

Zechariah's First Prophetic Vision Zechariah 1:1-17

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. The present status of Israel is in the valley of the times of the Gentiles.
2. The future status of Israel will be on the mountaintop of kingdom prosperity.

Practical Application

1. Return to the Lord and He will return to you.

Questions

1. What is a post-exilic prophet?
2. Who were the three post-exilic prophets who prophesied in Israel?
3. Which king permitted the Jews to return to their homeland?
4. Under whose leadership did the Jews return?
5. "Do not be like your father-they did not hear nor heed Me," says the Lord" Zechariah 1:4. Who were these "fathers"?
6. Who is the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament?

Answers

1. A prophet who prophesied after the seventy years the Jews spent in captivity in Babylon.
2. Zechariah, Haggai, and Malachi
3. King Cyrus of Persia. He brought the Babylonian Empire to an end and gave a royal edict in 538 B.C., which permitted the Jews to return to their homeland.
4. They returned under the leadership of Zerubbabel. You can read about this in the book of Ezra.
5. They were the generation of Jews sent into exile because of their evil ways and evil deeds.
6. The Lord Himself – specifically, the pre-incarnate Son of God.

Discuss / Consider

1. The vision of the horses and riders was the first of Zechariah's eight prophetic visions. The rider standing astride the red horse was the Angel of the Lord. He was in the midst of the myrtle trees in the valley. These trees represent the present status of Israel, under Gentile domination of the earth. Discuss the present status of Israel.

2. The good news comes in the second half of this vision. The Lord knows and cares about Israel, and is only allowing the Gentile nations to afflict Israel at the present time in order to bring them to the point where they will return to the Lord. And they will! The Lord will return to deliver the nation of Israel from the domination of Gentile nations. Consider the future of Israel, especially as you look at their status today.

Challenge

1. Israel had turned away from the Lord and had gone their own way, but God still loved them. He pleaded with them and promised them if they would return to Him, He would return to them. Are you out of fellowship with the Lord? Do you know in your heart that things are not right between you and the Lord? Do you want to know the peace and joy of close fellowship with the Lord once again? You can. Return to the Lord and He will return to you.

The Vision of the Horns and Craftsmen
Zechariah 1:18-21

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. God uses horns to discipline His people.

2. God uses craftsmen to destroy the horns.

Practical Application

1. Remember, for every horn there's a craftsman.

Questions

1. What was one of the first things the Jews did when they returned from their captivity in Babylon?
2. What had happened to the temple in Jerusalem?
3. Why did the Jews quit building?
4. Whose hearts were stirred up to motivate the people?
5. What made the year 520 B.C. special?
6. How many sermons did Haggai preach and how long did it take him?
7. How many of Zechariah's visions of encouragement came after Haggai's sermons? How long did these visions take?

Answers

1. They rebuilt the altar of the Lord and restarted the sacrifices.
2. Solomon's temple had been destroyed by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. Upon their return, the Jews re-laid the foundation of the temple.
3. They became discouraged because of threats from the surrounding pagan provinces as well as pressure from the Persian government. They stopped building the temple and spent all their time building their own houses.
4. God stirred the hearts of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to rise up and motivate the people to get back to the work of rebuilding the temple of the Lord.
5. It was quite a year of prophetic ministry. All of Haggai's sermons were given during that year and this was the year that Zechariah had his prophetic visions.
6. He preached four fiery sermons in a four-month period.
7. All eight of Zechariah's visions of encouragement came after Haggai's four sermons of exhortation. All eight came on the same night.

