**Zechariah III On That Day**

Review: Theme of Zechariah: The Messiah is coming; get your house in order.

Message of Zechariah: It is time to build the temple. Repent, Return, Restore, and Rebuild God’s kingdom a constant theme.

**Outline of Zechariah:**

I. 1:1-6 Prologue:

II. 1:7-6:8 Eight visions. Highly apocalyptic

III. 6:9-15 Coronation of Joshua/Jesus A prophetic apocalyptic vision.

IV 7:1-8:23 Two Sermons

V. 9:1-14:21 Two Oracles concerning Jerusalem. Messianic and kingdom prophecies.

**Eight Visions**

Zechariah 1:7-17 Vision #1: A messenger on a red horse.

God is upset. Why? because Jerusalem is still not restored.

Zechariah 2:1-13 Vision #3 The man with a measuring line.

 God will make his kingdom into a city without walls. God is our protection.

Zechariah 3:1-10 Vision #4 Joshua accused by Satan and exonerated.

Zechariah 4:1-16 Vision #5 The golden lampstand, seven lamps and two olive trees. God is providing an unending source of power to help us restore and rebuild.

Zechariah 6:9-15 The Coronation Scene

A strange scene: A priest will be king. A priest on a throne. He is called branch/nazer. He is the Nazarene. He is Jesus.

Zechariah 9:10-17 A kingdom prophecy.

No more chariots, no more war horses, the battle bow broken.

King Jesus will bring victory without war.

God will rescue you from a waterless pit.

Zech 9:16 We will sparkle!!!

7:1-14. Religious observance versus true worship of God.

**Zechariah III On That Day**

Read Zech 7:1-3

7:1 4th year of Darius 518 BC People of Bethel come to ask a question.

v. 3 Should I mourn? Do you detect an attitude. Do I haavvveee to fast? (note: for so many years) Do I haaavvvveee to serve the poor, to share my faith, to go to Bible group, etc. Do I haaaavvvvveee to go to midweek? Do I haaavvvveeee to wear modest dress, even in the summer?

God: Wrong question!

There were three fasts begun as a remembrance of God’s punishment on Judah:

1. The 5th month: to remember the destruction of the temple in 586.

2. The 7th month: to remember the assassination of Gedaliah (2 Kings 25:25)

3. The 10th month: to remember the capture of Jerusalem in 597.

Their question is, to some extent, a good question. Now that the temple is well on the way to being completed, does it even make sense to continue to mourn over the earlier destruction of Solomon’s temple.

God’s response Zech 7:4-7

Should we stop fasting in the fifth month?

v. 5 Was it really for me that you fasted?

v. 6 You were feasting for yourselves.

Religion can be about self. What about you?

God: you were doing it as a hypocrite anyway, so what use were your fasts?

God: Give me your heart, not your religion. This is not an uncommon biblical teaching. God will judge the heart before he judges the actions.

Like Samuel said to Jesse, father of David. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

Zech 7:8-10 God’s solution to legalistic religion: *Act like God* (Exodus 34:6-7). Show social justice.

Zech 7:9-10 is a great memory verse.

Are you struggling with lack of motivation in your walk with God? Solution: Go out and help a needy person. Practice social justice. Go visit Aileen. Volunteer to help at the campus retreat. Make dinner and bring it to your neighbor.

Q: Did God answer their question? No!!! Why not? Because it was an insincere question. It was a smoke screen. Do you want God to answer your question about this job, this purchase, this plan? Make sure he has your heart first.

[By the way: God’s answer to their question is found in Zech 8:18-19 No. Stop fasting. It is time to celebrate. But I am not going to tell you.]

What do you think? Did he tell them to continue the fast on the 5th month?

Zechariah 7:11-14 God’s answer for now.

What you need to do is to repent and not act like your earlier countrymen

v. 14 Look where it got them!

Zech 7:13 “When I called, they would not listen; so when they called I would not listen.”

Hold on to that thought.

We say: God is not hearing my prayers. God is not listening to me!

v. 14

Q: How has your life been working for you lately? You have been listening to God’s voice, showing mercy and compassion, helping the foreigner and the poor, reaching out to the lost, encouraging the weak? Good.

If not:

Like Mark Wilkinson would say: “How’s that working for you?”

Remember, God still has not answered their question. (8:18-19)

The second sermon.

Zech 8:1-9 The Messiah will come to Jerusalem. Remember lesson #1 Repent, Return, Restore, Rebuild.

