

Life-Study of Zechariah – Messages 6-10

The Visions of Consolation and Promise

The Vision of the Flying Scroll (Zech. 5:1-4)

- The flying scroll signifies God's **righteous law** and its **justice** (just judgment).
 - Without judgment, there may be righteousness, but there will not be justice.
- The curse signifies God's punishment in **judging sins** according to His righteous law.
- Stealing signifies sins **toward man**, which are the issue of **covetousness**.
- Swearing falsely by Jehovah's name signifies sins **toward God**, which are the issue of a **wrong relationship with God**.
- The exercise of God's judgment of sins will be most serious and also very thorough.

The Vision of the Ephah Vessel (Zech. 5:5-11)

- The **appearance** of business is not bad; rather, in all the land commerce seems to have a proper appearance. But **actually**, today's commerce is totally wicked.
- In the sight of God the wickedness contained in commerce is a kind of **idolatry** and **fornication**.
- All the people among God's elect should be **honest and simple in their living**.

The Vision of the Four Chariots (Zech. 6:1-8)

- The four chariots signify the four winds from the four corners of the earth for God's **judgment of sins upon the earth**.
- That each chariot was equipped with horses signifies the **quick** movement of God's judgment.
- When the Lord Jesus comes, He will be swifter than the wind; He will be like lightning.
 - The last wind will bring in Christ as the last, the consummating, Craftsman, who will **destroy Antichrist with his kingdom** and **tread the great winepress**.
- The **two mountains** signify a testimony of God's judgments on the earth.
 - These two mountains of brass signify **mountains of judgment**.

The Concluding Word to Confirm the Eight Visions

- The visions are confirmed by the crowning of Joshua the high priest—typifying Christ in His **priesthood**—linked with Zerubbabel the governor of Judah, typifying Christ as the Shoot of David in His **kingship**, to hold the two offices, the priesthood and the kingship, in peace on His throne.
- The concluding word in chapter six is for the **assurance** of the completion of the rebuilding of the temple of God.
 - The crowning of Joshua was an assurance to the people that God would do something to accomplish the rebuilding of the temple.

The Advice to Israel to Turn from the Vanity of Their Ritualistic Religion to the Reality of a Godly Life and the Desire of Jehovah to Restore Israel

To Turn from the Vanity of Their Ritualistic Religion and to Turn to the Reality of a Godly life

- Zechariah 7 speaks of the **vanity** of ritualistic religion.
- Israel was told to **hearken to the word** of God proclaimed by the prophets.
- If the people of Israel were to have the reality of a **godly life**, they would have to judge with the judgment of truth.
- God's people were charged each man to **speak truth** to his neighbour.
- Finally, the children of Israel were to **love truth and peace**.

The Desire of Jehovah to Restore Israel

- Although God is love, He has great wrath toward the enemies of His people. He is jealous for His beloved elect.
- Jehovah **returns** to Zion, and He will dwell **within** Jerusalem.
- Old men and old women will dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, each with his staff in his hand due to the multitude of his days.
- The streets of the city will be full of boys and girls playing.
- The situation of Jerusalem in the restoration will be so pleasant that it will be **wonderful both in the sight of the remnant of Israel and in the sight of Jehovah**.
- Jehovah is about to save His people from the land of the east and from the land of the going down of the sun and bring them to Jerusalem, and they will dwell in it.
- The children of Israel should be strong, those who heard the words from the prophets given in the day when the foundation of the temple was laid so that it might be rebuilt.

- The remnant of the children of Israel will earn wages, and their animals will too.
- The vine will give forth its fruit; the land will give forth its produce; and the heavens will give their dew, that is, their rain.
- Just as they were a curse among the nations, so Jehovah will save them, and they will be a blessing.
- Finally, the fasts of the fourth month and the fifth month, and the fasts of the seventh month and the tenth month, will become joy and rejoicing and cheerful feasts to the house of Judah.
- The nations will come to Israel to entreat the favor, the grace, of Jehovah, and the children of Israel will be priests to them.

The Prophecies of Encouragement

- The visions in chapters 1 through 6 were mainly for **consolation** to the children of Israel, whereas the prophecies in chapters 9-14 are mainly for their **encouragement**.
 - Both the consolation in chapters 1-6 and the encouragement in chapters 9-14 is **Christ**.

The Prophecy Concerning the Nations Around Judah in Relation to Israel (Zech. 9)

- Verses 1-7 concerns the destruction carried out on the nations around Judah by the Grecian Empire.
- During the attack of Alexander the Great, the Lord protected Jerusalem with its temple as His house.
- Verse 10 refers to the **millennial kingdom**, which will be a time of **restoration**.
- After His coming peace and restoration should be here, and God's dominion should also be here.
 - However, when Christ came the first time, He was only **welcomed a little** and was ultimately **rejected, detested** to the uttermost, and put to death by being **crucified**.
 - Because of this, the restoration was somewhat **suspended**.
 - Therefore, Christ needs to come a **second time**, not riding a donkey but coming as lightning.

The Prophecy Concerning the Lord's Loving Visitation to Israel (Zech. 10)

- *Rain* signifies **blessing**; to ask for more rain is to seek more blessing. We all need to **pray** for the Lord's **abundant blessing**.
- The Lord's anger was kindled against the shepherds and that He would **punish** the male goats.
 - The proper shepherds are the prophets, the proper ones who speak for God.
- The Lord Jesus came as the **real Shepherd**.
 - On the one hand, the Lord **punished the false shepherds**; on the other hand, He, the real Shepherd, has **visited His flock**.
 - After being touched by the Shepherd, every weak sheep will become a **horse of majesty**.
- Verses 8-12 reveal further aspects of the Lord's **loving visitation** to Israel.
 - The Lord's whistling for us to gather to Him is mild and gentle.
 - The Lord's people will surely multiply.
 - Jehovah will strengthen His people in Himself that they will walk about in His name.

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