Discuss / Consider

1. In his second prophetic vision, Zechariah sees four animal horns representing the power of nations (1:21). In line with Daniel 2, Zechariah 1 represents the Babylonian Empire, the Persian Empire, the Greek Empire, and the Roman Empire. God used all of these powers to discipline, rebuke and purge His people Israel until the end-time when the nation of Israel returns to the Lord. Consider the amazing revelation of Scripture and its confirmation throughout the Bible of God's Word!
2. Regardless of the evil and sinful actions of the Gentile powers (the horns), God works all things together for His good purposes. But God also holds all nations responsible for their evil actions. In the vision of the craftsmen (Zechariah 1:20-21), God uses craftsmen to destroy the horns, the four world empires. In Daniel 2 the fourth craftsman is the world empire and kingdom of our Lord Himself, which will be set up here when the Lord returns. See Daniel 2:44. Again, marvel at the revelation and confirmation of Scripture!

Challenge

1. As God used horns to discipline His people, so God may use ungodly powers in our lives. Is God using someone or something right now to discipline you? Learn the lesson that God has for you.

The Vision of the Surveyor
Zechariah 2:1-13

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. Jerusalem will be a city of peace in the future.

2. Jerusalem will be a city for all people in the future.

Practical Application

1. “He who touches you touches the apple of His eye.” Zechariah 2:8

Questions

1. What does the book of Nehemiah tell us about Zechariah?

2. Contrast the prophet Haggai with the prophet Zechariah.

3. In what common ministry did God use these prophets?

4. What is the lesson we can learn from the contrast of these prophets?

Answers

1. When the Jews returned from their captivity in Babylon in 538 B.C., we know that Zechariah was among those who returned because he is mentioned in Nehemiah 12:16 as one of the priests who returned.
2. Haggai was an older prophet and probably spent most of his life in Babylon during the seventy-year captivity. Zechariah, a contemporary of Haggai, was a younger man who returned to Jerusalem in his youth.
3. To exhort and encourage and to motivate the people to finish the job of rebuilding the Lord's temple.
4. That God uses both the older generation and the younger generation to exhort and encourage His people in all areas of ministry.

Discuss / Consider

1. In Zechariah's third prophetic vision, he sees a surveyor measuring Jerusalem. When was this vision partially fulfilled? When will this vision be finally fulfilled? Think of Jerusalem at peace!

2. Consider Jerusalem, a holy city, a city for all people in the future. When the Lord Jesus returns to set up His kingdom on this earth, all the believing nations of that day will be part of the glorious kingdom of Christ. There will be no so-called Palestinian problem then. Think of it!

Challenge

1. The Lord promises to deal personally in judgment with any nation that goes against His people. God's protective care for His people is true for the nation of Israel. But it's also true for you if you are a believer. "He who touches you touches the apple of His eye." Zechariah 2:8

The Vision of Joshua, the High Priest
Zechariah 3:1-10

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. Israel will be restored to its position as a kingdom of priests.

2. Israel will be blessed with the presence of a perfect King and a perfect kingdom.

Practical Application

1. Are you still dressed in filthy rags?

Questions

1. Outline, generally, the prophecies of Zechariah by chapters.

2. How long did it take Zechariah to have his visions?

3. Why were the visions given by God to Zechariah?

4. What is the focus or theme of the fourth vision of Zechariah?

5. Israel had lost a position that God intended for His people. What was this position? How had Israel lost it?

Answers

1. Eight visions – Chapters 1-6 Four messages – Chapters 7-8 Two burdens (or oracles) – Chapters 9-14
2. All eight visions came to Zechariah during one night.
3. To encourage the remnant of Jews who had returned from the seventy-year captivity in Babylon.
4. The focus is on internal cleansing. Israel will be cleansed and restored to the position that God originally intended for His people.
5. God's original intent for His people was to be a kingdom of priests. Israel lost this position because of sin and disobedience.

Discuss / Consider

1. Joshua, the cleansed high priest, is given a renewed commission. Remember, Joshua stands for the whole nation of Israel and the future restored nation as a kingdom of priests. Remember, too, that the brand plucked from the fire was the entire remnant who had returned from the fires of the Babylonian captivity. Consider God's great love for His people, Israel. Are you a brand plucked from the fire?

