**RRRR #5 Zechariah Sermon #2**

**Your Kingdom Come**

Review:

Zechariah is apocalyptic—vivid symbolic visions.

Zechariah has many predictive prophecies, both messianic and kingdom prophecies as well.

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.

Q: Is your (spiritual) house ready for guests right now?

**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.

**I. Prologue**

Zech 1:3 Repent and return Return to me so I can return to you.

Then I will restore you to me and your life/temple will be rebuilt.

Do you need to repent and return? How so? If you do, you will be restored to God and he will rebuild your life.

**Eight Visions**

Zechariah 1:7-17 The first vision: A messenger on a red horse.

Zech 1:14-17 God is upset. Why? because Jerusalem is still not restored.

v. 16 God: I will return to Jerusalem and rebuild my house

1:18-21 Vision #2: The vision of four horns.

 The four horns are four nations which scattered Israel. Assyria, Egypt, Babylon and Persia. God will judge these nations.

3:1-10 Vision #4 Joshua (the high priest) accused by Satan and exonerated.

v. 2 Satan is trying to prevent you from repenting and returning so that God cannot restore and rebuild. He is trying to discourage you.

v. 2 God’s response: The Lord Rebuke you!

v. 3-5 I have good news for you. God will take off your filthy clothes when you are baptized and clothed with Christ

4:1-16 Vision #5 The golden lampstand with a bowl and seven lamps and the two olive trees.

 Memory verse: Zechariah 4:6. Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts.

 The twin olive trees represent the unlimited power of the Holy Spirit.

If we live out vision #4, then we will experience vision #5 When we repent and are baptized, God gives us the Holy Spirit.

**Today: Your Kingdom Come**

Kingdom Prophecies in Zechariah:

Zech 2:1-13

Zechariah 6:9-15

[Zechariah 8:1-7] not covered this morning

Zechariah 9:10-13

[Zech 12:1-9] not covered this morning

Zechariah 13:1-6 On that day…. Pentecost.

Zechariah 14:1-25

And more….

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

God will make his kingdom into a city without walls.

The church will become very great and will spread across the world. God will protect his kingdom like a flame around a wall-less city.

2:1-2 Q: What is measuring a city about? Rev 11:1-6. Ezekiel 38:7-16 It is about relying on God, not on ourselves, for our protection and security.

We should not rely on statistics, on tactics, on our hard work, on our government. We should rely on God.

Our weapons are not the weapons of the world, and in a worldly battle we would lose. Love does not stop bullets.

2 Cor 10:3-4 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

2:3-5 No walls. We don’t need them.

v. 5 God is our wall!

Question: Is God your wall, or is your 401K your wall?

What are the worldly “walls” we tend to build to protect us from the troubles of life?

We do not buy guns to protect us against our enemies.

We do not try to intimidate or manipulate those we disagree with. We love them

Worldly weapons: Looking out for #1. Physical and emotional walls.

2:6 Repent and return! The “North” is Babylon/captivity. We were all once in the “North.”

Only come back, escape Babylon (sin) and come into my city (the kingdom of God). This scripture is being fulfilled before our very eyes in this day.

Last week Flo and Andres fled from the land of the North.

Come, Zion! Come, Destiny!

They repented and returned. God is restoring and rebuilding.

2:8 How does it feel to be the “apple” of God’s eye?

Illustration: Like the bullies at school surrounding you, but then your dad walked in. You are the apple of his eye. No problem.

2:10-13 Kingdom prophecy. I will live among you (in the form of the Holy Spirit) Many nations (v. 11) Be in awe of what God is doing. Close parallel here with Ezek 36:24-38 and Ezek 37:11-14

Let us keep our world vision. Let us begin to support world missions here in Merced.

I went to Haiti and the Dominican Republic in August, as well as Ghana, Liberia, Cote d’Ivoire and Senegal in Feb and March.

Pray for your brothers and sisters in Congo, Indonesia, Mongolia, Brazil,…

5:1-4 Vision #6. The flying Scroll. 30’ x 15’ scroll!

 Judgment on sinners and the enemies of God’s people.

5:5-11 Vision #7 The woman in a basket. Judgment on sinners.

She is being taken to Babylon/captivity. (where Judah went when she sinned)

Similar to Revelation 17

6:1-8 Vision #8 The four chariots. Judgment! (again)

 See Revelation 6:2-7 for a parallel passage about judgment on sinners and on the enemies of God’s people

These three visions in summary: God has your back!

