

Session 3:

A Word of Encouragement, Excitement and Exaltation! The Messiah is Coming! The Messiah is Coming!!

Today's world and the events happening around us point to the coming of the Messiah!

**Where is the center focus of all the events taking place today?
Israel!**

The last Book, the Last chapter, the last words of the Lord (written in red)...
Revelation 22:12, "**Behold, I am coming soon!** My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End"
And His last word confirms this.... "**Yes, I am coming soon.**"

And All nations, and all powers, and every creature will bow down and acknowledge... "...at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in heaven, and earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Philippians 2:9-11

Zechariah Prophesied this over 500 years before Christ made His first appearance in
Bethlehem!

Israel will be blessed and there will be peace in Jerusalem...

Old men will live to be old age...there will be rejoicing and dancing in the streets!

Zechariah 7:1 8:23

This is the 2nd of 3 sections of the Book of Zechariah. It is the structural core...
It is the essence of Zechariah's entire message!

The Lord Himself is undertaking to encourage His people to:

- Take Heart and Rebuild the Temple
- Rejoice because.....
 - ✓ He is returning to once again inhabit Jerusalem,
 - ✓ Glorify the city, and
 - ✓ Bless its inhabitants!

The actors in this important event were:

- A Delegation of Jews from the city of Bethel
- Zechariah...and the priests in Jerusalem
- God.....In Spirit!
- The Messiah...Soon Coming King!
- God's chosen people...spoken to...but only represented!

A sermon and a prophetic message launched by Zechariah in response to a question....

The question....should we continue to mourn and observe the fast day of Tisha B'Av?

Tisha B'Av....the commemoration of the day of the Temple's destruction in 586 BC.

Zechariah...One of the youngest of the priests responds when "the Word of the Lord came to Him" (v. 4):

He denounces and reprimands the people for observing this...and other days with:

- ✓ Inappropriate motives...

“Was it really for the Lord that you fasted?

“When you were eating and drinking...were you not feasting for yourselves?

The heart of the matter....More concerned with **O**bservance than **O**bedience?

- ✓ **An attitude of:**

- self-centeredness,
- forgetting the covenant stipulations of social justice, mercy and compassion, (7:9-10)

- ✓ Hypocritically substituting the consideration of man-made memorials for God Ordained Requirements.

Zechariah reminded them that this was the same attitude (neglect of duties, indifference, and insubordination) that resulted in the Lord invoking His wrath on Israel in which they were harshly sent into Babylonian exile (Jeremiah 22:21)

You are not listening...You are not paying attention.....

You are stubborn and obstinate!

What is this saying to us (the Church) today?

Think about it?

Do we really take the Lord's Table (Communion) seriously?

Let's read: 1 Corinthians 11:17-32..

Most preachers don't read the challenging and sobering truth of not observing with the right motive. That of loving the Lord....humbling one's self...and giving himself fully to the Lord's service.

You don't have to give your life to preaching the Word or becoming a missionary...But,

You do have to examine yourself to make sure that you are living a life pleasing to the Lord...confessing your sins so that you might be healthy, wealthy, and wise!

- Healthy with physical, emotional, and mental wellness!
- Wealthy with the joy of the Lord....a satisfaction with the things you have...and a “plenty” that will meet your needs of the day!
- Wise...in the “Wisdom of the Lord” that He gives to all men “liberally” as it claims in the Word of God! (James 1:5)

If you want peace, happiness in your home...and a joy in your life....Rejoice in the Lord!

Zechariah 8:1-8:

Following the denunciation of the people’s attitudes and motivations concerning their worship of the Lord, Zechariah’s message continues with:

Encouraging promises....from the Lord.

1. Personally return to Jerusalem....and dwell among His people, (verse 3)
2. His presence in Jerusalem will glorify and sanctify the city, (verse 3)
3. He will convey great blessing, prosperity, peace and security to the population of Jerusalem, (verse 4-6)
4. No matter how far the Jewish people have been dispersed from the Holy Land, the Lord guarantees (His Word) that He will return them and restore their covenantal relationship with Him....note that it is a Sovereign Act of Gracious Authority, verse 7-8).

This section revisits the theme of the first 3 Visions (1:7-2:13).

Note: Regardless of the condition of Israel’s covenantal commitment toward Him, His covenantal obligation toward them will not falter.

He is a covenant keeping God....A faithful God....A Truthful God Who Does Not Lie!

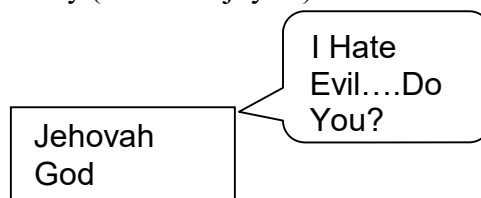
Zechariah 8:9-23

The Lord proceeds to motivate His covenant people....

- to finish the reconstruction of the temple,
- to respond appropriately to His blessings....of fertility.

How should they respond to His blessings...(v. 16, 17)

- To Speak the Truth to Each Other,
- Render True and Sound Judgments in Your Courts,
- To not plot evil against your neighbor,
- Do not love to swear falsely (lie and enjoy it!).



Live In Covenantal Obedience to HIM!

Result of Israel obeying God and Giving Him Glory.....

- Fast Days will turn to Festival Days!
- Multitudes of Gentiles from surrounding nations will be attracted to the Lord and will eagerly come to Zion to worship the Lord God in His temple alongside the Jewish people!
- The Jewish people (the Lord's Covenant people) will be granted a prominent place among the Gentiles.

The covenantal promise to Abraham of universal blessing through His seed (Genesis 12:3) will at last be fulfilled.



Zechariah's Prophecies....

- The Jews Return to Jerusalem (8:7-8)
- Israel's Land Would Again Become Fruitful (8:12)
- The People of Israel Would be Persecuted, but Preserved (8:13)
- Many People Will Go to Jerusalem to Seek God's Favor (8:22)
- Tyre Would Lose Its Power Over the Sea (9:3-4)
- The Messiah Would Enter Jerusalem While Riding On a Donkey (9:9)

- The **B**etrayal of Jesus for 30 Pieces of **S**ilver (11:12-13)
- Jerusalem Would Become An International Problem (12:1-5)
- Zechariah Foreshadowed Modern Warfare (14:12).

When **Z**echariah Speaks (Not **E.F.** Hutton), We Should Listen and Take to Heart....