8:1-2 God can’t wait for it to happen. I am jealous for my people until the temple is built. God is zealous. Are we?

God says to his people, after you repent, you will be restored to me and I will rebuild Zion.

v. 3 I will return to you. We are the “city of truth (or Faithful City).” What a thought. This prophecy was partially fulfilled in April, 516 BC when the temple was completed, but to a fuller extent in about 30 AD when Jesus came to Jerusalem.

We are (or should be) the City of Truth—the Faithful City. That is the kingdom of God.

v. 4 men and women of ripe old age…. Each with a cane I hand… Safety security

Q: Is he talking about restored Judah and Jerusalem or is he talking about the church? (v. 7 from the countries of the east and the west)

v. 9 (like Haggai) Folks, let’s build the temple!

When God calls, let’s listen. Let’s go and start a Bible talk in Tehachapi. Let’s blow out our special contribution, revitalize the campus ministry and plant a church in Merced.

(Skip v. 10-17)

Zech 8: 18-23

v. 19 The official answer: stop fasting! Celebrate being in the kingdom. Like Jesus’ disciples vs. John’s disciples. John’s disciples were fasting but Jesus’ disciples were celebrating.

 v. 20-23 Did this happen at the time of the restoration? Not exactly. It is about the church.

God will bless our evangelism v. 23. A great Bible group. 10:1 visitors! (Bakersfield College)

Bonus Material: On That Day

12:10-14. A prophecy about the Messiah and about the church.

 Pour out spirit = Acts 2: Pentecost. Joel 2:28-31

 pierced = the sword in Jesus’ side John 19:31-37. Note, God says, “they will look on ***me***” Here we see the deity of Jesus.

12:11 Hadad Rimmon This is where Josiah, the most righteous of all the kings of Judah, and the last good king, was killed in battle in 609 BC and where there was great mourning in the land. (2 Kings 23:29-30, 2 Chron 35:24-25 Jeremiah composed a lament for this occasion).

When Jesus dies and his apostles abandon him it will be a time of great mourning, but…..

13:1-6 Further prophecies about the kingdom of God.

v. 1. **On that day**… The day of Pentecost (Acts 2:36-41)

Folks: the fountain is open. The waters of baptism are awaiting. We can be or already are fully cleansed.

Remember that day for yourself. Or anticipate it and make it happen.

v. 2-6 I will bring prophecy to an end. Hebrews 1:1 In the past God spoke through the prophets… but in these last days he has spoken to us by his son. This is a specific prophecy that prophecy will cease in the church age.

The Bible will be brought to completion. No more new revelation.

Zechariah 14:1 This is a Day of the Lord.

From the Isaiah class:

**The Day of the Lord is “The moment when Jehovah grasps the reigns, which he seems to have held slackly before, when the currents of his moral rule, which have been running sluggishly, receive a mysterious quickening, and the Lord’s work on the earth is at last fully performed.”**

The Day of the Lord is a day that God’s kingdom comes with power to build up or to destroy. This passage is kind of like Matthew 24, which is both about the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, but also about the second coming of Christ.

v. 1-7 This is primarily about AD 70 when God came and judged the Jews who had refused to accept the coming of their Messiah.

v. 5 As prophesied, The Christians in Jerusalem fled to Pella to escape Rome.

v. 8-11 But God will raise up his church, and living water—the Holy Spirit will flow.

On That Day God will be king of this kingdom. Jerusalem—the Church—will be raised up.

v. 10-11 Jerusalem—the Church will be secure.

v. 12-21 On That Day Finally, God will come and he will judge the nations.

Those who chose not to be with God in this earth, will be without God in the end.

v. 16 God used Feast of Tabernacle imagery here.

This was a celebration of God dwelling with his people in the wilderness.

v. 18 On That Day But those who decided not to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in this life will be shut out for eternity.

v. 20 On That Day For those of us with God in his eternal city. We will be holy to the Lord.

v. 21 No more merchants. God’s enemies will be shut out of the kingdom for eternity.

Should I mourn and fast?

Maybe. Actually, you should celebrate because a fountain has been opened.

But…When God calls, listen. Then when you call, God will listen.

Let your hands be strong and start building. In that day ten people will take hold of your hand and come to God.

On that Day, we will be celebrating an eternal Feast of Tabernacles with God.

So maybe a fast is appropriate, but let’s come together, let’s listen to God.

Let’s repent and return, then God will restore and rebuild.