**II. Zechariah 6:9-15 The Coronation Scene**

v. 11 Set a crown on high priest Joshua. Wait a minute… High priests do not wear crowns. Kings do.

v. 12 This is a messianic prophecy. A new high priest will reign as king. He is called branch/nazer. He is the Nazarene. He is Jesus.

He will build a temple v. 13 He will be a priest on a throne. That is our Jesus!!!

He is the perfect high priest, who knows the language of God and the language of people. Hebrews 4:15-16. Heb 5:8-10.

He (Jesus) is the temple-builder. John 1:18 He came and tabernacled among us. We beheld his glory, the glory of the one and only Son of God.

He is building a great temple. Ephesians 2:19-22.

v. 15 Those who are far away will come.

Some of you were VERY far away, but here you are. God is building you into a temple! How does that make you feel?

v. 15b And you get to help build that temple. What part of the temple are you working on?

Daisy building the north wall.

Michael building the south parapet of the temple.

Jan helping to set the cornerstone in place.

Zech 7 & 8 Two sermons.

III. Zechariah 9:9-17 A kingdom prophecy.

Read Zech 9:9-13

Zech 9:9 fulfilled on “Palm Sunday” when Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Zech 9:10 No more chariots, no more war horses, the battle bow broken.

King Jesus will bring victory without war. Remember, the weapons of the kingdom of God are not the weapons of the world.

v. 10 God will proclaim peace to all the nations.

And like Jesus told his followers in Acts 1:8 Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

“The River” is the Euphrates River.

9:11 By the blood of Jesus, we were freed from a waterless pit.

What waterless pit were you freed from?

9:13 Judah (Judea) → Ephraim (Samaria) → Greece That is exactly how the church spread. A very specific prophecy.

9:13 Judah/The Church will be bent like a bow. God will use us to do great things. He will prepare us for spiritual battle.

Read Zech 9:14-17

9:14 A kingdom prophecy cont. Doesn’t this contradict 9:10? Is God a God of peace? Isn’t Jesus the prince of peace? Matthew 10:34-36

God’s desire is for peace and the Kingdom is a place of peace, but with the world there will be war because the kingdom of God is at war with the world (spiritually). Only in heaven will there be complete peace.

Victory for God’s people in apocalyptic language.

9:16 We will sparkle!!!

9:17 We will be attractive and beautiful

What will be the grain and new wine for you? How will God make you thrive?

Next: Let’s just read Zechariah 14—the ultimate kingdom prophecy. Like Matthew 24, it is about the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, it is about the church, and, most of all, it is about final judgment and the establishment of the New Jerusalem.

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.

Zechariah 14:1-7 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.

Zech 14:8-11 But God will raise up his church, and living water—the Holy Spirit will flow.

v. 9 God will be king of this kingdom. Jerusalem—the Church—will be raised up.

v. 10-11 Jerusalem—the Church will be raised up (v. 10) and secure (v. 11).

Geba at the northern extremity of Judah to Rimmon at the southern extremity of Judah. The Arabah is a large, flat, and very fertile area.

The Church will be a mountain lifted above a plain. It will be lifted up by God, it will prosper and it will be secure.

v. 12-21 Finally, god will come and he will judge the nations. Remember that this is apocalyptic imagery. Do not try to take this literally.

v. 12-15 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.

This is about Jesus who is God-with-us. Emmanuel.

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

My suggestion: Let’s attend the Christian Feast of Tabernacles by worshipping Jesus, and celebrating God-with-us Emmanuel and the Holy Spirit who is also God-with-us. [Note: Matthew starts with God-with-us Matt 1:23 and ends with God-with-us Matthew 28:20 surely I am with you always]

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

Even the pots and the bells will be holy!!!

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

Summary:

The kingdom of God is a city without walls, as God is our protection.

It is a place where God lives among his people, and to which all nations come.

It is a place where priest and king are one in Christ.

The ruler of that kingdom is a perfect high priest who mediates for us before God day and night.

The kingdom is a temple being built by God, but using human hands to do the construction.

It is a place where those who were very distant are brought near.

It is a place where peace reigns because of the blood of Jesus.

It is a place where people in a waterless pit now have rivers of living water flowing through their lives.

It is a place where we will sparkle.

It is a place in which, at the end, we will dwell with God forever in an eternal Feast of Tabernacles.