2. Refer to Zechariah 3:8-9. Note the three messianic titles of the Lord Jesus in these verses: "My Servant," "the BRANCH," and "the stone." Now read Isaiah 52:13; Isaiah 11:1; and Daniel 2:44-45. Then consider the wonderful blessing awaiting Israel in the future with the presence of a perfect King and a perfect Kingdom. Will you be there, too? Be sure of your salvation and eternal destiny.

Challenge

1. Are you still dressed in filthy rags? As Joshua the high priest, representing the nation of Israel, was a brand plucked from the fire, so we who have trusted Christ are brands plucked from the fires of hell. Like Joshua when cleansed, our filthy garments are removed and the robes of Christ's righteousness are given to us. Are you a priest of the most high God, with Christ as your High Priest? See Isaiah 64:6 and 1 Peter 2:9.

**Visions: Golden Lamp Stand, Flying Scroll, Woman in the Basket
Zechariah 4-5**

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. At the time of the end, Israel will be a witness to the light of the world.**

- 2. At the time of the end, wickedness will be exposed and judged.**

Practical Application

- 1. Remember, bigger and more beautiful is not necessarily better.**

Questions

1. Describe the events in the lives of the Jews just prior and during the time of Zechariah's visions.
2. What caused the delay in rebuilding the temple?
3. In light of this, why were the prophetic visions given to Zechariah?
4. What was the proper role of the Jews in responding to the visions?
5. What was the name of the godly governor of the Jews who had returned from captivity and would lead them in finishing the job of rebuilding the temple?

Answers

1. The Jews had returned from their seventy-year captivity in Babylon, and they had started to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. However, the temple still was not finished after a delay of about fifteen years.
2. The people had become discouraged when they were threatened by the enemies in the surrounding Persian provinces.
3. In order to encourage and motivate the people to finish the job of rebuilding the house of the Lord.
4. The people needed to recognize that God was in control and as long as they looked to the Lord, He would enable them to do the work of rebuilding the temple. See Zechariah 4:6.
5. Zerubbabel

Discuss / Consider

1. Review Doctrinal Point #1 describing the lampstand and its supply of oil. This encouraging vision taught that Israel would be restored to their God-given role as a light of testimony to the world. Discuss the high privilege and responsibility of God's people, the Jews to be this testimony to the world.

2. The flying scroll vision portrays the way that evil will ultimately be exposed and judged. Through the ages, people seem to be able to hide sin and wickedness, but ultimately when the Lord returns, all wickedness will be exposed and judged. Have you brought your sins before the Lord to receive His forgiveness now?

3. In the seventh prophetic vision, Zechariah sees two women with wings. What does this mean?

Challenge

1. *"Who has despised the day of small things?" Zechariah 4:10.* Bigger and more beautiful is not necessarily better. It's the attitude of heart that counts. *"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord.* Zechariah 4:6. Are you involved in a small ministry? The question is not size or grandeur. The issue is your priorities and attitude of the heart. Is the Lord in the midst? Is He being honored, or are you looking to human might and power?

Zechariah's Eighth Vision **Zechariah 6**

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. God will judge all of Israel's enemies.**

- 2. The Lord Jesus will be both King and Priest.**

Practical Application

- 1. Do you know your biblical temples?**

Questions

1. In Zechariah Chapters 1-6, there were 8 prophetic visions. How long did it take for Zechariah to have these visions?
2. What do these visions reveal concerning Christ?
3. What is "apocalyptic literature"?
4. How can you distinguish between the symbolic and the literal in apocalyptic visions?
5. What does bronze symbolize in the Bible?

Answers

1. They were all given to Zechariah on the same night. He was given a lot of information and insight concerning God's program for the future.
2. They reveal both the first coming of Christ and of the second coming when all evil will be judged and Christ will reign supreme.
3. Apocalyptic literature is visions of the future. It is highly symbolic in nature.
4. It is not easy. A general rule is to see if the visions have already taken place. The rest of scripture helps us distinguish the symbolic and literal.
5. Judgment. See, for example, the two mountains of bronze in this portion of scripture. They could be taken symbolically or literally. When the Lord returns, the Mount of Olives literally will be split into two mountains with a valley in between. This could be the Valley of Jehoshaphat where the Lord judges the nations. See Joel 3.

