

ZECHARIAH – Part 3 (“The Lord Remembers”)

Christian Formation
The Post-Exilic Period
29 October 2017



Fast Review...

- The returnees are not building the temple fast enough, so the Lord sends the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage them.
- Zechariah relates eight visions that take care of the hinderances keeping the people from building (Chapters 1 – 6 [Note the “branch.”]).
- A question about fasting now that the temple is being built (Chapter 7)
- Beginning the apocalypse: Jerusalem has a glorious future (Chapter 8)
- God will protect Jerusalem from invaders, but its savior will be clothed in humility, not military garb. (Chapter 9).
- More apocalypse: Scattered Judah and Israel will be gathered back to their promised land (Chapter 10)
- Evil, foolish shepherds have destroyed Israel, but the good, righteous shepherd will come to rescue the people (Chapter 11).

The “Shepherd” Theme (Zech 10 & 11)

Zechariah

- 10.2 There is no (good) shepherd
11.5 The shepherds have no pity on the sheep
11.17 The worthless shepherd leaves his flock
13.7 “Strike the shepherd” and the flock
scatters
=====
- 11.13 The good shepherd valued at 30 pieces
of silver
- 12.10 Look on me whom they have pierced
and weep for him..,

John

- 10.11, 14 I am the good shepherd
10.11 Lays down his life for the sheep
10.12 Does not flee w/ danger
10.17 Knows the sheep and the sheep know
him
- 13.7 “Strike the shepherd” and the flock
scatters. (Fulfilled in Jesus: in Mt 26.31 &
Mk 14.27)
=====
- Mt 26.15 Jesus betrayed for 30 pieces of silver
John 19.34 Soldier pierces Jesus’s side

Zechariah 12 – 14

- We have progress towards “that day” when God establishes his universal kingdom on earth.
- “On that day” repeated 16 times in chapters 12 – 14.
- Two basic themes:
 - siege of Jerusalem
 - God’s intervention to protect Jerusalem and to set up his world-wide kingdom

But How Do We Understand 12 – 14?

- Literally?
- Figuratively?
- How might we answer this question?
- Try this:
 - We have seen the literal fulfillment of the shepherd passages in Zechariah re: “piercing” the son and betrayal for 30 pieces of silver
 - Compare the well-known passage Zech 14.4 w/ Acts 1.11
- Seems to me looking at the passages literally is safe unless something really absurd results.
- In short, these passages refer to Jerusalem and to Israel, not some vague allegorical construct dealing w/ the church.

Chapter 12

- (vs. 1 & 2) The burden of the word of the Lord concerning Israel [i.e., Israel and Judah, not just the northern kingdom].

¹Thus declares the Lord who **stretches** out the heavens, **lays** the foundation of the earth, and **forms** the spirit of man within him,

²“Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah.

- How does verse 1 fit in?
- How do you understand “cup of reeling?”
- And the “burdensome stone” (vs. 3)?

Zech 12.4 – 9

- 4 & 5: The Lord intervenes first in Jerusalem and then in Judah. “Bewilderment” and “madness” cf. Dt 28.28 for application to disobedient Israel. The mention of horses may be to exalt God’s power.
- 6 – 9: Judah joins the fray. Judah and Jerusalem fight together so there is no envy of one vs. the other. Jerusalem and Judah are like David and the nations are Goliath.
- 9: “All the nations” refers back to vss. 2 & 3. It starts out w/ nations around and then extends to all the nations. This appears to be a world conflagration.
 - At first, the battle is being won by the combined human forces of Jerusalem and of Judah without obvious supernatural help. That comes later as the battle rages against Judah and Jerusalem.

Zech 12.10

- “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on **Me** whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for **Him**, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.”
- Note the change from “me” to “him.” How do you understand this?
- Don’t lose sight of the mention of the “firstborn.”

Zech 12.11 – 14

- See the notes for details on the reference to the past weeping and the significance of the clans mentioned in this pericope.



Zech 13.1 – 6

- Vs. 1: Fits in w/ the end of chapter 12 completing the thought about cleansing. Note the parallel of the fountain to Ezekiel's sprinkling.
- Vss. 2 – 6: Back to evil leaders
 - Vs. 2: False prophets
 - Vs. 3: Parents will pierce their son if the latter is a false prophet. Same word for “pierce” as in 12.10 re: the pierced son. Shows total conversion of the parents.
 - Vs. 4: What's w/ this “hairy robe” business?
 - Vs. 5 & 6: Markings on the false prophets still visible, which sends them into CYA mode.

Zech 13.7 – 9

- Vs. 7: Picks up the shepherd theme of chapter 11. “Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered” appears in Mt 26.31 & Mk 14.27, and is quoted by Jesus.
- Vs. 8: Future destruction of the land and 2/3 of its people.
- Vs. 9: 1/3 of the remainder will go thru the fire (purification), and this will show they are truly God’s people. Can this refer to the 144,000 of Rev 7.1 – 8 & 14.1 – 5?
 - The ending of chapter 13 sets up the more detailed prophecies of chapter 14. In a sense, chapter 14 “fleshes out” 13.7 – 9.

Chapter 14.1 – 2

- Nice parallel to chapter 12 in terms of events, but w/ finer detail
- Vss. 1 & 2: These verses expand upon the events of Zech 13.8 & 9.
 - Depredations on the populace
 - “All the nations”—the whole globe or the surrounding nations as per 12.2? Something like a UN force that is sent to settle the “Jewish question” once and for all?
 - As for the number of inhabitants that remain after all this, see the math in the notes.

Zech 14.3 – 8

- Vss. 3 & 4a: The promised intervention of God finally takes place w/ the coming of Lord whose feet will stand on the Mt. of Olives. Clearly, this is Jesus's Second Coming. It is at that time that the Jewish people will realize whom the "one they have pierced" is.
- Vss. 4b – 5: The Second Coming will usher massive geologic shifts, including the splitting of the Mt. of Olives. The valley will become a means of escape (vs. 5) and an E-W valley thru which waters will flow towards the Dead Sea (Sea of Salt). (Tie this in with Ezek 47.1 – 12.)
- Vss. 6, 7: Astronomical signs follow.
- Vs. 8: The river—see below.

Mt. of Olives



Zech 14.9

- : “...in that day the Lord will be the^{only} one, and His name the^{only} one.” Literally, “the LORD will be one and his name one.”
- Has the Godhead become unitarian all of a sudden?

Terrain Around Jerusalem (Cf. vs. 10)



Zech 14.11 – 15

- Jerusalem will again be inhabited. The Lord will intervene w/ a plague; the enemies will fight one w/ the other.
- See notes for details.

Zech 14.16

- Clearly, although the armies of the attackers have been defeated, the citizens of the attacking nations remain. With the supernatural loss of their military, the people—if not converted—decide better to be on a friendly basis w/ the Lord, and they show this by attending the Feast of Booths (Tabernacles), which was a feast open to all people, Israelites or not.
- This picks up the theme in Zech 8.20 – 23 about going to Jerusalem.

Zech 14.17 – 19, 20

- Vss. 17 – 19: The withholding of rain for nations that do not come up to Jerusalem.
- Vs. 20: Horses, bells, pots, and Canaanites. What's up? (See notes.)

Conclusion

- At the end—after great destruction wreaked upon Jerusalem and Judah—the Lord will wreak havoc upon Israel’s enemies. He will be king in practice and not in theory. I.e., it will be a reality, not something to look forward to.
- A question remains as to what is fulfilled during the “Millennium” (Rev 20.2, 4) and what during the new heavens and the new earth.
- **Either way, we have lots of hope for the future!!**