

The Cross as Entrance and Exit

Zechariah

Sermon 17

Zechariah 14:12 – 21

Nutshell: The “striking of the Shepherd,” Zech 13:7, issues forth in the Shepherd’s Return, 14:4. This will mean defeat of the antichrist armies and a new order of worship imposed throughout the earth. Deep holiness will expand from the Temple to every little thing in Jerusalem and Judah.

Review: God to the returned exiles: “Turn,” 1:3. They turned, 1:6b, now readied to see the New Covenant.

Jesus (the “Man”) **reconnoitered** the world, 1:8-11, asking the Father for pity on Jerusalem, 1:12.

God was both *jealous* for His people and *angry* towards their oppressors, 1:14-15. *A continued theme.*

God’s **Undo 1**: the four builders (ch 1)

God’s **Redo 1**: Jesus measuring for an expanded Jerusalem (ch 2)

God’s **Prerequisite Redo**: cleansing the presently unclean priesthood (ch 3). Tied to it was the **Prerequisite Redo** of the Spirit’s empowerment, 4:6.

God’s **Undo 2**: ridding His land of liars (ch 5)

The **reconnoitering** was completed, 6:1-8. The real answer would be Jesus Himself, 6:12-13.

Redo How-to: Avoiding what led their fathers into Babylon (ch 7-8)

God’s **Undo 3**: Lands on Israel’s borders judged. Christ’s offered peace terms are prophesied (ch 9)

God’s **Redo 2**. Judah and Israel are to be reunited and victorious against oppressors (ch 10)

God’s **Undo 4**. Like **Undo 2**, exposing His people’s betrayal (ch 11). The queries in ch 7-8 answered.

God’s **Redo 3**. Judah and Jerusalem will be united in repentance by the pouring of the Spirit (ch 12)

God’s **Redo 4**. All God’s people washed, 13:1.

God’s **Undo 4**. Idols and false prophets therefore evicted, 13:2-6.

God’s **Undo 5** and **Redo 5**. The Cross offends 2/3. 1/3 enter the trials of the Cross, 13:7-9.

God’s **Undo 6** and **Redo 6**, ½ if the 1/3 (1/6) further tried by defeat in battle, with 1/6 left, 14:1-2.

God’s **Undo 7**, God entering the battle against the nations, 14:3

God’s **Redo 7**, Jesus returns and changes the landscape (initially for escape) and lighting, 14:4-11.

Kid-speak: Jesus was here on earth 2,000 years ago. Is He coming back? Yes.

Vision Outline: Chaps. 1 – 6. 8 Visions. A chiasmic outline: Link Vision 1 & 8, 2 & 7, 3 & 6, 4 & 5. Visions 4-5 = the **focal point**. Vision #1, 1:7-17. #2, 1:18-21. #3, 2:1-13. #4, 3:1-10. #5, 4:1-14. #6, 5:1-4. #7, 5:5-11. #8, 6:1-8.

Vision 1: The Son’s HORSEMEN: the pagans **rest** smugly. God: I’ll be with Israel and judge/convert the pagans.

Vision 2: God sends 4 builders to **BRING DOWN** the 4 **PAGAN** horns that scatter God’s people.

Vision 3: The Son **goes out to measure** Jerusalem for her coming expansion. Pagans to be judged.

Vision 4: Priest Joshua clothed: justification. Satan rebuked. Zechariah appointed; Messiah promised.

Vision 5: Olive-fed Menorah: sanctification. Spirit-filled Zerubbabel to overcome pagan ‘mountains’.

Vision 6: A flying scroll **goes out to ‘measure’** the ungodly in Israel.

Vision 7: **COUNTERFEIT BRIDE** measured (ephah), **THROWN DOWN**, sealed over, bridesmaid-flown to native Shinar.

Vision 8: The Son’s HORSEMEN go forth to give God’s Spirit **rest** (judge or convert (2:11) the pagans).

Note God’s equal judging activity between the pagans and His people: Vis 2 & 7, Vis 3 & 6. 1 Peter 1:17.

Kid-speak: What is at the heart of God's work for us? Justification. What's that? It's when He counts Jesus' goodness like it was my goodness.

Review (cont.):

Chap 6:9-15, Make crowns for the High Priest, since Messiah (Shoot) will be the original Priest-King.

Chap 7, Q & A: "Has your fasting been for Me? Or, as your fathers, *have you ignored justice & mercy?*"

Chap 8, "The Big Shift: I'll dwell with you → pleasantness. Many will join you. *But are you neighborly?*"

Chap 9, "I'll send conquering Alexander as a type of the humble Messiah, His victory in the Cross."