Discuss / Consider

1. Refer to Zechariah 6:9-15. The crown was placed on the high priest's head, anticipating and foreshadowing the coming of the Man whose name is the BRANCH, the title for the coming Messiah. The BRANCH was both priest and king, thus the uniting of the offices of king and high priest in the Messiah. The Lord Jesus is now our High Priest and now our King, but this symbolic event of Zechariah's time looks forward beyond this church age to when the Lord will return and literally reign as King over this world. Marvel at, and discuss, the prophecy of our Lord's second coming and His reign as King over the entire world.

Challenge

1. Do you know your biblical temples? There are at least seven biblical temples of the Lord: the two spiritual temples of the Holy Spirit, the believer's body (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20) and the church, the body of Christ; and the five literal temples of the Lord: Solomon's Temple, Zerubbabel's Temple, Herod's Temple, a Tribulation Temple, and the Millennial Temple (Ezekiel 40-48). The temple spoken of in this portion of scripture is likely the Millennial Temple, which will be built after the Lord returns. The Lord Himself will direct the building of His temple (Zechariah 6:12-13), and believing Jews and Gentiles from around the world will come and participate in building this temple. What will be your part in this building?

Four Messages to the Jews Rebuilding the Temple Zechariah 7-8

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. The Lord desires righteousness rather than ritual.**
- 2. The Lord desires compassion rather than oppression.**
- 3. The Lord will turn problems into peace.**
- 4. The Lord will turn fasts into feasts.**

Practical Application

- 1. What seems like a big deal to us is only another day at the office for God.**

Questions

1. Why did the Jews living in Bethel send a delegation to Jerusalem?
2. What did the fast of the fifth month commemorate?
3. Why did they ask about keeping the fast?
4. Did the priests give them an answer?
5. When will the hypocritical hearts of many of the people be different?

Answers

1. To ask the priests and prophets if they should continue to keep the fast of the fifth month.
2. The destruction of Solomon's Temple by the Babylonians.
3. Because the temple was being rebuilt.
4. No, but the Lord gave Zechariah the answer.
5. In the future when Messiah's kingdom is set up.

Discuss / Consider

1. Zechariah's first message is one of rebuke. He rebukes the people for keeping the fasts. They were not fasting for the Lord; they were just going through religious motions. The Lord desires righteousness rather than ritual. Is your heart really in tune with the Lord? Do you really want to worship Him, or are you bored and weary with divine things? See Matthew 6: 21, 33.

2. Zechariah's second message is one of repentance. Many people were not showing mercy and compassion to the poor and needy. How do you measure up? How are you showing compassion to the poor and needy?

3. Zechariah's third message is one of restoration, both for the near and the far future. The land would be prosperous, and the people would be blessed instead of disciplined. The complete fulfillment of this prophecy awaits the second coming of Christ and His millennial kingdom. Think of Jerusalem as the City of Peace. What a glorious day that will be!

Challenge

1. The promised wonderful blessings of the future will be accomplished by God in His time. He can do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). What seems like a big deal to us is only another day at the office for God. What are you asking for? Expect great things from God!

The Beginning of Zechariah's First Prophetic Burden
Zechariah 9:1-10

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. Alexander the Great would come as a conquering hero.

2. Jesus the Greater would come as a humble servant.

Practical Application

1. Don't practice the open and point method of biblical guidance.

Questions

1. Which Old Testament books were written by post-exilic prophets?
2. Why are they called minor prophets? Why are they called post-exilic?
3. Under whose leadership did the Jews return from captivity? What work did the Jews begin under his leadership?
4. Did this project go well?
5. Which prophets did the Lord raise up to motivate the people? Did it work?
6. In a series of prophetic visions, messages and burdens, how did Zechariah encourage the people?

