

Zechariah 1,2

2-20-03

“Thy Kingdom Come!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Dawn Downs** – Battery change on her defibrillator was successful.
- 1.2. **Pray 4 Brown family** - Steve, Karen, Jacob & Matthew.
- 1.3. **Book Intro:**
 - 1.3.1. Ministered w/Haggai. (remember last 3 post-exile)
 - 1.3.2. **8 Visions** in 1st 6 chapters. (concerning Jerusalem & the Jews)
 - 1.3.2.1. **Jerusalem** mentioned over 40 times in this book.
 - 1.3.3. **Question about fasting** ch.7,8.
 - 1.3.4. **2 Burdens** (oracle/prophecy) ch.9-14.
 - 1.3.5. **Zechariah** = Yahweh remembers. {There are 30 Zechariah's in the OT}
 - 1.3.5.1. He was the younger of the 2 prophets.
 - 1.3.5.2. He is the most **apocalyptic**(i.e. revelation)of the minor prophets.
 - 1.3.5.2.1. Zech. ch.9-14 is quoted 22 times in the gospels.
 - 1.3.5.2.2. 31 out of the 71 quotations from Zech. are found in **Revelation.**
 - 1.3.5.3. He came with 2 major themes:
 - [1] God was calling them to **Repent**(1:1-6)
 - [2] God was assuring them of His **Personal Concern**(shown in the 8 night visions).

2. **YAHWEH REMEMBERS! (Ch. 1)**

- 2.1. **THE CALL TO REPENT!** (1-6)
 - 2.1.1. (2,4) **Look back & learn from history**...what your forefathers had done to provoke the Lord to anger & judgment.
 - 2.1.1.1. *Lest you be doomed to repeat it!*
 - 2.1.1.2. Every father(& mother)are an example to their kids...but the question is, **What kind of example?**
 - 2.1.1.3. On the other hand here is a biblical mandate to **“not follow after your parents if they followed after evil”**...meaning they could do this command!
 - 2.1.1.3.1. (Thus shattering the victim mentality, “I am just a product of my parents, or of my environment!”)

- 2.1.2. (3) They knew well... "if My people who are called by My name will **humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.**" 2 Chron.7:14
- 2.1.3. (5) 2 questions: Towards their fathers & prophets.
- 2.1.3.1. If they answered honestly regarding their **fathers**... "many are dead because of the Babylonians, & the rest are still living in Babylon for they hadn't returned."
And in regards to the **prophets** "some of the prophets are dead because, well because our ancestors killed them". ☹
- 2.1.3.2. "Today if you will hear his voice, do not harden your heart!"
- 2.1.4. Today we often here of the **evangelist** calling **unbelievers** to **repent**...but how about **in the church** today... **don't we need this same message?**
- 2.1.4.1. Yet this was John the Baptist's message & Jesus'.
- 2.1.4.2. Matter of fact "the last word of our Lord to the church is not the Great Commission," said **Vance Havner**. "The Great Commission is indeed our program to the end of the age, but our Lord/s last word to the church is **repent!**"
- 2.1.4.2.1. In **Rev.2,3 - 5** of the 7 churches were told to **repent!**
- 2.1.4.3. "It is one thing to ask God to **bless us** but quite another to be the kind of people he can bless!"¹
- 2.2. **VISION #1 THE HORSES!** (7-17)
- 2.2.1. (11) Some see as the angel of the Lord being 2nd person of the trinity. (many don't)
- 2.2.1.1. We also have an interpreting angel(9).
- 2.2.1.2. 10 times Zechariah asks this angel questions, & he answers.
- 2.2.2. **Q:** Who are the horseman?
- 2.2.2.1. They are God's angelic army that patrols the earth & carries out the decrees of the Lord.
- 2.2.2.2. They conduct a reconnaissance patrol mission, & report back,... "all the earth is resting quietly".
- 2.2.2.3. **Q:** So that's a good thing right...NO! (see 15)
- 2.2.2.3.1. This is the world's Pseudopeace & it won't last!

¹ Warren Wiersbe; pg.88

- 2.2.3. (13,17) God gave Zechariah **good & comforting words**...to assure the people that, **in spite of the hard times**, God **was w/ them & would see them through!**
- 2.2.3.1. **Q:** Maybe you find relief in knowing that tonight regarding your life!
- 2.2.3.2. **When life seems hopeless**...remind yourself that God identifies w/our **sufferings**, & is **in charge** of the future.
- 2.2.3.3. if you ever wonder saint if God has forsaken you, or if he will indeed be there waiting for you when this life is over. Just remember "**Zechariah**"...the "**Lord Remembers**"!
- 2.2.4. **In visions & imagery, don't get bogged down in searching out the significance of the symbolism.**
- 2.2.4.1. **For example:** the **myrtle tress** contributes **little** to the overall understanding of the situation.
- 2.2.4.2. One key is to **focus on the interpretation** rather than letting the imagery dictate some view foreign to the explanation furnished by the text.

