

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church

Sunday Sermon

Date: October 20, 2019

Text: Varied

Scripture Reading: Zechariah 1:1-2

Subject: Zechariah Series, Review of chapters 1 through 5

Chapter 1

Chapter 1, verses 1-6 gave us God's call to the returning remnant from Babylonian captivity to turn to Him and He would turn to them. The LORD cited the like command given to their fathers and the prophets before the captivity, then asked: "Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live for ever?"

Chapter 1, verses 7-11, records the first of ten visions in Zechariah. This first vision is the rider on the red horse. These "horses" sent by the LORD bring a report that the whole earth is still at peace with rest. They gave no reports of war and other great happenings. It could be noted that the heathen powers which had moved against Israel and Judah are now in their time of peace.

Chapter 1, verses 12-17 tell us of God's displeasure with the heathen that were at ease. This shows that the heathen nations which had moved against Israel are now at peace. That indignation toward Judah and Jerusalem came as a consequence of the LORD'S pronouncement - the time of the Babylonish captivity, which lasted 70 years according to His word. It was a token of the divine displeasure with them; which began from the taking of Jerusalem, and the destruction of the temple under Zedekiah, to the rebuilding of the temple under Darius in whose second year Zechariah now prophesied all of which was a space of seventy years.

Connected to the Lord's displeasure with the nations who were now at ease, the Lord says this: "I am returned to Jerusalem with

mercies; my house shalt be built in it, saith the LORD of hosts, and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem." (Zec. 1:16 KJV). His words saying, "...and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem." (1:17) look forward to the 2nd coming of Christ in which He shall fulfil these promises.

Verses 18 and 19 of the first chapter is the 2nd vision of 10 and speaks of the four horns (powers) which have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem. These horns are: Notice the past tense verb in **have scattered** -- Past tense – perfect in Hebrew, which means it is a completed action. These are undoubtedly Shalmaneser, king of Assyria (2Ki. 18:9), Sennacherib, King of Assyria (2Ki. 18:13), Nebuchadnezzar (sometimes spelled Nebuchadrezzar), king of Babylon (2Ki. 25:1), and Necho, King of Egypt (2Ch. 36:1-4). These men are undoubtedly all dead – but their successors still live.

Verses 20 and 21 is the 3rd vision of 10 and speaks of the four carpenters. It is said in verse 21 that these carpenters are "come to fray the horns that have scattered Judah, and to cast out the horns of the Gentiles, which lifted up their horn over the land of Judah to scatter it."

Chapter 2

Verses 1 through 3 of chapter 2 records the 4th vision of 10. In it we see that Zechariah looked, and behold a man with a measuring line in his hand. The question is asked him: "Whither goest thou?" And he replied to Zechariah, "To measure Jerusalem, to see what is the breadth thereof, and what is the length thereof." This is a fulfilment of the LORD's words in chapter 1, verse 16.

Verses 4 through 13 of chapter describes Jerusalem as it shall be in the kingdom age – that is, the millennial age. These verses seem to summarize the tenor of the passage:

Zechariah 2:4-5 (KJV) *And said unto him, Run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without*

walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein: **5** For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.

Zechariah 2:10-12 (KJV) *Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD. **11** And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee. **12** And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again.*

Chapter 3

Verses 1 through 7 of chapter 3 records the 5th of 10 visions. The subject is Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. The LORD said unto Satan, "The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee; is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? The LORD said he had returned with great mercy over Jerusalem. This is a rebuke against Satan and all his attacks. What God has chosen, no created being can oppose. Jerusalem is described in this verse as a brand plucked out of the fire.

Joshua who was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. Joshua was not clothed with his clean, priestly robes, but he wears filthy garments. He is seen as filthy before the LORD, which is, in a manner of speaking, what his (or our) own personal righteousnesses are compared to:

Isa 64:6 (KJV) *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

This is the way we all, in our natural state. This is the way we appear before a holy God. The very best of that which we do is examined in light of the holiness of God. Our righteousneses (our own works – and restraints from evil – the very best of them) are as an unclean thing – as filthy rags in his sight.

The angel of the LORD before whom he stood in the filthy garments spake unto those that stood before him – saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. The command to take away the filthy garments from Joshua was Godward, because it is certain that men most certainly cannot take away the things seen as filthy garments from anyone.

