

Sermon Follow-up | February 23, 2020

After the Exile — Zechariah

Focus Passage: Zechariah 9:9-12, 11:12-13, 12:10-13:1, 13:7-9

Additional Context: Zechariah 9-13

Corollary Scripture: Luke 19:28-23:56

Other Passages Referenced: Matthew 21:5; 27:9-10; Mark 14:27; John 19:37; Hebrews 9:28; 10:23; 12:1; Revelation 21:1-3, 22

Sermon Recap: The prophet Zechariah, whose name means “God remembers”, was writing to those who had returned to Jerusalem after the exile. They would be the “restoration community”, tasked with rebuilding the temple. Zechariah wrote to exhort God’s people to complete the temple (*practical rebuilding*) and dedicate themselves to the Lord (*spiritual renewal*), knowing that God would re-establish His kingdom through His coming Messiah (*future restoration*). In their return to Israel after the 70-year exile, they needed to keep trusting God. Although they had been back in the land for some time, the temple had only a foundation with no further rebuilding. The people had become disheartened and were asking, “What’s the point?” Zechariah’s task was to turn a disheartened people away from disobedience, exhorting them to continue trusting the God who remembers His promises. Zechariah instructed them to finish building the temple in preparation for the coming Messiah—the “anointed” King the LORD promised to send. Zechariah was burdened that the people would reject the coming Messiah and wrote about His future reign. The gospel authors declare that Jesus fulfilled several of Zechariah’s prophecies about the coming Messiah. Zechariah’s message to us today is similar. We are to keep trusting God because God always keeps His promises, and Jesus is convincing proof that He does. The Messiah is coming again, and we are to finish the race set before us.

Interpretive Helps

- “Many have long agreed with the claim that Zechariah “Chapters 9–14 are perhaps the most problematic six chapters in the Bible.” ... Consequently, the book of Zechariah, particularly the final six chapters, functions much like a lens, both focusing and refracting theological concepts from the remainder of the Old Testament ... Chapters 9–14 develop both Messianic and eschatological truths that became primary emphases in each of the Gospel accounts of Jesus Christ’s earthly ministry.”¹
- Horses represented one of the most advanced military weapons of the day. The constant threat of military action continually tempted Israel to trust in her weaponry, or that of her allies, rather than placing her faith in the Lord ... Symbolically, the new Messiah riding a beast of burden, not an animal known for its military value, powerfully underscores the peaceable kingdom over which the Messiah will rule.²

Group Gathering

Connect: *Making Honest Connections with One Another (Pick one)*

1. Please share briefly one of the following:
 - a. Any follow up to last week’s discussion about encouraging someone who seems to have lost hope, feeling cut-off like dry bones?
 - b. What God has been saying to you through His word, the sermon, or other people?
 - c. A joy or answer to prayer you received?

¹ George L. Klein, [Zechariah](#), vol. 21B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: B & H, 2008), 254.

² George L. Klein, [Zechariah](#), vol. 21B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: B & H, 2008), 274.

Grow: Listening to and Learning from God's Word

Read the following verses from Zechariah along with passages in the gospels claiming their fulfillment in Jesus:

- Zechariah 9:9 = Matthew 21:5
 - Zechariah 11:12-13 = Matthew 27:9-10
 - Zechariah 12:10 = John 19:37
 - Zechariah 13:7 = Mark 14:27
1. What do you think about the declarations in the gospels that Jesus fulfilled promises written nearly 500 years earlier in Zechariah?
 2. What 4 descriptions of the Messiah does Zechariah give in 9:9?
 3. Why was it important to physically rebuild the temple in Jerusalem?
 4. How does the New Testament broaden the significance of the temple? (These verses may help you—Mark 14:58; 1 Cor 3:16–17; 1 Cor 6:18–20; Eph 2:19–22.) In light of the New Testament teachings about the temple, what is the relationship between our building the temple, spiritual renewal, and preparing for the Messiah's coming?

Serve: Serving King Jesus and Others, By Living Out and Letting Others Know God's Word

1. Where do you find yourself asking, "What's the point?"
2. Can you think of any specific habits you need to rebuild for the sake of your own spiritual renewal?
3. (Private Reflection Question) Do you find yourself stuck in some area of your spiritual growth? Consider the words of Zech 4:6, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.'" Also check out New Testament promises found in Philippians 1:6 and 1 Thessalonians 5:24. What does it look like for you to continue trusting that God will remember and bring to reality the truths of these three passages? Consider sharing this struggle with another person and asking for prayer and encouragement/accountability.

Further Resources

- Bible Project –
 - Zechariah <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/181310?episode=39>
- Illustrations and quotes from the sermon can be found on the "Sermon Slides" link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org