



ZECHARIAH

A Glorious Future!

The Glory of the Messiah!

Zechariah 6:1-15

Message #7 of 15 – S1013

Sermon given on September 11, 2022



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Glory of the Messiah!

Zechariah 6:1-15

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Zechariah 6**
- Today, we continue a series through the book of **Zechariah: A Glorious Future**
- Hope is the confident expectation of coming good
- Hopelessness is that state of someone who looks toward the future and see no good there
- Maybe they see pain and suffering, or poverty and loss, or misery and despair, hard and meaningless toil with little chance of success
- It is hard to live in a state of hopelessness
- Just getting up in the morning and doing the normal things of life are excruciatingly tedious and can drain the life from a hopeless person
- A hopeless person will go to great lengths to stop feeling hopeless
- If they can't mask the pain of hopelessness, they may try to escape it, including trying to escape life completely
- It is my hope that you have never experienced true hopelessness and that you never do
- If you have, you know how debilitating it can be
- It is very likely that is how some of the people that Zechariah is called to are feeling
- They have returned from the exile in Babylon to Jerusalem, the city they love
- It is a ruined mess and life is hard
- God calls them to finish building the temple and they begin the work
- Zechariah is sent to encourage them with a series of visions
- We have looked at the first seven and will conclude with the eighth this morning
- The visions were meant to give them hope, especially this last one
- And not just them, God's Word is a source of hope to anyone who believes **Psalm 119:81**

My soul faints for Your salvation, but I hope in Your word.

- Let's pray and look for hope in God's Word - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Glory of the Messiah!**
- The eighth vision is filled with symbolism
- **Zechariah 6:1**
- Chariots are used in Scripture usually as tools of war
- The eighth vision is about judgment
- 'mountains of bronze' – bronze associated with judgment
- The altar in front of the tabernacle = bronze – innocent animals sacrificed to atone for the sins of the people – to escape judgment
- The sixth vision was centered on dealing with the sin in God's people, the seventh – the sins of the nation – the eighth – the sins of the world
- All eight visions give us a picture of God's plan to restore the world back to a right relationship with Him starting with His people
- The 'two mountains' are not identified but may be Mount Zion/Mount Moriah and the Mount of Olives
- In between them is the Kidron Valley, also called the valley of decision
- On Mount Moriah Jesus died for the sins of the world
- On the Mount of Olives Jesus will return to establish His kingdom on the earth after judging it for its wickedness
- All humanity must make a decision on which mount they will meet Jesus – Mount Moriah with their sins cleansed by His blood by grace through faith or on the Mount of Olives with their sins intact and unpaid for in unbelief
- Zechariah sees more details
- **Zechariah 6:2-3**
- The Bible is the best interpreter of the Bible – turn to **Revelation 6**
- Only two books of the Bible describe horses and their color; Zechariah and Revelation
- At the beginning of the Tribulation Jesus breaks the seals of the scroll
- We refer to this section as the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
- **Revelation 6:1-8**

- Turn back to **Zechariah 6**
- The symbolism is so similar that it is hard to not see them as pointing to the same interpretation
- These chariots are going out to do the work of judgment on the earth
- That is not obvious to Zechariah
- **Zechariah 6:4-7**
- ‘four spirits of heaven’ are angelic beings – being used for judgment of God’s enemies **Psalm 104:4**
- **Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.**
- They can also serve God to help God’s people **Hebrews 1:14**
- **Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?**
- They are ‘eager to go’, but wait for God’s command
- **Zechariah 6:8**
- Rest is possible only after the work of judgment is complete.
- Once sin has been done away with and Christ has established His kingdom on the earth, then there can be rest.
- There is a transition in the next verse
- The visions are done – now Zechariah is given a word from the Lord
- **Zechariah 6:9-10**
- When interpreting things like this we need to keep two things in view
- First, this was intended to be understood by the people who first heard it
- Second, these prophecies usually point to something in the future
- In the case of this word from the Lord, it is pointing to a person
- ‘the captives’ or ‘exiles’ – some chose to stay in Babylon
- They are doing well enough to send a gift of silver and gold
- **Zechariah 6:11**
- At this time Joshua is the high priest and Zerubbabel was the governor – there was no king
- An ‘elaborate crown’ is a symbol of rulership
- At this point in history, the Jews did not have a king.
- Even when they did, there was a distinction made between the high priest and the king.

- This was not meant to indicate that Joshua was to be crowned as king, but to point to someone who would fill both offices, priest and king
- **Zechariah 6:12-13**
- The Jews interpreted from verses like this one that someone was coming in the future to save them
- He is called the Messiah or the NT word – Christ **John 10:24**
Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, “How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.”
- Here in these verses we learn five truths about the Messiah, the Christ
- Messianic Truth #1 – **The Messiah is a descendant of Jesse/David**
- The name ‘The Branch’ is used in several places **Isaiah 11:1-2**
There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.
- Messiah, the Branch, would be descended from Jesse through David
- Both Mary and her husband Joseph traced their lineage through David
- Messianic Truth #2 – **The Messiah had humble beginnings**
- could also be interpreted as ‘sprout up’ – maybe referring to His childhood and His humble beginnings **Isaiah 53:2**
For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.
- The phrase ‘branch out’ also carries the idea of bearing fruit
- Messianic Truth #3 – **The Messiah shall build the temple of the Lord**
- Joshua and the Jews would rebuild the temple, but this is referring to a different kind of temple **John 2:19**
Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
- He was referring to the resurrection of His body – the spiritual temple of God
- Messianic Truth #4 – **The Messiah would rule as king**
- ‘sit and rule on His throne’ – A descendant of David would rule on the throne forever
- The Lord told David **2 Samuel 7:12-13**
When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He

shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

- The Messiah would be a king – Triumphal Entry pictured that
- Messianic Truth #5 – **Messiah would be a Priest**
- Messiah will be a king and priest **Psalm 110:4**

The LORD has sworn and will not relent, “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

- Melchizedek – priest of the Most High God and King of Salem.
- Looking back through the Old and New Testaments, we can see clearly that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ
- There is even a picture of our role in the kingdom
- **Zechariah 6:14-15**
- All of us were ‘those from afar’ – far from God lost in our sins
- God in His grace brought us near, and now we play a role in building His kingdom
- Zechariah was told that the elaborate crown was to be a memorial in the temple
- It would serve as a reminder of the gift from the ‘captives’ in Babylon.
- More importantly it would remind them of the coming Messiah who would be both king and priest.
- It would be something they could pin their hope to
- When things get hard, they could look at that crown and remember God had promised to send a savior
- We don’t have a crown to look at and remember
- We have something better; we have all of God’s Word
- God’s Word received and believed will produce hope **Hebrews 11:1**
- **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**
- And that kind of hope can sustain us through every difficult thing and storm of life **Hebrews 6:19-20**

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

- Jesus is the cure of hopelessness – He is hope incarnate – He is peace – He is love – He is joy – He is our all-in-all
- On the cross He died for your sins so that your hope could live in Him
- Put your trust in Him today and **HOPE! Pray**