Two things are here done for Joshua, representing a double work of divine grace wrought in and for believers:-- (1.) His filthy garments are taken from him, [Zec 3:4](#). And (2.) He is clothed anew, has not only the shame of his filthiness removed, but the shame of his nakedness covered: *I will clothe thee with change of raiment*. Joshua had no clean linen of his own, but Christ will provide for him. He is the LORD our righteousness. ***And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments.*** – In filthy garments, Joshua is in danger of being turned out of office; but, instead of that, he is reinstated and established in his office. He not only has his sins pardoned, and is furnished with grace sufficient for himself, but, was *acquitted in court*, he is restored to his former honors and trusts. The crown of the priesthood (the fair mitre) is put upon him. Now that he looks clean, let him also look great; let him be dressed up in all the garments of the high priest. Let us keep in mind that Joshua stands for the priesthood of Israel.

Zechariah 3:6-7 (KJV) And the angel of the LORD protested unto Joshua, saying, 7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then

thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.

The angel's protest is to Joshua, standing for the priesthood of Israel. Israel, as a nation, had been disobedient and did not keep the first charge given them to walk in God's ways. It is now repeated, and speaks of Israel's future calling after their cleansing.

Zec 8:20-23 (KJV) *Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: **21** And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also. **22** Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. **23** Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.*

Verses 8 through 10 records the 6th vision of the 10. This section speaks of Jehovah's Servant the BRANCH. We used several passages (which we will not use in this summary), to show that the BRANCH is the Lord Jesus Christ. For this summation, it will be good that we read these three verses. It is not difficult to see this points to Christ and the time when Israel's iniquity is purged and they dwell safely.

Zechariah 3:8-10 (KJV) *Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant*

the BRANCH. 9 For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. 10 In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree.

Chapter 4

Chapter 4 is the seventh of the ten visions. In this chapter we read of the golden candlestick and the two olive trees. As difficult as this appears, the difficult is removed because the vision is explained in verses 11-14.

Zechariah 4:11-14 (KJV) *Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? 12 And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? 13 And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. 14 Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.*

Comparing scripture with scripture, we see that the Book of Revelation tells us of these two anointed ones who stand by the LORD of the whole earth. The Hebrew word "ones" is a word which clearly teaches us that these are human beings. They are anointed – that is, oiled – set apart to a particular work.

Revelation 11:1-14 (KJV) *And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. 2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. 3 And I will give power unto*

my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. 6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. 7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. 11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. 13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

Chapter 5

Verses 1 through 4 of chapter 5 record the 8th of 10 visions. These verses speak of a flying roll which is said to be "...the curse that goeth

forth over the face of the whole earth.” (5:3) That curse would cut off those who oppose either on this side (the first part) or on that side (the second part). The curse would also “enter into the house of the thief and those who swear falsely by the LORD’s name and would consume the houses with stones and timbers thereof. The roll is a scroll – and we concluded that it is the Ten Commandments. It was given to the Jews and the gentiles do by nature the things written the things contained in the law, and so are a law unto themselves. All who are under the law are under the curse.

Verses 5 through 11 record the 9th of 10 visions. These verses speak of an Ephah with a woman in the midst, sealed with lead, and taken by two women who had wings of a stork (an unclean bird) to the land of Shinar where a house is builded and established upon her own base. An Ephah speaks of commercialism – and it is clear from scripture that this great whore is associated much with commerce – in that the merchants of the earth are made rich by her – but they will weep when she is destroyed in one hour. (Rev. 17). Shinar (secular Sumer) is where the tower of Babel was built – and is the place of the beginning of Catholicism. Roman Catholicism is the great whore that sitteth upon man waters (people). She is called MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. She is drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. She has seven heads (which are seven mountains, on which the woman sits. The woman is that great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.

This is the summary of chapters one through five. Next time, we shall, as the LORD enables us, preach through the 6th chapter of Zechariah. That chapter speaks of (1) The four chariots (the 10th vision of 10) in verses 1-8, and of the crowning of Joshua in verses 9-15. May the LORD bless us as we prepare for that message.

As you can see this book presses on from the return of the remnant from Babylon to Jerusalem and the rebuilding of the 2nd temple – to the very

end when Jesus Christ returns with his saints and is king over all the earth. We ask: Where will you be in that day? The church shall have been resurrected, caught up to meet the LORD in the air, and shall return with him to reign on the earth for a thousand years. Will you be among that great throng of living nations who shall be judged by Christ when he returns and the wicked (goats) cast into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels? These are the ones whose lives were characterized by their hatred and maltreatment of the brethren of the LORD – both of the churches and of Israel. Maybe you are born of God and will be in the sheep nations, but not in the church. What a blessing to realize the LORD has promised his church this:

Revelation 2:25-27 (KJV) [The Lord said this to one of his churches – the Church in Thyatira. Every church of His has this blessed promise.] *But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. 26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*

Ephesians 3:20-21 (KJV) *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*