

Overview of Zechariah

Introduction

- An early morning walk can give you perspective
- Zechariah is all about perspective: past, present, and future
- Zechariah written around 520 BC after the people had returned from exile and the temple was being rebuilt

The Passage

I. A summary

A. The theme (v. 1)

Zechariah = "God remembers"

Berechiah = "God blesses"

Iddo = "at the appointed time"

Theme: "God will remember to bless at the appointed time"

B. The outline (v. 2)

The Lord Almighty = "Yahweh of the hosts" (God's sovereignty)

"The Lord was very angry": past (ch. 1)

"Return to me": present (ch. 2-6)

"And I will return to you": future (ch. 9-14)

II. The Past (ch. 1)

Israel's forefathers were rebellious, idol-worshippers, disobedience
Repent! Come back! Return

III. The Present (ch. 2-6)

A. 8 visions (like scrooge meeting the three ghosts in "The Christmas Carol")

B. 5th vision is the central one (4:1-7)

The picture: Two olive trees constantly providing oil to a lamp

The point: God's spirit will constantly provide

4:6: not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit

We want to rely on our own strength and resources, but God is calling us to a dependency on his Spirit

IV. The Future

A. The coming king

Riding on a donkey (9:9 ala Matthew 21:7)

He will rule to the ends of the earth (9:10)

We live in the "in between" time between these two verses

Between Jesus' coming on a donkey and ruling the whole world

B. They will look on the one whom they have pierced (12:10)

Another reference to Jesus

C. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them (13:9)

D. The Day of the Lord (14:1)

The Lord will stand on the Mount of Olives

Jesus is the once and future king (he came on a colt but will return on a stallion)

Conclusion

Let's be a church that trusts God and relies on God's Spirit

Discussion Questions

1. Opening questions: What struck you most about the sermon/the passage? What surprised you? What confused you? What did you disagree with?
2. The theme of Zechariah is summed up in the opening verses: "Return to me and I will return to you." How might God be calling the Christians of our culture (or the Christians at Grace, or even ourselves) to return to Him?
3. In Zechariah 4:6, God tells Zerubbabel, "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit." Where are you most tempted to rely on our own power, competency, and resources, and where in your life is God currently calling you to rely on his power and his Spirit?
4. In Zechariah 7:13, God makes a strong statement in light of Israel's continued disobedience and hard-heartedness: "As I called and they would not listen, so they called, and I would not listen." Can you think of other passages in Scripture (Old or New Testament) where God/Jesus makes similar types of statements? How are we to approach such statements today? How seriously should we take them?