Chap 9 is a large version of the "Then you'll know" prophecies of 2:9, 4:9, and 6:15.

Chap 10, As surely as Alexander will come, God will reunite Judah and Ephraim vs. their foes.

Chap 11, Zechariah plays a good shepherd, and the people insult him (30 silver shekels).

Zechariah breaks his staves that signified their unity. He then plays the bad shepherd they deserve.

Chap 12, God will judge the nations He brings against Jerusalem. Judah, Jerusalem, and David's

house will finally have one heart. "They'll look on Me whom they pierced" and mourn broadly.

Chap 13, Christ's cleansing fountain will *radically* rid (x2) idolatry and false teachers. God's sword

against His own Shepherd: "Strike the Shepherd," quoted by Jesus. Broad judgment will result on most, bringing 1/3 back to God through trial.

Chap 14:1-11, 1/2 of the 1/3 (1/6) defeated in battle. God fights for Jerusalem. Christ returns, splitting the Mount of Olives, creating an escape valley for the people. Earth's lighting is changed.

Jerusalem becomes a source of two rivers. The surrounding area flattens, while Jerusalem rises.

All her purging is done.

Kid-speak: Last time, we learned about Jesus coming down from Heaven and landing on the Mount of Olives right outside Jerusalem. What will happen to the Mount of Olives then? It will split in two!!

I. Zech 14 walkthrough

A. God uses enemy armies to further purify His people, v 1-2

B. **Jesus** takes up His people's fight, v 3

1. **Coming personally**, changing the landscape, allowing escape, v 4-5

2. Changing the skies and lights, v 6-7

3. Creating rivers from Jerusalem, 8

4. Establishing His personal **sovereignty**, elevating Jerusalem as capitol, v 9-11

5. Withering and panicking the enemies, even to their animals, from without and within, v 12-15

a. Yielding great plunder, v

b. With Judah still beside Jerusalem, v

C. From everyone left, Jesus will be **worshipped** yearly via the wondrous Holiday of Huts, v 16

1. Whatever clan of people refuses will be refused rain, v 17

2. Including Egypt, v 18-19

D. Jerusalem's **holiness** will no longer originate from the Temple, but from the Cross, v 20-21

1. Immersing every person and object with the holiness that had once belonged only to the High Priest, v 20

2. But excluding every idolator, v 21

Kid-speak: When Jesus comes back, what city will He live in? Jerusalem.

II. Zechariah 9-11 Walkthrough

- A. “The burden of the Word of Yahweh,” 9:1
 1. As in Zech 12:1 and Mal 1:1
 2. But in Zech 9:1 against **pagan** nations
- B. Using Alexander’s conquest to prefigure **Messiah’s conquest** through a **meek** coming (riding a donkey)
 1. Which will result in universal **peace**, 9:10
 2. A promise of God saving His people in their need, 9:16
- C. He will **save** His people from aimless idolatry, chap 10
 1. Making them battle fit
 2. Bringing them back from the places He had scattered them
- D. But God would purify His people first, chap 11
 1. Though they **rejected** Him as Shepherd (30 silver pieces)
 2. Calling unscrupulous shepherds to reign over them instead (these 2K yrs.)

Kid-speak: When Jesus came the first time, did people like Him? Mostly, no. They killed Him!

III. Zech 12-14 Walkthrough

- A. “The burden of the Word of Yahweh,” this time against Israel, 12:1
- B. God will unite Judah with Jerusalem against the enemy
- C. “They will look on Me whom **they pierced**” and **mourn** throughout the land, finally
- D. Chap 13, A fountain for **cleansing** opened, purging out all false teachers
 1. “Strike the Shepherd,” 13:7, resulting in 2/3 being cut off
 2. But from the remainder, they will call on God
- E. Which is what will issue forth in Christ’s Second **Coming**, chap 14
- F. History is going somewhere! We know exactly where. Weird.
 1. But it’s all based on the Cross.
 2. The past is the key to the future only in the Cross.
 3. Otherwise, the *future* is the key to the *past* and *present*!
 - a. We know what to make of the *now* because of what we see of the future.
 - b. Which should be jolting, set against man’s usurping dominions (politically and religiously)
 - c. But which should be comforting, since the tumult of man’s revolts will not succeed.

