

Text: Zechariah 1:7-17

Title: Image Isn't Everything

Thesis: Though it appears that God is still angry with His people, the truth is that He loves them and is about to judge their enemies, thus they should be encouraged to continue building the Temple.

Intro: Image isn't everything. Things are not always what they appear to be.

I. The Image vv.7-13

A. Description of vision

B. Explanation of symbols and characters

1. Man on the red horse= angel of the Lord= Messiah
2. Varied color horses= angelic army of God
3. Angel speaking to me= interpreting angel

C. The message of the scouts: The nations have not been shaken cf.Haggai 2

D. The meaning of the message: It appears that God is still angry with His people and is blessing the enemy nations with peace.

II. The Reality vv.14-17

A. Contained in the oracle

1. Comes in answer to the angel of the Lord's prayer.
2. Is the content of the good and comforting words.

B. Reality vs. Appearances

1. It appears that God is angry with His people; the reality is that God is jealous for His people.
2. It appears that God is blessing the nations; the reality is that God is very angry with the nations.
3. It appears that the Temple will not be rebuilt; the reality is that God will rebuild His Temple.
4. It appears that Jerusalem will not be rebuilt; the reality is that God will build His city and bless it.

C. The point of the oracle: In spite of outward appearances, God loves His people and is angry with the nations, thus the people should be encouraged in their labors of Temple building.

III. Application to the Church

A. The appearance

1. The church is oppressed
2. The gospel is despised or ignored
3. The wicked are blessed

B. The reality

1. God loves His people
2. God is building His Temple the chief cornerstone of which is the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. God has built a New Jerusalem of which we are residents.

C. The point: Regardless of appearances, the reality is that God is building His true Temple with living stones and will bless His beloved people in the New Jerusalem, therefore we should not grow weary in doing good.

D. Walk by faith not by sight!