Answers

1. The last three – Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.
2. Because they wrote smaller books. Because they were all written after Israel's seventy-year captivity in Babylon.
3. Zerubbabel. They began to rebuild Solomon's Temple that had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.
4. At first, but then the people became discouraged and they quit building.
5. God raised up Haggai and Zechariah to minister to the people and motivate them to finish the job of rebuilding the temple. Yes, it worked. The people returned to the work of rebuilding the house of the Lord and the rebuilt temple was completed in 516 B.C.
6. He encouraged them in view of the great future that was in store for the nation of Israel.

Discuss / Consider

1. In Zechariah 9:1-8, trace the march and conquests that Alexander the Great of Greece would take in 332 B.C. Alexander did not conquer Jerusalem or destroy the temple. Even amidst times of war, God gives a grace note to His people. Do you see God's grace note amidst the terrorism of our day?

2. Discuss the contrasts between Alexander the Great and the Lord Jesus, the Greater.

Challenge

1. How do you make decisions? How do you look to the Lord for an answer? Beware of the open-and-point method, and beware of taking Scripture out of context. God does use the Bible as guidance in making decisions, but remember to use the Bible as God intended.

Prophecies About the Intertestamental Period and End Times **Zechariah 9:11-17**

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. God did deliver Israel at the time of the Macabees.**

- 2. God will deliver Israel at the time of the Millennium.**

Practical Application

- 1. Will you sparkle like a jewel in the kingdom?**

Questions

1. Outline the book of Zechariah.
2. Why did God give a prophetic burden to Zechariah?
3. Which monarch permitted the Jews to leave Babylon to return to their homeland?
4. Although all of the Jews were permitted to leave Babylon, how did?
5. What was a waterless pit used for in ancient days?
6. How was the idea of a waterless pit applied in Zechariah's day?
7. Who were the Macabees?

Answers

1. Chapters 1-6 – 8 visions.
Chapters 7-8 – 4 messages.
Chapters 9-14 – 2 burdens.
2. To encourage the Jews who had returned from the seventy-year captivity in Babylon.
3. Cyrus, the Persian Emperor
4. About 50,000
5. They were used as prisons.
6. Joseph was put into a waterless pit, but he was preserved and finally set free. Like Joseph, the Jews were prisoners in Babylon, preserved and then set free.
7. During a period of Seleucid (Syrian) domination of Israel, Antiochus IV, a ruthless king, came to the throne. He killed thousands of Jews and desecrated the temple, and he attempted to Hellenize all of Israel. It was at this time that a number of godly Jews rose up in opposition and resistance to this ungodly violence. They were led by a priestly family, one of whom won the name, the hammerer or a macabee. Thus, these godly intertestamental Jews became known as the Macabees. They were able to regain a measure of independence.

Discuss / Consider

1. Do you know God's word well enough to receive encouragement for the future?
2. The victories of the Macabees over the Greeks foreshadow and anticipate the final conflict, victory, and restoration of Israel to come in the future. In "that day," the Lord will defend His people and save them to bring them into His Millennial Kingdom. Review the timeline following the Rapture to understand when "that day" will come.

Challenge

1. In Zechariah 9:16, the godly are promised that they will be like jewels in a crown lifted like a banner over His land. In context, this is a promise to the faithful Jews who have come out of the Tribulation and have entered the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. It can, however, be applied to faithful believers today. Will you be one of the faithful who will sparkle as a jewel in the kingdom of Christ? See 2 Timothy 2:11-13 and Romans 8:17.

Predictions of the Coming Messiah and Return of Israel Zechariah 10

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. Israel will be delivered from her enemies and dependent on her Messiah.

