



# **ZECHARIAH**

**A Glorious Future!**

## **The Glory of God's Zeal!**

**Zechariah 1:7-21**

**Message #2 of 15 – S1007**

**Sermon given on July 31, 2022**



**Sunday Morning Service**

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# The Glory of God's Zeal!

## *Zechariah 1:7-21*

### Opening Comments

- Turn to **Zechariah 1** – It is the second to last book of the OT
- Today, we begin a series through the book of **Zechariah: A Glorious Future**
- Zechariah was a prophet to the people of Israel
- They were back in the land of Israel after 70 years of exile in Babylon
- They were rebuilding the temple of God but wouldn't finish it for a few years
- Things were not going very well – they were not prospering
- When things are not going well, we might wonder if God has forgotten us – or maybe that He is mad at us about something
- The Lord gives Zechariah a series of eight visions that are meant to encourage the Israelites
- And as we study them, we will see that these visions remind the Israelites of the promises of God
- Some of those promises are very specific to the Jews, but they all point to promises made to us as well **2 Peter 1:3-4**

His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, <sup>4</sup> by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

- When life is not going the way you want it to or think it should, it is God's promises that will keep you from despair
- It is God's promises believed that gives us hope when our circumstances are hopeless
- It is God's promises give us joy, even in the midst of suffering
- Let's pray and then look at a few verses - **Pray**

### Teaching

- **The Glory of God's Zeal!**
- The book of Zechariah began with a call to return to God

- **Zechariah 1:7**
- About three months pass between verses 6 and 7
- ‘the word of the LORD’ comes to Zechariah in the form of a vision
- This is the first of eight visions Zechariah gets – over next six chapters
- From the sense of the text, all eight visions came on the same night
- Notice the word ‘LORD’
- There are two Hebrew words that get translated as ‘Lord’ – ‘adoni’ and ‘YHWH’
- ‘adoni’ = ruler or king – YHWH = covenant name of God Almighty
- You can tell which one is which by the way the translators write them  
**LORD/LORD = YHWH/Yahweh = Lord God Almighty**  
**Lord/lord = adoni = king/ruler (sometimes the Second Person of the Godhead)**
- These visions are filled with symbolic language
- **Zechariah 1:8-10**
- These four horses and horsemen are not the same as the four horsemen of the Apocalypse
- ‘the myrtle trees’ is symbolic of Israel as a nation
- ‘the hollow’ (or ravine or valley) is symbolic of Israel’s state of humiliation among the nations
- Zechariah asks what it means – patrol the earth – observing the state of the nations
- **Zechariah 1:11**
- ‘resting quietly’ may refer to the nations’ attitude toward Israel and the city of Jerusalem.
- Indifference or thoughtlessness regarding Israel or Jerusalem is not pleasing to God.
- Notice who it is these riders are speaking to – the ‘Angel of the LORD’
- ‘the Angel of the LORD’ = a manifestation of the preincarnate Christ – a Christophany.
- Before Jesus took on human flesh and walked among His creation as a man He appeared in human form in the Old Testament.
- Jesus, the Christ existed with God from eternity past **John 17:5**  
**And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.**

- Jesus is the key to understanding Zechariah
- ‘how long’ – sometimes waiting for God to act feels hopeless.
- The Angel of the Lord asks the question that Zechariah’s readers were asking in their hearts.
- **Zechariah 1:13**
- God was not angry with them – working on their behalf
- Our circumstances cannot tell us what God is feeling toward us
- But His Word can and does
- **Zechariah 1:14**
- God chose the nation of Israel from out of the world and established a covenant of love with them **Exodus 6:7**  
**I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.**
- The covenant included a command of absolute faithfulness – God would be faithful to them, and they were to be faithful to God.
- Zeal is an expression of passion and is similar to jealousy
- God’s zeal for Jerusalem and for Zion means that He is upset when anyone or anything interferes with the right relationship He intends for His people.
- God will not just stand by and allow evil toward His people to go unpunished.
- **Zechariah 1:15**
- When the Israelites refused to listen to God through the many prophets, He sent to warn them to be faithful to Him, He told them He was going to use foreign nations to punish them.
- Those foreign nations were God’s instruments of judgment. They didn’t know that **Isaiah 10:5**  
**Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hand is My indignation.**
- Because they were godless and evil and punished Israel more than God desired, He was angry with them.
- We’ll see what God is doing about them in the second vision
- But first, God makes six promises to Israel – first three
- **Zechariah 1:16**
- Jerusalem had been destroyed and lay desolate for 70 years

- Even though they had been back for a little while, the city was still in pretty bad shape
- First promise – **Promise of God’s merciful presence**
- God’s presence includes the idea of peace, protection, and provision
- That promise was fulfilled in the First Coming of Christ
- As Christians, it is an everyday reality, as Christ dwells in us

**Ephesians 3:16**

... that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, <sup>17</sup> that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...

- Second promise – **Promise of God’s Temple**
- To the Jew, the temple was the means by which they could maintain a right relationship with God
- It was how they connected to God
- When Jesus came, He replaced the temple as the way to connect to

**God John 14:6**

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

- Third promise – **Jerusalem will be rebuilt**
- Jerusalem has been built and destroyed many times.
- Today, there are parts of Jerusalem that are not under the control of the Jewish people.
- This is likely pointing to the New Jerusalem that will come down from heaven after Jesus returns.
- Jesus is preparing that place for His people **John 14:1-2**

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

- The next three promises are in the next verse

• **Zechariah 1:17**

- Fourth promise – **Promise of God’s Provision**
- ‘spread out through prosperity’
- God promised to make the Jews prosperous – He is doing that
- He did not make that promise to believers – instead **Philippians 4:19**  
**And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

- Fifth promise - **Promise of God’s Comfort**

- Zion is used many different ways – to describe a hill near Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel, and for the Jews
- God’s love and compassion motivate Him to comfort His people, Jews or Christians **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**

- Sixth promise – **Promise of God’s Choice**
- God chose Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and his descendants to create a special nation for Himself
- That choice was an eternal choice, confirmed by a covenant that cannot be revoked – The Jews are God’s people forever
- As believers, we are grafted into the family of God and are therefore one of the chosen of God – not the same as the Jews
- God’s zeal for His people is manifested in the promises He made to them
- And His love for them is also seen is His jealousy for their affection
- He expects them to love Him and Him alone - How terrible it would be if God didn’t care if His people loved Him or not
- He would have no reason to do anything for them
- This chapter closes with a second short vision
- **Zechariah 1:18-19**
- Horns are symbolic for power or might
- There are a number of different opinions about who these four nations are
- The most common interpretation is that this coincides with Daniel’s vision and that they are Babylonia, Persia, Greece, and Rome – including past, present, and future for Zechariah
- The vision continues
- **Zechariah 1:20-21**
- The nations that God used to punish Israel for their disobedience would themselves be punished by other nations
- Those who oppose God’s people will eventually get what they deserve
- The main message of these first two visions:

- First – **Trust in the Promises of God**
- As you read your Bible, look for His promises, believe them, stand on them, pray them back to God
- Second – **Leave those who oppose you to God**
- God knows what is happening in your life and He knows what He is going to do with those who oppose you
- Put your trust in Him and in Him alone and then wait for Him to work
- **Pray**