

## **BIB 241 Minor Prophets**

### **Lesson 11 - Zechariah**

Intro. He prophesied contemporary with Haggai and was apparently much younger. . He is both priest and prophet. His ministry is broader than Haggai, who focused on encouraging the people to continue the work of rebuilding. Zechariah looked far into their future encouraging their national identity. His theme is that Jehovah is Sovereign over the universe and even the conditions they were facing. The messages speaks of the prevailing conditions they were facing and has future fulfillment to the Millennium. Equivalent to Daniel, Zechariah is the most apocalyptic of all of the prophets and is comparable to the Revelation. He uses the phrase "Lord of Hosts" fifty-three times.

The difficulty in understanding this book is not in determining the divisions rather interpreting the visions. In difficult interpretation of prophetic passages start with the literal application of the message. They wouldn't give a message to people that had nothing to do with them. Next, look to obvious predictions, especially ones quoted in the New Testament as referring to such. And don't draw hard lines of distinction between the two advents of Christ.

1. His Message to Current Events 1-8
  2. Personal Matters (1:1-6) fathers rejection of the prophets
  3. Prophetic Matters (1:7 - 6:15) all given simultaneously
  4. Political Peace - (1:7-21)
    5. Horses in the Myrtle Trees 1:7-11 Message: God's messengers had traversed the earth and the political scene was finally calm. V. 11 Political opposition is what caused the work to cease. "it is not time for the Lord's house to be built" Haggai
    6. Four Horns and Four Carpenters - Message: the horns (political enemies of Israel) will no longer interfere; the carpenters will continue building. 1:12-21  
Note: 4 horns possibly Daniel's 4 world empires or Egypt, Cananites, Assyrian and Babylon.
  7. Economical Enlargement (2) Vision of Man with Measuring Line -
    8. Message: you will not be able to measure the blessing. The Lord will be their protection instead of walls and His presence will be in their midst. 1-5
    9. Encouragement for those remaining in Babylon to return. 6-9
    10. His presence in their rebuilding work but primarily the Millennial reign of Christ. Their return from scattering is a picture. 10-13
  11. Spiritual Strength (3-5)
    12. Vision of Joshua the High Priest and Satan (3) - Message: the Lord will take away all their sin. Their filthy garments were changed. They needed to be cleansed, especially the priests, to do the work of the Lord. I John 1:6 Christ the Coming BRANCH
    13. Vision of Golden Candlestick (4) Message: they needed to understand where their strength to do the work would come from. Verse 7 headstone = Cornerstone Picture of church also 3:9 The two olive

trees are Zerubbabel and Joshua the leaders. Zerubbabel was of the line of David and Joshua was high priest, Christ is both. Pictures Two Witnesses in Revelation - He gives the encouragement that the same person who starts the work will finish the work v.9.

14. Vision of Roll and the Ephah (5) Message God will deal with sin. The flying roll pictures the judgment that is impending over every man. Possibly the scroll in the hand of Christ in Rev. 5 The ephah pictures the commercial spirit brought back from Babylon causing the work to cease. It would be taken back to Babylon where it came from. It would return to land of Shinar as Mystery Babylon of Revelation.

15. Eternal Establishment (6)

Vision of Four Chariots - Message: God is going to send His four messengers to punish their enemies. Babylon would no more interfere. Messengers from the captives arrive and are told that the work would be finished and Christ would be crowned coming BRANCH. Reference to the four spirits in Revelation 6 riding on horses that destroy the earth.

C. Practical Matters 7 - 8 Men from Bethel inquire whether they should continue the fasts initiated in Babylon? 4<sup>th</sup> month destruction of Jerusalem 5<sup>th</sup> month temple burnt 7<sup>th</sup> month Gedaliah the governor killed 10<sup>th</sup> month is when siege of Jerusalem started

1. Fasting - 7 two lessons about fasting
2. motive is primary, heed the prophets messages already received - key to successful fasting and seeking the Lord's face is to heed the light already received. 7:4-7
3. obedience and righteousness more important than outward forms -to obey is better than sacrifice. 7:8-14
4. Feasting - 8 - two promises about feasting replacing the fasting
5. Promised restoration of Jerusalem - Rejoicing in the streets again. Verse 8 Blessing in undertaking their current labor. 1-17
6. Fasts turned to feasts verse 19

Trans. There is an obvious break between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> chapters where emphasis changes from focusing upon their current situation to more future conditions.

2. His Message to Coming Events 9-14 "burden of the word of the Lord" ch 9 & 12
3. First Burden 9-11 Emphasis on restoration in millennium - signs of 1<sup>st</sup> coming
4. Subjection of their enemies (9) key quote v. 9
5. Restoration of His People (10)
6. Rejection of Messiah and idol shepherd (antichrist) predicted (11) v12-13
7. Second Burden 12-14 Emphasis on destruction - signs of 2nd Coming
8. Battle over Jerusalem (12) verses 1-3 v 10
9. Purifying of the people from sin and false prophets (13) v 7
10. Second coming and establishment of Millennial kingdom (14) 1-4, 12

Note: references to both advents in consecutive verses

Note: Feast of Tabernacles associated with the Millennium

Conclusion

What a glorious future God has for His faithful people. Continue in His work.