

July 9th 2006: Zechariah: Zec 1:1-17

As every parent knows...comes a time.....when you realise that your child needs to be made responsible for tidying their own room. The issue then becomes.....how do you get them to do it.

I've discovered that there are two different ways.

THE SCOLD AND COMPLAIN

We point out...time for everything else.....Remind about the dreadful consequences of not cleaning.....and give a threat for the future.....

THE ENTREAT AND ENCOURAGE

How pleasing a tidy room is and how happy it makes you...all the benefits it will deliver.....Able to have kids over to play.....So much more room to enjoy his toys And in fact he will please you so much that you will feel led to help him have other toys that will make his room an even more enjoyable place.

- **When God needed to talk to His children**....about clearing up (rebuilding) His Temple He used both methods.

With Haggai.....definitely The Scold and Complain Method

But with Zechariah....the young contemporary of Haggai...The Entreat and Encourage

- **Zechariah preached his first sermon 2 months after**.....Find that in 1:2—6.....**Definitely** contains some scolding....as he reminds them how angry.... Forefathers And it also contains a call to return----v3.....Which v6b tells us they did -v6b.....

But from this moment on...the book of Zechariah...all about encouragement for God's

Three months after that first sermon.....Zechariah experience a night of visions....8 They are described for us from 1:7—6:8 **Each agreat encouragement**

- **The first is of a man on a red horse** and others with him on other coloured horses It seems that they are God's agents....go thro the whole earth...& report.....angel

They tell him in v11

We have gone throughout the earth and found the whole world at rest and in peace

The angel hearing this...asks the Lord....how long will He hold back mercy from..... Seeing they have endured 70 years of anger....

The Lord's response is that He will return to Jerusalem with mercy
His house will be re-built.....Prosperity will return

- **The second vision..1:18-21** Contains 4 horns that refer to Nations that ...scattered
And 4 Smiths...which refer to 4 other nations that God will use to terrify.....
Their enemies will destroy each other

- **The third vision.....2:1—13** about a man trying to measure the walls of Jerusalem
But because of God's goodness.....he won't be able too.....**Too** big for walls
God himself...a wall of fire around it...And as v8 says
for whoever touches you touches the apple of His eye

- **The fourth vision.....3:1—10** And in this one he sees Joshua.....High Priest
Standing before God in filthy rags of sin.....with Satan there accusing
But God changes his clothes.....Frees him from the sin.....as representative

So Israel is cleansed.....Restored as a priestly nation

- **In the fifth vision.....4:1—14** he sees a golden lampstand and two olive trees
And in this vision.....the Jews under Zerubbabel....encouraged to rebuild.....
..by being reminded of their divine resources

So 4:6 says:- *This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power
but by my Spirit says the Lord Almighty*

- **The 6th vision.....5:1—4** shows a flying scroll
A big banner that condemns sin.....**It enters** the house of evildoers & brings judgment
It promises that law breakers will be purged from the land

- **The woman in the basket**....in the 7th vision.....represents sin and iniquity
All that is evil in the land...put in a basket.....lead top.....Sent to where evil lives
Babylon

- **The 8th and final vision.....6:1—8** **Even as in the first.....**we had horseman
-showing that God keeps an eye on this earth He controls

So He sends forth His chariots to conquer the Nations that oppress Israel

These 8 visions...sent by God...to encourage His people as they re-built His house
And this is followed in chapter 6:9-15.....By Zechariah making a crown for Joshua
Confirming that God wouldunite Priest and King one dayover His people
(Seen as pointing to the Messiah).....But b4 that the Temple would be finished

So 6:15 says.....

What follows this in the bookare 4 teaching sermons(Chpts 7,8)
About the fasting God desires..... And how He wants joyous feasts
These sermons end in 8:23...with a promise of such great prosperity.....
that people from other nations.....will be attracted to a people...who have God with

Then suddenly the book of Zechariah changes

It contains two oracles about the future. One in chpts 9—11....Other in 12—14

Two burdens that the Lord has laid on the prophets heart.....compelled to proclaim

- **The first begins with a coming judgment upon Israel's enemies.....**
And the coming of the Messiah to deliver them.....A Messiah who will come as king
Yet be their Shepherd.....**A Shepherd they will eventually reject...**
- **The second looks even further** into the future...To the return of the Messiah in glory
To the final triumph of God's King over all His enemies
A day when Jerusalem will finally be secure...God's abode...for ever

And suddenly you can see why Zechariah...is a book that excites Bible Scholars
Because it has so much to say.....about Jesus...the end times

Written 4—500 years before Christ.....yet it abounds with references to Him
It calls Him the branch and the stone....both New Testament terms
It emphasizes that He will unite the two positions.....of King and Priest

Just look at:-
9:9.....11:12-13.....12:10.....
And as far as the future is concerned look at 14:4.....14:9.....,

How could anyone....ever reject the claims of Jesus..... as the One sent from God
For no man ever....had such predictions made about him long before his birth
That were so completely fulfilled ...as Jesus did.

But the passage that moves me most in this book.....comes not from this section

But from the fourth vision found in chapter 3

Joshua ...the High Priest is shown.....Standing in filthy garments before God
The garments represents the sins of his people.....**And as he stands** with those sins
Satan is there to accuse.....**To demand punishment from a holy God**

Yet something has happened.....Something associated with this man that changes
The Lord turns to satan and rebukes him..... The sinful garments are removed
And replaced with the pure garments of righteousness

- **And then in v8.....Zechariah tells Joshua the high priest at that time**
That he was symbolic of one who was to come

That One would be the Lord's Servant.....The Branch.....The Stone
He would take the sins of His people before God.....
..and what would God do

Look at the end of verse 9.....***and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day***

The Hebrew name Joshua.....is in the Greek.....JESUS
And that one day when He dealt with the sin.....was Good Friday

He paid the price of your sin.....But have you accepted your need for forgiveness
For without that forgiveness you are the one before God dressed.....
But with Jesus as Saviour...you are not only cleansed....but clothed....

