

September 6th Sunday 2015

Text: Zechariah 2:6-13

Topic: The Oracle about Destruction and Blessing

This message brings out the practical implications of the two visions just related. It is a section of poetry in the middle of the prose visions. The prophet now spoke for the Lord, first to the Jews still in exile (vv. 6-9), and then to the Jews in Jerusalem (vv. 10-13). The first part deals with the overthrow of enemies and so connects with the second vision. The second part declares Yahweh's sovereignty in Zion and reinforces the third vision. "The future greatness of Zion is too important a subject to be quickly dismissed. Various aspects of it should yet be unfolded; therefore verses 6- 13 follow, which are very much in place at this point, and for just this reason. Destruction will befall the enemies of God while blessings will be the portion of all those who fear and obey Him.

Lesson: The Lord has complete power over all creation.

Prayer: Teach us to recognize your power over us Lord. Amen.

September 7th Monday 2015

Text: Zechariah. 3:1-5

Topic: The Cleansing and Restoration of Joshua

The Lord explained that Joshua and his friends were men who had prophetic significance (v. 8). As will become clear, Joshua, Israel's high priest, represents Israel in this vision, specifically Israel in her divinely appointed role as a kingdom of priests (Exod. 19:6). Similarly, Israel's high priest represented the nation each year on the Day of Atonement. In this vision and the next, Israel's standing before God and her resources are in view. This vision presents Israel's restoration as a high priestly nation. "As the first three visions dealt principally with the material side of Israel's tribulation and restoration, the remaining five dealt pre-eminently with her moral and spiritual influence.

Lesson: Our restoration is at hand so let us not be discouraged.

Prayer: Lord, thank you because you will restore us. Amen.

September 8th Tuesday 2015

Text: Zechariah 3:6-10

Topic: The Accompanying Promises

Then "the angel of the LORD" admonished Joshua. He promised, in the name of sovereign Yahweh, that if Joshua obeyed the Lord and served Him, Joshua would govern the temple, have charge of the temple courts, and enjoy free access into the Lord's presence. He could come into the Lord's presence like the angels who stood before Him. Joshua's commission pertained to a priestly function within the framework of a covenant relationship. As always, faithful, obedient service leads to further opportunities for service. The Lord specified two conditions and promised three results. The first condition was Israel's practical righteousness; she had to walk in His ways faithfully with heart and hand (Deut. 10:12-22; 28:9). Second, she had to carry out her priestly duties faithfully. If Israel did these things, she would govern God's house (people and temple; cf. Deut. 17:8-13; Jer. 31:7), have charge of His courts—keeping them pure (Jer. 31:23), and enjoy free access to God (Exod. 19:6; Heb. 4:16; 10:19-22).

Lesson: the Lord keeps his promise and as His children, we too must learn to keep ours.

Prayer: Help us to obey you, Lord. Amen.

September 9th Wednesday 2015

Text: Zechariah 4:1-5

Topic: The Gold Lampstand and the two Olive Trees

This vision would have encouraged the two leaders of the restoration community, Zerubbabel and Joshua, by reminding them of God's resources, and it would have vindicated these leaders in the eyes of the Israelites. Chapter 3 brought Joshua forward to encourage him, and chapter 4 does the same to Zerubbabel. The chapter contains the vision (vv. 1-5), two oracles concerning Zerubbabel (vv. 6-10), and the interpretation of the vision (vv. 11-14). It presents Israel as the light of the world under Messiah, her kingpriest. This is also a promise for us believers therefore when we faced with obstacles, we should speak God's Word and stand on His promises.

Lesson: God has vision for us.

Prayer: Help us to identify what you have for us, Lord. Amen.

September 10th Thursday 2015

Text: Zechariah 4:6-10

Topic: Not by Might....but by my Spirit

The writer inserted two oracles that Zechariah received from the Lord concerning Zerubbabel, at this point, because they help to clarify the meaning of the vision. 4:6 The angel announced "a word" of explanation from Yahweh that Zechariah was to pass on "to Zerubbabel," the descendant of David who became the leader of the first group of returnees from exile. He was to tell him: "not by might nor by power, but by the Spirit of Yahweh of hosts. This powerful declaration is a motto that will guide all our endeavors and enterprises in the nation in these evil days. If we were to put the statement in a simple way that can be easily understood, it may read something like: If success is to be gained in the achievements of the people of God, it will not be secured by what man can do but by the Spirit's work. Only the power of the Spirit which is working in us can give us success and victory in life.

Lesson: we cannot make it without God.

Prayer: Help us to depend on you completely our Lord. Amen.

September 11th Friday 2015

Text: Zechariah 4:11-14

Topic: Be a Person of Integrity

Though the vision came through the preceding oracles concerning Zerubbabel, Zechariah still had some questions about what he had seen in the vision. The angel helped him further. In verses 4:11-12 Zechariah asked specifically for an explanation of the "two olive trees" that he had seen (v. 4). He also wanted to know the meaning of the "two branches" of these trees that emptied olive oil into "two golden pipes" that carried the golden oil into the bowl atop the lampstand. "Golden oil" is literally "gold," but clearly olive oil, which is golden in color, is in view. However, it may be the pure quality and value of the oil more than its color that the gold connotes. We should live pure and holy lives before the Lord and our neighbours. God is never glorified when we who profess to be His children live a life of compromise.

Lesson: Living a life of integrity is a good so we must be people of integrity.

Prayer: Teach us not to be hypocrites Lord. Amen.

September 12th Saturday 2015

Text: Zechariah 5:1-4

Topic: The Flying Scroll

The priests and the kings in Israel were responsible for justice in the nation (Deut. 17:9), though neither group could prevent wickedness from proliferating. The sixth and seventh visions deal with the removal of wickedness. This sixth one deals with the elimination of law breakers, and the next one with the removal of wickedness from the land. What God promised in the preceding two visions required the purging predicted in these two visions. At this point the series of visions take a sharp turn from that which has been comforting, to a stern warning that the Lord (Yahweh) is a holy God who does not tolerate evil. Before the blessing of the first five visions will be actualized, there will come in the life of the nation a period of moral decay and apostasy as we see in the society. God must and will purge out all iniquity, though He has promised untold glory for godly people.

Lesson: God does not tolerate evil.

Prayer: Lord, cleanse us of any form of evil. Amen.