Kid-speak: Do we know what’s going to happen in the future? The most important things, yes. How can we know that? God told us? Does He know? Yes!

IV. Zechariah as a Whole

- A. The returned exiles had stopped rebuilding the Temple. Now Haggai had admonished its continuance. But would the Temple building and service be sufficient to ensure real worship?

1. No, the people needed to “turn.” And they did. So God showed them the mystery of the coming New Covenant, as well as its Messiah, in 8 visions.
 2. And how the point of Messiah’s work would be to either transform them or expel them.
 3. Transforming them, He would become their Protector, expelling the enemy instead.
- B. That generation had to respond. They had repented sufficiently to be shown the NC, but would their repentance hold? A question asked in chap 7-8.
- C. Despite their refusal as a body of God’s shepherding and Shepherd (of which Zechariah became a picture), He would still ensure the return and rescue of a remnant.
1. Through Messiah’s first coming and Cross.
 2. And His second coming and Conquest.

Kid-speak: Was Zechariah trying to get the people He was writing to to do something? Yes, make sure they had turned from all their sins and that they were treating each other right.

V. Walkthrough of Zech 14:12-21

- A. V 12 connects back to v 2, *describing* God’s attack on Jerusalem’s attackers. The intervening verses had followed God’s rescue and renewal of His people and their land.
- B. V 12 describes some wasting affliction.
1. Some have connected it to atomic weaponry.
 2. That would seem odd. Why would God need that, and how would an atomic blast avoid damaging His people and land.
 3. V 13, Those who aren’t killed with the wasting affliction will be seized with a panic from God. They will kill each other.
- C. V 14, Judah will join Jerusalem, as in 12:. They will take possession of an abundance of the enemies’ goods.
- D. V 15, The extent of God’s wasting affliction: to the enemies’ animals too. (*As in cherem.*)
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- E. V 16, AFTER the war (Rev 19), the enemy civilians left would come to Jerusalem to acknowledge Jesus as King (Rev 20, the Millennium).
1. V 17, Any nations failing to make this trip and acknowledgement would have their water turned off, so to speak.
 2. V 18, Egypt, as Israel’s age-old source of affliction and idolatrous comfort, would have a greater obligation in this regard.
 3. V 19, This failure of respect will be the sin Christ will reckon among earth’s nations.
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- F. V 20, Holiness in Jerusalem will expand from the High Priest to every object and person.
1. V 21, Priestly utility pans would assume the holiness of blood-carrying basins of the Altar of Burnt Offerings.
 2. Common household pots would serve the function that priestly pots carrying holy meat had previously served.
 3. Anything unholy would be disallowed. All counterfeits would henceforth be detected.

Kid-speak: Jesus will have a big war when He comes back, but what will happen to the people left after the war? They’ll have to come to Him once a year and say, “You are the King.”

VI. Observations and Applications

- A. God is a “man of war,” Exod 15:1. For Him, war is always just war.
- B. God’s enemies believe in their dominance enough to oppose Him.
 - 1. How foolish is man!
 - 2. How arrogant is man!
- C. God is able to inflict panic.
 - 1. For *His people*, though He only ‘inflicts’ peace, not confusion, .
 - 2. But keeping settled accounts before Him is necessary (confessing our sin in particular).

Kid-speak: What is panic? It’s when you’re so worried or scared that you just about can’t do anything. Should we panic? No. Why? Because God promises to take care of us.

- D. Our *stuff* is an extension of *ourselves*. Poor animals of the wicked! Perhaps they’ll get another chance.
- E. The Holiday of Huts (Feast of Booths/ Tabernacles/ Tents) is the ‘biggie’.
 - 1. AFTER the Passover.
 - 2. But the Cross has superseded Passover, so the Holiday of Huts is the summary Festival
 - 3. It will be commemorated during the Millennium. In the New Heavens and New Earth too?
- F. God allows enemies to live during the Millennium.
 - 1. They eventually join forces with Satan.
 - 2. They will every chance to agree with God. Why would their obstinate nature change in eternity? (For those who hold to universalism: everybody goes to Heaven)
- G. God is to be worshiped. There is no proper alternative for intelligent creatures.
 - 1. It’s merely a matter of respect. “You gave me life. You gave me earth. It came from You. I came from You. Thank You.”
 - 2. What’s so hard about that? Apparently, everything. It takes an almighty decision to change us.

Kid-speak: We’re supposed to worship God. What does that mean? It means we believe Him, listen to Him, pray to Him, sing to Him, and live for Him.

Wrap-up: After