2. Israel will be regathered to the land and restored to the Lord.

Practical Application

1. Have you responded to God's whistle?

Questions

1. At what point in Old Testament history did Zechariah prophesy?

2. Zechariah was one of the captives who return from Babylon. How do we know this?

3. About how old was Zechariah when he returned from Babylon?

4. What is a prophet's role?

5. What was God's purpose in speaking to the people through the prophet Zechariah?

6. How does Romans 15:4 relate to Zechariah's prophecies?

7. Why is it important to keep Israel distinct from the Church?

Answers

1. He ministered to God's people Israel after their return from the Babylonian captivity.
2. From the records in Nehemiah chapter 12.
3. He was probably only a teenager.
4. To speak forth God's word. When God's word is spoken, it is both convicting and comforting; it is both exhorting and encouraging.
5. To encourage God's people Israel because of their bright future.
6. To encourage God's people Israel because of their bright future.
7. Prophecies to Israel will be literally fulfilled to the Jewish people in the future. These prophecies are not to be spiritualized away from Israel to the Church.

Discuss / Consider

1. Note the four titles that are given to our Lord as Messiah in Zechariah 10:4. Consider the meaning of each title.

2. In Zechariah 10:6-12, there are promises made to the Jewish people that are still valid today. Like a shepherd, the Lord will whistle for His flock, and the Jews will return from the far countries of this world. Discuss the return of the Jews to Israel today.

Challenge

1. In context, God's whistle is for the return of Israel to the land and to the Lord. But it has application for us. Is God whistling for you to come and receive His free gift of salvation in Christ, or to come back to Him if you have wandered away? Don't delay!

Three Significant Events to Come in Israel's Future **Zechariah 11**

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. Unbelieving Israel rejected the true Shepherd.**
- 2. Unbelieving Israel will accept a false shepherd.**

Practical Application

- 1. Don't despise dramatic presentations.**

Questions

1. Review Zechariah's prophecies:
 - a. chapters 1-6:
 - b. chapters 7-8:
 - c. chapters 9-14:
2. What was the Lord's purpose in giving Zechariah his first prophetic burden?
3. Why had the blessing been delayed?
4. Why did God allow the Roman armies to sweep in from the north, overrun the country, and destroy the temple?
5. What did the Lord tell Zechariah to do in Zechariah 11:4-17?
6. What were the two staffs called, and what did they represent?
7. What would happen to these two staffs?

Answers

1. a. Visions
b. Messages
c. Burdens (or oracles)
2. To lift up and deliver the people. In context, it explains why all the blessing was predicted in Chapter 10.
3. Because the true Shepherd of Israel was rejected by the people
4. Because the Messiah was rejected, and before the blessing can come, Israel must undergo the discipline of God.
5. He told him to act out the part of two shepherds. First, the part of the good and true Shepherd (11:4-14) and then the part of the foolish or false shepherd (11:15-17).
6. One was called "Beauty" (or Favor), which represents the covenant of God to protect the people. The other staff was called "Bonds" (or Union), which represents unity within the people.
7. Both staffs would be broken.

Discuss / Consider

1. The leaders of Israel were not caring for the sheep (remember the Scribes and Pharisees). These were the unfaithful rulers and false shepherds of the nation. Discuss how God holds spiritual leaders of a nation responsible for the care of the flock today.

2. Consider making a time chart of the last days.

Challenge

1. God called Zechariah to make a dramatic presentation to illustrate the truth He wanted to convey to the people. Dramatic presentations can be very effective. God chose to use this method not only with Zechariah, but also with Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Re-think your position if you dislike dramatic presentations. Many people can be reached with truths of Scripture by this method.

