

September 13th Sunday 2015

Text: Zechariah 5:5-11

Topic: The Woman in the Basket

The preceding vision described the future removal of individual sinners from the land through divine judgment, and this one pictures the eventual removal of all wickedness from the future "holy land" (2:12; cf. 3:9). "In line with the scope of all eight of Zechariah's night visions, the fulfillment of this likewise extends into the millennial kingdom. Nevertheless the immediate application of the vision to the prophet's time and to the conditions then prevailing is plain." 5:5 The angelic guide next proceeded to instruct Zechariah to view something else that was happening in his vision. The human mind is not capable of readily appropriating divine revelation this is why when God gives a revelation, He does it step by step so that we can understand it. The Lord will stamp out the wicked from us.

Lesson: The Lord knows our ways.

Prayer: Help us to be faithful, oh Lord. Amen.

September 14th Monday 2015

Text: Zechariah 6:1-8

Topic: The Four Chariots

There are several similarities between this last vision and the first one (1:7-17), indicating a return to ideas introduced at the beginning of these revelations. Again there is a group of horses of various colors, but their order and colors are somewhat different. Zechariah mentioned a rider in vision one but no chariots, but in vision eight chariots without horsemen appear. There is a similar emphasis on the fact that Yahweh controls history and subdues the nations that oppress Israel. Know that the Lord is still in control of the world He created. Every nation, no matter how powerful, is under His power. He will overcome the wicked and they will not go unpunished.

Lesson: Avoid wickedness and do what pleases God because the end of the wicked is near.

Prayer: Help me to be decent in life my Lord. Amen.

September 15th Tuesday 2015

Text: Zechariah 6:9-15

Topic: The Symbolic Crowning of Joshua

The visions ended and Zechariah awoke from his dream-like state. What follows is a symbolic act that took place in Jerusalem at the Lord's command. "The position of this actual ceremony after the eight visions is significant. The fourth and fifth visions, at the center of the series, were concerned with the high priest [Joshua] and the civil governor in the Davidic line [Zerubbabel]. Zechariah here linked the message of those two visions to the messianic King-Priest. . . . Thus restored Israel is seen in the future under the glorious reign of the messianic King-Priest." In the same manner, the Lord will restore our land; he will restore us to a better position though it has now been ravaged. A time will come when God will transform us and overcome the source of our great suffering.

Lesson: The Lord is able to do whatever He promises to do.

Prayer: Restores to us what we have lost, our Lord. Amen.

September 16th Wednesday 2015

Text: Zechariah 7:1-3

Topic: The Question from the Delegation from Bethel

7:1 A prophetic message came to Zechariah from the Lord in 518 B.C. The "fourth day of the ninth month" would have been in early December. This message, which comprises the following four messages in chapters 7 and 8, came to the prophet almost two years after he received the eight night visions (1:7), and about halfway through the period of temple reconstruction. 7:2-3 Israelites who lived in "Bethel," about 10 miles north of Jerusalem, sent two representatives to ask the priests and prophets in the capital about how they should worship the Lord. They wanted to know if they should continue to "weep" and "abstain" from food (i.e., to fast), which had become traditional but which the Mosaic Law did not require. The only fast that the Mosaic Law prescribed was on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:29; 23:27-32). Do you abstain from food as a ritual or is it so that you can worship God?

Lesson: Abstain from bad habits.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to abstain from evil practices so I can worship you truly.

September 17th Thursday 2015

Text: Zechariah 7:4-7

Topic: The Lord's Rebuke

This is the first of four messages that Zechariah received from the Lord that bear on the question just raised. That there were four separate messages seems clear, since each one begins with the same preamble: "The word of the Lord came" (7:4, 8; 8:1; 18). The first two, in chapter 7, are negative, and the last two, in chapter 8, are positive. 7:4-5. The Lord spoke to Zechariah, and he proceeded to inform the messengers because the issue that they had raised had widespread implications for the whole nation. The Lord asked the people if the fast they had instituted and observed in "the fifth and seventh months," for 70 years was really for His benefit or for themselves. "Seventy years" is a round number for the length of the Captivity here, assuming the 70 years had not completely run their course yet. The fast in the fifth month, on the ninth of Ab, memorialized the destruction of Solomon's temple by Nebuchadnezzar. The fast in the seventh month, on the second of Tishri, commemorated the assassination of Gedaliah and his associates at Mizpah (2 Kings 25:25; Jer.41:2). Evidently the people had turned these events into occasions for self-pity over their physical condition, rather than engaging in prayer and genuine spiritual repentance.

Lesson: Prayer and repentance are vital in Christian life.

Prayer: Teach us to pray without ceasing. Amen.

September 18th Friday

Text: Zechariah 7:8-14

Topic: The Command to Repent

Having referred to the words of the former prophets (v. 7), Zechariah now summarized them as an exhortation to his own generation of Israelites. 7:8-10 Zechariah received

another message from the Lord related to this inquiry. The sovereign Lord commanded His people to dispense true justice, to exercise kindness and compassion toward each other, not to oppress the weak and vulnerable among them, and not to plot evil against each other. Morality is certainly not piety, but the piety which does not include morality is a mere delusion. It mocks God and insults man. When the former generations of Israelites had heard these commands, "they refused to pay attention" to the Lord. They "turned" away from Him stubbornly like a rebellious ox, and they put their fingers in ("stopped") "their ears" so they would not hear Him. They hardened "their hearts" (minds and wills) like flint so they could not hear the Law, or the Holy Spirit's messages through the former prophets whom God had sent to them.

Lesson: Learn to pay attention to God's Word and to do justice.

Prayer: We need your help our God to practice justice. Amen.

September 19th Saturday 2015

Text: Zechariah 8:1-17

Text: Israel's Restoration to God's Favour

Chapter 8 not only contains two major messages from the Lord (vv. 1-17, 18-23), but 10 minor messages. "Thus says the Lord" introduces each of these minor messages (vv. 2, 3, 4-5, 6, 7-8, 9-13, 14-18, 19, 20-22, 23), each of which contains a promise of future blessing for Israel. These short sayings may have been the texts of different sermons that Zechariah had preached and later wove together because of their similar content. "In the preceding section [ch. 7] Israel was to repent and live righteously after the punishment of her captivity; here [in ch. 8] she is to repent and live righteously because of the promise of her future restoration." The whole chapter presents Israel's eventual restoration and participation in full millennial blessing. The restoration from exile in Zechariah's day was only a precursor of greater future blessing and prosperity. In the same way, believers today must repent and live righteously in order to enjoy God's blessings.

Lesson: Repentance is necessary to enjoying God's blessings.

Prayer: Lord, teach us the way of repentance.