



ZECHARIAH

A Glorious Future!

The Glory of God's Work!

Zechariah 4:1-14

Message #5 of 15 – S1011

Sermon given on August 28, 2022



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Glory of God's Work!

Zechariah 4:1-14

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Zechariah 4**
- Today, we continue a series through the book of **Zechariah: A Glorious Future**
- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and everything on it, including man
- Once He finished, He reviewed and said it was all very good
- And then in **Genesis 2:8**

The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

- And then God gave the man a big, overstuffed recliner and a remote control that allowed him to watch thousands of shows and movies
- And a mobile devise that let him interact with anyone anywhere through that small screen
- He could even order food and have it delivered right to his recliner
- He was living his perfect life – right?
- No, God did something different than that **Genesis 2:15**

Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

- God gave the man work to do – work that was useful, productive, and good
- God then created woman and gave her useful, productive and good work to do
- It is God's nature to work **John 5:17**

But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

- On the seventh day God rested from his work of creation but He didn't stop working
- When He created mankind in His image, it makes sense that He would give them something to do, something useful, productive, and good
- One of the great privileges of being a child of God is joining Him in the works He is doing in the world **John 14:12**

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

- Everything that God is doing in the world is useful, productive, and good
- Let's pray and then look at a few verses - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Glory of God's Work!**
- Chapter 4 contains the fifth of eight visions
- Three principles about God's work are described in this vision
- First one - **God's work will be accomplished by God's Spirit**
- **Zechariah 4:1-6**
- Zerubbabel is the governor of Judah at this time in history
- The Lord spoke through the prophet Haggai about the work He wanted Zerubbabel to do **Haggai 1:1-2**

In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying, ²“Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: ‘This people says, “The time has not come, the time that the LORD’s house should be built.” ’ ”

- The people were building nice big homes for themselves and neglecting to finish God's house **Haggai 1:8**
- **“Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,” says the LORD.**
- Zerubbabel probably needed some encouragement
- Building the temple was a monumental task
- He had a fraction of the workforce that Solomon had when he built the first temple
- Also, Solomon had no one resisting its construction
- Zerubbabel had people threatening and challenging him all along the way
- The Lord sent a message through Zechariah to Zerubbabel – the work will get done
- The lampstand in verse two is symbolic of the lampstand that stood in the original temple
- The repeated use of the number seven is symbolic of completion
- It was a work of God that the temple be built, it would be completed

- ‘not by might, nor by power’ – there are a couple of ways to interpret this
- God didn’t need Zerubbabel’s might or power to build the temple
- Which is good, because Zerubbabel was probably feeling overwhelmed by the task
- When Solomon built the first temple, he had a whole nation of millions of people to help with the work
- Zerubbabel had a few thousand returned exiles
- God doesn’t need our might or power to do the good works He has prepared for us to do
- Sometimes when I am working out in the yard, my grandson Harvey wants to help me – when he is not hunting for lizards
- Often the tasks are far beyond him, like moving something that weighs more than he does
- Rather than turning him away, I will try to let him help
- He will put his hand to the work, and I will stand with him and help him to do what would be impossible without me
- The Lord encourages Zerubbabel to put his hand to the work – it is the Holy Spirit who will stand with him and do what is impossible for Zerubbabel
- Human effort is insufficient to accomplish God’s work **Galatians 3:3**
Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?
- God’s work must be empowered by God’s Spirit working in God’s people who humbly apply themselves to the work.
- If you can do it without the Spirit’s help, it is not a work of God, and He will not be glorified
- God created us to do good works **Ephesians 2:10**
For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
- Even though the task before Zerubbabel may have seemed impossible, God was going to finish it by sending the Holy Spirit to do the heavy lifting
- The second principle - **God’s work must not be despised for its small beginnings**
- **Zechariah 4:7-10**

- Zerubbabel has already started the work of rebuilding the temple
- But he may be getting some criticism and pushback because the work may not be going very quickly
- God is telling Zerubbabel and everyone who hears this that the temple will be completed
- God's work done by God's people by God's Spirit will be completed
- In 2005, as a part of my personal devotion time, I started writing a devotional on a verse from my daily reading
- After a month or two I sensed God wanted me to keep doing it
- I have since made it a goal to write one for every chapter of the Bible – all 1,189 of them
- As of today, I am somewhere around 1,000 of them
- How did I do it? One at a time!
- It doesn't matter how small the work is that God is calling you to do
- He will complete it and be glorified by it
- It doesn't matter how impossible the work seems, start and trust God through the Holy Spirit to complete it
- 'these seven rejoice...' – God rejoices when we put our hands to the work
- I love the thought of that – when I sit down to write of those devotionals, before a single word is typed, God is rejoicing that I have put my hand to the work
- Whatever God calls you to do, imagine His joy when you begin, no matter how small the beginning is
- Third principle - **God's work values people more than things**
- **Zechariah 4:11-14**
- 'the two anointed ones' = Joshua the high priest and Zerubbabel the governor
- 'who stand beside the Lord' = serving God
- God chooses to use people to do His great works. He may use small people to do small works and he raise someone up to do great works.
- He can do great works through small churches and through great church groups.
- Ultimately, any work that God does in this world is great.

- But it is not the work that is important, it is the impact that work has on people and how much glory it brings to God
- God doesn't want me to write 1,189 devotionals just so that I can say that I did
- He wants to use them for His glory, to bless His people, and to grow faith
- Any true work of God will accomplish all three – glorify God, bless people, and grow faith – of those doing the work and of those who benefit from the work
- The Bible teaches us that God is always working
- He created humans in His image and prepared good works for each one of us
- God had appointed Joshua the high priest to lead the people to repentance, holiness, and a right worship of God
- God assigned Zerubbabel with the task of rebuilding the temple so that the people have a place to worship God
- Do you know what God has called you to do for Him
- What great work, small or big, has God called you to
- If you know, then put your hand to the work and do it
- Remind yourself that it is God's Spirit that will do the hard parts
- Don't despise the work if it is small or not as glamorous as you might want
- If it is God's work – it is glorious – rejoice in that
- Then, never forget – God's work is about people – the people doing the work and the people benefiting from it
- If you don't know what God is calling you to do – two things
- First – Draw nearer to God **James 4:8a**
Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.
- God is probably calling you to more than just living your life, raising a family, and having a career – as important as those things are – they are probably not the great works God has prepared for you
- Second – Just do something
- If you are not sure what God wants you to do, just do something
- Trust God to lead you to the good work He prepared for you
- God's work, whether great or small is useful, productive, and good

- And it leads to God's glory, your blessing, and greater faith
- And when that is happening people are seeing and meeting Jesus
- That is a glorious thing
- **Pray**