

Zechariah – Oh the Visions! Oh the Messiah! Lesson Three

[6:1-8].....Eighth Vision

NOTE: Zechariah's final vision this night looks back at the four horses the Angel of the Lord sent out across the earth that returned saying the earth was at peace. This vision shows how that peace would come about.

Vss.1-5 Zechariah sees powerful horses with chariots coming from between two mountains of bronze.

They represent the four winds of heaven.

Showing God's sovereignty over the world, chariots are dispatched in all directions, except east.

Vss.6-8 A great emphasis is placed on the black horse(s) and chariots going north. This horse "have given my Spirit rest in the land of the north." What does this mean?

[6:9-15].....Priest and King

Vss.9-11 Zechariah is told to take silver and gold from former exiles and make a crown for Joshua.

The crown is translated as a plural for it's a double ringed royal crown that's placed on his head.

Vs.12 Here, again is the Branch which is a prophetic reference of Jesus the Christ, the Davidic King.

Vs.13 The temple built by this King is not the one Zerubbabel was to build. Joshua is a forerunner of what we will see in Jesus: the ability to merge the two offices harmoniously.

Vss.14-15 Joshua's fame will draw people from all over who will help with the temple.

NOTE: Zechariah's prophecy of the coming Messiah centers on the obedience of the people and their leadership. If we are to be a part of the Messiah's kingdom, we must obey.

[7:1-7].....Fasting and Obedience

Vss.1-3 A delegation from Bethel arrive in Jerusalem on December 7, 518 BCE.

This group is comprised of returnees from Babylonian exile who question whether or not they should continue to mourn and fast in the fifth month as has become tradition.

NOTE: God has only commanded one fast for the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:29-31, 23:27-32). After the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem, these fasts were being practiced commemorating tragic events:

1. On the 9th day of the 4th month, a fast for the city's walls being breached (Jeremiah 39:2)
2. On the 7th day of the 5th month, a fast for the destruction of the temple (II Kings 25:8)
3. In the 7th month, a fast remembering the murder of governor, Gedaliah (II Kings 25:25; Jeremiah 39 & 40)
4. On the 10th day of the 10th month, a fast commemorating the begin of the siege of Jerusalem (II Kings 25:1-2; Jeremiah 39:1)

Vss.4-7 The delegation is tired of observing this fast for two reasons: 1.)The temple is nearly complete, and 2.)The have not spiritual (or emotional) feeling to this fast. Zechariah hears from God who questions the returnees' sincerity with these fasts. They were not fasting for God like they were not celebrating for God.
What good is a fast without obedience? They already knew I Samuel 15:22

[7:8-14].....What's True Obedience?

Vs.8 God's not as concern with our abstain from food as our abstaining from evil. So, instead of fasting, practice this:

- Administer true justice
- Show mercy and compassion to one another
- Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, or the immigrant (alien) or the poor
- In your hearts do not think evil of each other

Vss.9-11 Another quick history lesson of past mistakes.
Pay attention to the mistakes of your fore-parents, lest make the same ones.

Vss.12-14 They refused to listen to God, so God refused to listen to their prayers.
Lesson taught, and hopefully with the remnant, a lesson learned.