The Beginning of Zechariah's Second Prophetic Burden Zechariah 12

Background

Doctrinal Points

1. In that day, Israel will be delivered from all her enemies.

2. In that day, Israel will look on their Messiah, whom they pierced.

Practical Application

1. Have you mourned the death of Christ by yourself?

Questions

1. What was the historical context when the book of Zechariah was written? To whom was it written? Why was it written?

2. Who was the governor at that time?

3. The prophecy of Zechariah was encouraging in two points. What were they?

4. Why the delay in the fulfillment of some of the prophecies in Zechariah?

5. What is the next event on God's timetable? When will it take place?

6. What event will come after the next event on God's timetable? And the next event after this?

7. What does "in that day" refer to?

Answers

1. The people of Israel had returned from their seventy-year captivity in Babylon. This burden of Zechariah was given to encourage them and to motivate them to finish the job of rebuilding the temple.
2. Zerubbabel
3. It predicted the completion of the rebuilt temple and it looked forward to the glorious future of Israel under the kingship of the Messiah.
4. Because the Messiah was rejected by Israel when the Lord came the first time. Some of the prophecies await fulfillment until the Lord comes a second time.
5. The Rapture of the Church. It is imminent; it could take place at any time.
6. The Rapture of the Church will be followed by the Tribulation Period of seven years, followed by the return of the Lord to this earth to set up His earthly kingdom, which will extend for 1,000 years (called the Millennium).
7. The end times

Discuss / Consider

1. In the end times, all nations will be gathered against Israel, whose capital is Jerusalem. In light of current events, discuss how quickly and easily this could all come about.

2. During the Tribulation Period, there will be a great spiritual awakening among the Jewish people. (See Romans chapter 11 in this connection.) How is the groundwork for this awakening is taking place, even today?

Challenge

1. Mourning for the Messiah is on an individual basis (Zechariah 12:12-14). Salvation is always an individual matter, and no one can repent for you. Have you come to the place in your life where you realize that the Lord Jesus died for your sins personally? Have you mourned the death of Christ by yourself?

Zechariah's Second Prophetic Burden Continues **Zechariah 13**

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. In that day a fountain will be opened for Israel.**
- 2. In that day idolatry will be cut off from Israel.**
- 3. In that day salvation will come to one third of Israel.**

Practical Application

- 1. Have you been to the cleansing fountain?**

Questions

1. How many quotations from this minor prophet are in the New Testament?
2. Zechariah predicts more about the _____ than any of the other prophets, with the exception of Isaiah.
3. What is meant by "that day?" What does it include?
4. What is the fountain of Zechariah 13:1?
4. To whom is the water from the cleansing fountain available?
6. Will idolatry return to Israel in the future?
7. Who strikes the shepherd? See Zechariah 13:7.

Answers

1. About forty
2. Messiah
3. "That day" refers to the end times after the Rapture of the Church. It includes the coming Tribulation Period as well as the Millennial Kingdom of our Lord on this earth.
4. The fountain is the work of Christ on the cross in dying for the sins of the world.
5. The water from that cleansing fountain is available for anyone.
6. Yes, but finally all of this idolatry will be cut off and removed from the land.
7. God Himself strikes the Shepherd. See Isaiah 53:4-12. Here is the heart of the gospel. See John 3:16.

Discuss / Consider

1. In Zechariah 13:1, a fountain will be opened. This fountain is the work of Christ on the cross in dying for the sins of the world. Right now, Israel is blind to this fountain, but in a coming day they will see the fountain of the pierced Messiah. Are you blind to this fountain, or are drinking at it?

2. Read Zechariah 13:2, Revelation 9:20-21. Consider the idolatry of Israel that is yet to come. Remember, however, that in "that day" all of this idolatry will be cut off and removed from the land. In the meantime, how about the idolatry in your life?

Challenge

1. The fountain will be opened to Israel in the future, but it's available for anyone now. This is the fountain of cleansing from sin, established at Calvary. Coming to the fountain means coming to Christ as an individual and acknowledging that you are a sinner in need of cleansing. Have you been to that fountain?

A Vivid Description of the Return of the Lord to This Earth
Zechariah 14:1-11

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. In that day the Lord will return to the Mount of Olives.**

- 2. In that day there will be topographical changes and cosmic disturbances.**

Practical Application

- 1. The Lord can bring about great changes for you in a short time.**

Questions

1. Name three things that will happen when the Lord Jesus returns to earth.
2. What kind of background is necessary for understanding the book of Zechariah?
3. Can you give three reasons why is the book of Zechariah difficult to understand?
4. What is the age called that we are in now?
5. Briefly outline future events.
6. Is it okay to spiritualize Old Testament Israel and interpret it as the New Testament Church?