2.3. **VISION #2 THE HORNS!** (18-21)

- 2.3.1. **"I will bless those who bless you & curse those who curse you."**
- 2.3.2. The 4 horns are powers or kingdoms.
- 2.3.3. The 4 craftsmen represent nations that God uses to defeat the enemies of the Jews.
- 2.3.3.1. These craftsmen would use their tools to cut off their horns & render them powerless!
- 2.3.3.2. *Here's the picture he wants us to see:*
- 2.3.3.3. Picture **Farmer John** showing up to a **pig ranch!**
- 2.3.3.4. Or **The Colonel** showing up at a **chicken ranch!**
- 2.3.3.5. Or **Sylvester** being left home alone w/**Tweety bird!**
- 2.3.4. This is similar to the 4 beasts in Daniel which spoke of 4 powers/kingdoms/empires.
- 2.3.4.1. And Antichrist is known as "**the dreadful & terrible beast**".

3. **THY KINGDOM COME! (Ch.2)**

- 3.1. **VISION #3 THE MEASURING LINE!** (1-5)
- 3.1.1. (1,2) The act of measuring indicated ownership & planning.
- 3.1.1.1. Imagine a neighbor down the street walking in your house & just starts measuring for curtains, carpet, etc.?

- 3.1.1.2. So here is *General Contractor God* going over His plans to ensure his people of His **future glory, future honor, & future city!**
- 3.1.2. (3-5) You don't need **walls** when God is your **fire-wall** of protection around you!
- 3.2. **MY APPLE!** (6-13)
- 3.2.1. (6,7) Many Jews remained in Babylon.
- 3.2.1.1. Since they were destined to fall, he warns them to **flee!**
- 3.2.1.2. **Why stay in a condemned city?** (although 56 m. north of Babylon today many stay in a condemned city...*Baghdad*) [bomb on news that doesn't destroy anything structure-wise, but flies overhead & puts out every aspect of electricity & communication]
- 3.2.1.3. **Yet, some believers still choose to stay in a condemned world!**
- 3.2.1.3.1. Rev.18:4,5 "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. "For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities."
- 3.2.2. (10-12) **Singing Jews!** (& vs.13 Silent Gentiles!)
- 3.2.3. (8) **He sent Me**(Jesus) **to bring Him glory** - "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." Jn.12:28
- 3.2.4. (8b) **Apple** = pupil. (also found in Deut.32:10; Ps.17:8)
- 3.2.4.1. **Pupil** – comes from the Latin word *pupilla*, "a tiny doll," referring to the small reflection you see of yourself when you look into another's eyes.
- 3.2.4.1.1. The Hebrew word for "apple" [אֵפֶלֶת] in Deut.32:10 is literally "little man".²
- 3.2.4.1.2. The pupil is the tiny opening in the iris that lets in the light, & this is a very delicate & important area of that vital organ.
- 3.2.4.2. **Here is His promise to care for His people!**
- 3.2.4.3. **Q: How tender is the eye to touch?...** I know! (Lasik surgery{cornea cut}; & last night poked in the eye)

² *ibid*; pg.183.

- 3.2.4.4. **Q:** If we are the apple of Gods eye...what should be the apple of ours?
 3.2.4.4.1. Prov.7:2 “**Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple of your eye.”**
- 3.2.5. (12) **The Holy Land** – Only place in Scripture the land is called this.
 3.2.5.1. Truly won’t become the “**Holy**” Land until then.
 3.2.5.2. From *The New Yorker* – The feeling of being beset by blind forces is especially strong in the mixed city of Jerusalem. ... Hardly a day passes in the "holy city" without a riot or a stoning, without cars being torched or firebombs thrown, without attempted lynchings or the stabbing of an Israeli by a Palestinian (or vice versa). After each incident, municipal cleaning machines, marked "CITY OF PEACE" in three languages, appear on the scene to wash the blood from the streets in time for the next group of pious pilgrims to pass by, fingering their rosaries and muttering solemn prayers.³
- 3.2.6. (13) **Silent Gentiles!**
 3.2.6.1. God called the Jews to sing, but he told the nations to be silent.
 3.2.6.2. **Why?** Because he was about to pour out his wrath upon them, in the time period known as “Jacob’s troubles”, “the day of the Lord”, “the great tribulation”.
 3.2.6.3. Lookout when the Lord gets up!
 3.2.6.3.1. I remember when my dad was aroused out of his holy habitation (his black leather recliner!)
 3.2.6.3.2. Once dad was up...business **was** going to take place...no negotiations once you heard his black throne “squeak!”
- 3.3. **Review: 3 Night Visions!**
 3.3.1. [1] **God watches** the nations & **knows** what they are doing! (the horsemen)
 3.3.2. [2] **He judges** the nations for their sins, especially for their treatment of Israel.
 3.3.3. [3] There is a **glorious future** planned for **Jerusalem & the Jewish nation**, when Messiah will return to cleanse them & restore the glory of God in their midst!
 3.3.4. **And so we are told to pray...** “Thy kingdom come!”

³ Amos Elon in *The New Yorker* (Dec. 24, 1990). Christianity Today, Vol. 36, no. 3.