
LESSON 6

You are established for peace (Zech 6)

Chapter 6 concludes the 8 visions which form the first section of Zechariah. The 8 visions are not unrelated. They point towards a common message. Zech 6:9-15 summarises this common message before moving on to the next section of the 4 messages in Chapters 7 and 8.

UNDERSTANDING

1. You will recall from the previous lessons that the 8th vision in Zech 6:1-8 is parallel to the 1st vision in Zech 1:7-11. Compare the two visions and spot three similarities between them.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. Compare Zech 1:11 with Zech 6:7,8. Both sets of four horses went throughout the earth and found the earth at rest. How is “the rest” in Zech 1:11 different from “the rest” in Zech 6:8?
3. If you recall, God was angry with “the nations at rest” in Zech 1:15 because they were complacent, too smug with their false sense of security and self achievement. God was angry with Israel too for their contentedness to live in exile, having become accustomed to a new lifestyle and neglecting God’s purpose for them which was the restoration of Jerusalem.
But in Zech 6:8 *“Look, those going toward the north country have given My Spirit rest in the land of the north.”* Whatever was happening in the north, was bringing rest to God’s Spirit – a true rest. North in relation to Israel could mean a number of nations but in the context of Zech 5 and Zech 6:9, it most likely meant Babylon.

From Zech 6:9-11, what had the three men from Babylon, the north, come to do?

4. Compare Zech 6:12-13 with Zech 3:8-10:
 - a. Who is the Branch?
 - b. What will the Branch come to do?

REFLECTING

5. How does the description of the Branch in Zech 6:12-13 further reinforce that it is a prophecy pointing to Jesus?
6. *Let’s take an overview of the 8 visions again. The chiastic pattern of the 8 visions climaxed in the 3rd & 4th visions – the visions of Joshua the priest and Zerubbabel the governor. Both were prepared - consecrated and anointed for the ministry that God was commanding them to do.*

It is unusual for a high priest to wear a crown because a crown is usually meant for a king. It is also interesting to note that the Branch shall be a priest on His throne (v13). A priest does not sit on a throne. In Jesus, these two offices come together because He is both priest and king. He is both “Joshua the priest” and “Zerubbabel the ruler”.

God was not merely interested in the rebuilding of the temple. The full restoration of His kingdom is the coming of Jesus, the priest king. He will build the true temple, fill it with glory and rule in peace on His throne.

Read Zech 6:15,

- a. What is the sign that this prophecy is true?
- b. What is Israel’s role to be part of the fulfillment of this prophecy?

APPLYING

Gentiles, “those who are faraway” are coming to help build the temple (the dwelling place of the Spirit). This was on God’s mind in the book of Zechariah. Jesus came to build that temple, with Himself being the cornerstone, the apostles as the foundation, and us as part of the temple. The vision will be fulfilled by the people of God, through diligent obedience to the voice of the Spirit (6:15). This is because this mission will be completed “not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit” says the Lord.

7. As we seek to “fill God’s house” what encouragement could we derive from today’s lesson?
8. What do you sense the Spirit is saying to us in this season that we should obey diligently as God build His house through us?

LOOKING FORWARD

As we move into the next section of Zechariah, God will be posing some questions for us to search our hearts. These questions will challenge us further in how much we are obeying the Lord. May the word of God, which is living and active...*sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; ... judges the thoughts and attitudes of [our] heart. Heb 4:12*