

Zechariah – Oh the Visions! Oh the Messiah!

Lesson Two

[3:1-10].....Fourth Vision

- Vss.1-2 Zechariah's fourth vision focuses on God's ministry within God's people. Joshua is a high priest who is being accused by Satan. God rejects Satan's accusation.
- Vss. 3-4 Joshua is being accused by Satan for being sinful. His filthy clothes represent the sin of God's people and the sin of the priesthood. The angel commands other angels to take the filthy clothes off of Joshua and put clean garments on him. This is a symbol of cleansing and forgiveness – for God's people and the priesthood.
- Vs. 5 The clean turban symbolizes authority and access to God. "It gives public testimony to the forgiven person's new state of righteousness before God." (*Africa Bible Commentary*, pg. 1080.)

NOTE: While in exile, the priests could not practice their ministry. They would have to be reinstated once the remnant was returned home. God installs/reinstates the priesthood and cleanses them. This is some of what the vision reveals.

- Vss.6-7 There is a threefold promise from God the angel shares with Joshua, contingent upon his follow God's direction:
1. Govern God's people [rule over them]
 2. Exercise authority of the temple and the temple courts, protecting them from spiritual (and literal) pollution and idolatry.
 3. Unhindered access to God on earth and in heaven
- Vss.8-10 Joshua and those serving with him are symbolic of what's or Who's to come. The branch and stone can be seen as images of Jesus the Christ. The stone is a cap/cornerstone upon which things will be built. The seven eyes represent God's complete/perfect vision or sight that sees everything that happens on earth and in heaven. The branch will be the true ruler of God's people. "I will remove the sin of this land in a single day." What is this?

NOTE: "This chapter shows that peace and prosperity must be preceded by moral cleansing; spiritual cleansing comes before spiritual blessings. God will not pour out God's blessings on those who are unclean." (*Africa Bible Commentary*, pg. 1081)

[4:1-14].....The Fifth Vision

- Vss.1-6 This vision simply is to show God's presence is a limitless resource and ultimate power to get God's work done. This vision is to encourage Zerubbabel to finish the work despite the obstacles they were encountering (look at Ezra 4:4-24).
- Vss.7-8 God will make sure that the work will continue. This is a message of encouragement for Zerubbabel.

Remember: The Holy Spirit gives the church the power it needs to survive and do. Our efforts alone, without the Spirit, result in fatigue and burnout – especially when our efforts are not in line with God’s will.

- Vs. 9 In 516 BCE, the temple was completed. Zechariah’s prophecy happened.
- Vss.11 Whatever God has called you to do, do not consider it insignificant.
- Vss.12-14 Who are the anointed two of all the earth?

[5:1-4].....The Sixth Vision

- Vss.1-4 Corrupt leaders create a corrupt people, systems, and society.
 - It’s not enough for the sins of the leaders to be acknowledged and dealt with, the same goes for the people.
 - The scroll’s dimensions are not as important as the fact that the entire population sees both sides of it.
 - The sins of theft and swear falsely are the sins that cause banishment.

NOTE: All who steal sin against humanity; you injure your neighbor. All who swear falsely sin by dishonoring God. For those swearing often did so using God’s name.

- The scroll symbolizes a broken covenant pertaining to laws of protection of neighbor and God’s honor.
- The severity of the penalty penetrates the dwelling of the sinful.

[5:5-11].....The Seventh Vision

NOTE: The purpose of this vision is to show that sin and evil will be removed from God’s people, and eventually from the world when Christ returns.

- Vss.6-7 The woman represents the iniquity/sin that affects Judah.
- Vss.8-9 The women with wings (angels) represent God taking the wickedness away from Judah.
 - Babylon(Shinar) represents the place where God is not worship, a place of wickedness/evil.
- Vs.11 The basket will be “housed” in Babylon where God will keep it away from God’s children and ultimately destroy it.

Conclusion – One night with one more vision to go.