Answers

1. He will deliver His people; He will judge the nations; and He will bring peace to this earth.
2. It is important to know some Old Testament history.
3.
 - a. Because of a lack of knowledge of Old Testament history.
 - b. Because Zechariah contains a lot of apocalyptic literature.
 - c. Because it contains many prophecies that are not yet fulfilled.
4. The Church age.
5.
 - a. The Rapture: the Church age will end with the Rapture, when the Lord returns for His bride, the Church.
 - b. The Great Tribulation: then comes the seven-year Tribulation Period. The second half of this seven-year period is called the Great Tribulation. Near the end of the Great Tribulation will come the well-known battle of Armageddon.
 - c. The Return of the Lord: the Great Tribulation will end with the return of the Lord to this earth. When the Lord returns, He will deliver His people; He will judge the nations; and He will set up His worldwide kingdom with Jerusalem as its capital. This time is known as the Millennium, because the kingdom of Christ will last for 1000 years.
 - d. The New Heavens and the New Earth and the Eternal State: these follow the Millennium.
6. No. Israel is Israel throughout the Bible. Old Testament prophecies certainly use figurative language, but we are not given the liberty to spiritualize or allegorize Israel away to the Church.

Discuss / Consider

1. In Zechariah 14:3-4, all nations will be gathered against Jerusalem, and when it seems that all hope is lost, the Lord will return. Does the anticipation of this thrill your soul?

Challenge

1. The Lord can bring about great changes in a short time. Maybe you're in circumstances where it looks like there is no way out. The Lord can bring about great changes for you in a short time. Put your trust in Him and commit the situation to Him. Read Zechariah 14 again and be encouraged.

The Conclusion of Zechariah's Second Burden Zechariah 14:12-21

Background

Doctrinal Points

- 1. In that day, the Lord will strike the nations with panic and plague.**

- 2. In that day, the Feast of Tabernacles will be celebrated as never before.**

Practical Application

- 1. Remember, your present situation is not your permanent state.**

Questions

1. In Zechariah's second prophetic burden, what was the bad news and what was the good news?
2. Review again, the simple time line of the future.
3. When is the time of the bad news? When is the time of the good news?
4. Read Zechariah 14:16. Who is the "everyone" here?
5. Everyone who enters the Millennial Kingdom will be a believer. During these 1000 years will everyone be a believer?
6. What is Satan's role at the end of the Millennium?
7. What is the Great White Throne Judgment? What happens after that?

Answers

1. The bad news was of that there would be panic and plague on the nations. The good news was that great blessing would come with the future celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles.
2. The Rapture of the Church, when believers met the Lord in the air will come at any time; then the seven-year Tribulation Period; then the Millennial Kingdom of Christ set up here on this earth for 1000 years.
3. Bad news – the Tribulation Period; good news – the Millennium.
4. “Everyone” refers to the living believers that come out of the Great Tribulation and enter the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. These are the sheep of the nations that passed the test of the Lord’s judgment of the nations, the judgment of the sheep and the goats. See [Matthew 25:31-34](#).
5. No, many people will be born during this period, but not everyone who is born will become a believer.
6. Satan will deceive and rally together the unbelievers of the Millennium from the nations and they will go up to Jerusalem to make war against the land.
7. The Great White Throne Judgment is when God judges all unbelievers. Then God will set up the new heavens and the new earth for the eternal state.

Discuss / Consider

1. The Lord will strike the armies of the nations who are gathered against Jerusalem with panic and plague. Recall in Judges chapters 7-8, how the Lord used panic and confusion in the days of Gideon when He defeated the Midianites. The Lord chooses His methods for every occasion to defeat the enemy. Discuss some methods you’ve seen the Lord use to defeat enemies.

Challenge

1. Would you want to live in your present situation forever? Regardless of how good or how bad it is, it is not your permanent state. As a believer, you will be part of all the future blessings of Christ’s kingdom here on this earth. You will reign with Christ in His kingdom. Are you excited about this prospect?