengthen you and help you”, to the extent that “those who wage war” against them will be ashamed because he will take hold of their right hand and help them.

Lesson: “For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and say to you, do not fear I will help you” we must never be afraid, because God is always there for us.

Prayer: Lord I thank you for your loving kindness. Thank you for your promises that endureth forever. Give me the grace to rely on you and to entrust all I do into your caring and loving hand. Amen.

August 31st Monday 2015

Text: Isaiah 41:14 – 20

Topic: The Holy One Of Israel

Again, God reassures the people of Jacob and Israel, that although they are like worm and very weak at that times, they need not be afraid. He is going to strengthen them, to the extent that they will be like “a threshing sledge, new and sharp” to crush “every mountain”.

They will then “rejoice in the Lord” because at that time even the “poor and needy” will not be forsaken. He will do the impossible because of who he is to them, He will even “make rivers flow on barren height” and because of His love and care he will “turn the desert into pools of water” etc, so that the people will know that the hand of the Lord has done this. If we remain in Him he will do impossible things for our sake.

Lesson: Our God is a God of impossibility. He blesses his people and turns their barren land and troubled lives into springs of water. Even when fear overwhelms us, if we trust the Lord, he will do the impossible for us.

Prayer: Lord thank you, because you are the God that can make springs flow from barren land. We believe and trust your might. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Zechariah is a prophetic book. The prophetic activities of Zechariah started two months after Haggai's first message in 520 B. C.

The main message of Zechariah was to warn the people who had first began rebuilding the temple; they are required to listen to God's messages as it come through the prophets. They are to keep a close relationship with God to avoid further judgement.

The message opened with message of encouragement to the builders on God's long term plan for Israel. They are to do this through acting fairly and mercifully to each other. The message ended with an amazing promise of the coming messiah, the last judgment and growth of the final kingdom. It is a great lesson to us that Christ has come and returned to heaven. Today we wait on His second coming as we read through, may we get ready for His coming.

September 1st Tuesday 2015

Text: Zechariah 1:1-16

Topic: Earning God's Blessing through Repentance

The writer identified the time when this first word from the Lord came to Zechariah. Zechariah's father was Berechiah, and his more prominent grandfather was Iddo. Iddo was among the priests who returned from Captivity with Zerubbabel and Joshua (Neh. 12:4, 16). 1:2-4 The Lord told Zechariah that He had been "very angry" with the Jews' forefathers. Therefore, the prophet was to preach repentance to his contemporaries as Yahweh's authoritative and faithful mouthpiece. If they turned back to the Lord (enabled by His grace), He would return to bless them. And this was the reassurance that the restoration community needed after the discipline of the Exile. They were to "return to" Yahweh, to a personal relationship and allegiance to Him, not simply to a formal obedience to His law and covenant. Zechariah was to warn the Israelites not to be like their forefathers who refused to respond to the preaching of earlier prophets who urged them to repent.

Their ancestors had perished, and the former prophets who warned them were no longer alive to continue warning them. They would not have endless opportunities to repent. Even though the Israelites had failed God miserably in the past. God promised to bless His people, but their enjoyment of that blessing in any given generation depended on their walking with Him in trust and obedience.

Lesson: There is need for us to know when we fall short of God's glory.

Prayer: Teach us to repent, Lord. Amen.

September 2nd Wednesday, 2015

Text: Zechariah 1:7-11

Topic: The Horseman Among the Myrtle Trees

This first vision emphasizes that God was lovingly jealous of His chosen people, and would restore them, even though they were troubled at present, and the nations that oppressed them were at ease. In the vision, an angelic patrol reported on the state of the whole earth. This vision presents hope for dispersed and downtrodden Israel. There is hope for us today amidst of difficulties, loss of lives and destructions of our properties

which we are experiencing. Our trust must be on the Lord not government because only God has the power to save us.

Lesson: Our hope must always be on God, our protector.

Prayer: Help us O Lord to put our hope in you. Amen.

September 3rd Thursday 2015

Text: Zechariah 1: 12-17

Topic: Is God Displeased with us?

God is displeased with the nations who are at peace and ignore Jerusalem's plight. God is jealous for Jerusalem; the nations are indifferent to her. God had returned to Jerusalem (v. 16) with mercies, and the nations have a responsibility also. Therefore, it is our responsibility as Christians to make peace and to give peace where there is none. It is also our responsibility to work for peace, care and support those who have been displaced from their homes and are now living as refugees in their own country. Let us strive to give peace to the world so that the world can learn from us.

Lesson: God will rescue his people.

Prayer: Lord, you are our Savior. Deliver us from the enemy. Amen.

September 4th Friday 2015

Text: Zechariah 1:18-21

Topic: The Four Horns and the Four Smiths

The second vision elaborates the concept of comfort promised in the first vision (vv. 13, 17). Here we learn how God will execute His anger against the nations that excessively oppressed His people. God is never happy with any individual, group or nations that use their positions or privileges to maltreat others. God will punish the nations for the wrongs they have done and Israel will be victorious over her enemies in the same manner that Christians will triumph at the end. The enemy may seem to be succeeding today but we need not to relent, God will surely fight for His people.

Lesson: God's anger will fall on those who maltreat His people.

Prayer: Our Redeemer, since vengeance is yours, teach us not to revenge. Amen.

September 5th Saturday 2015

Text: Zechariah 2:1-5

Topic: The Lord our Comforter

In the first vision (1:7-17), God promised comfort to Israel. In the second (1:18-21), He explained that He would bring this comfort by punishing the nations that had afflicted Israel. In this third vision (ch. 2), He guaranteed the future prosperity and expansion of Israel. Jerusalem has a divine protector. As will become clear, this future blessedness must extend beyond the restoration period to messianic times. This third vision has a counterpart in vision six (5:1-4), in that they both deal with measuring, dimensions, and Jerusalem. This vision stresses the importance of Jerusalem, and vision six pertains to law within Jerusalem. This vision pictures Jerusalem in millennial glory.

Lesson: God is our comforter. As He comforted Jerusalem, so He comforts His people.

Prayer: Make us to trust you despite all that is happening around us, O Lord. Amen.