

Zechariah: God has Remembered
New Covenant Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday School 5/8/22

WSC Q#38: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

Answer: At the resurrection, believers, being raised up to glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity. (1 Cor. 15:43; Matt. 25:23; Matt. 10:32; 1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thess. 4:17-18.)

I. Introduction

A. Author

1. Zechariah means “Yahweh has remembered”
2. Son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo
3. He was a priest who led the Levites as well as a prophet
4. Contemporary of Haggai (Ezra 6:14)
 - a) Zechariah began preaching about 2 months after Haggai
 - b) Haggai had a brief 4 month ministry
5. Complementary ministry with Haggai
 - a) Both encourage the remnant to complete building the temple
 - b) Zechariah focuses more on repentance and spiritual renewal to prepare the people for proper worship in the new temple

B. Date

1. Zechariah’s ministry was at least from 520-518 B.C.
2. During the reign of Darius I, King of Persia
3. Three speeches have very specific dates
 - a) Zech. 1:1-6- Year 2, month 8 (Oct/Nov 520 B.C.)
 - b) Zech. 1:7-6:8- Year 2, month 11, day 24 (15 Feb 519 B.C.)
 - c) Zech. 7-8: Year 4, month 9, day 4 (7 December 518 B.C.)
4. Undated oracles (ch.9-14) may suggest his prophetic ministry continued beyond the completion of the second temple

C. Audience

1. Intended for inhabitants of post exilic Jerusalem
2. Some words are specifically addressed
 - a) To Zerubbabel the governor
 - b) Jeshua the high priest

D. Literary Style

1. Apocalyptic visions (1:7-6:15)
2. Sermons (Ch. 7-8)
3. Prophetic oracles (Ch. 9-14)

E. Theme and Purpose

1. Zechariah gave an exhortation to repentance and spiritual renewal
2. He summoned the rebuilding of the temple like Haggai (8:9,13)

3. He gave encouragement of peace for Israel and restoration of Jerusalem through a series of visions
4. Highlights a future spiritual restoration of the nation through Messiah

II. Structure and Outline

- I. Prelude: A Call to Return to the Lord (1:1-6)
- II. Zechariah's Visions
 - A. A man among the myrtle trees (1:7-17)
 - B. Four horns and four blacksmiths (1:18-21)
 - C. Future Prosperity for Jerusalem (2:1-5)
 - D. The exiles are called home (2:6-13)
 - E. Cleansing for the high priest (3:1-10)
 - F. A lampstand and two olive trees (4:1-14)
 - G. A flying scroll (5:1-4)
 - H. A woman in a basket (5:5-11)
 - I. Four chariots (6:1-8)
 - J. The crowning of Jeshua (6:9-15)
- III. Zechariah's Messages
 - A. A call to Justice and Mercy (7:1-14)
 - B. Promised blessing for Jerusalem (8:1-23)
- IV. Zechariah's Oracles
 - A. First oracle
 1. Judgment against Israel's enemies (9:1-8)
 2. Zion's coming king (9:9-17)
 3. The Lord will restore his people (10:1-11:3)
 4. Good and evil shepherds (11:4-17)
 - B. Second oracle
 1. Future deliverance for Jerusalem (12:1-14)
 2. A fountain of cleansing (13:1-6)
 3. The scattering of the sheep (13:7-9)
 4. The Lord will rule the earth (14:1-21)

III. Message and Theology

A. Zechariah's Visions

- a. Occurred in a single night 2 months after Haggai's final oracles
- b. Contained encouraging promises for the future of Israel
 - i. Promised peace to Israel
 - ii. Divine judgment of the nations
 - iii. Restoration of Jerusalem
 - iv. A stable government with divinely appointed leaders
 - v. Covenant of righteousness in Zion

B. Zechariah's Oracles

- a. Prophecies the return of Yahweh to His temple
- b. Prophecies the deliverance of Israel from enemies
- c. Prophecies establishment of God's kingdom in Jerusalem

C. Presence of God

- a. Major theme in the Scriptures and Zechariah

DQ: How has God's presence been a key theme from the beginning of Scripture?

- b. Zechariah prophesies return of God's presence
 - i. Immediately with the reconstructed temple, spiritually restored Israel, and resurgence of agricultural production
 - ii. Eschatologically with deliverance of Jerusalem and people from enemies, enthronement of the Lord as king of all the earth, and universal worship of Yahweh.

D. Promise of Messiah

- a. Zechariah is arguably the most Messianic Old Testament book
- b. Biblical scholars call it the "little Isaiah" due to its extensive predictions of Messiah quoted by the New Testament authors

"The book of Zechariah is the most Messianic, the most truly apocalyptic and eschatological of all the writings of the Old Testament." -George Robinson

- c. Yet Zechariah never uses the term "Messiah"
- d. Zechariah's predictions of Messiah
 - i. Priestly role-6:14 (Heb. 5-7)
 - ii. Kingship of Messiah- 6:13, 9:9-10, 14:9,16 (Heb. 2:8-9)
 - iii. The Branch- 6:12 (Is. 11:1, Jer. 23:5) (Rev. 22:16)
 - iv. Humble and riding a donkey- 9:9 (Matt. 21:5)
 - v. Salvation by the blood of the covenant- 9-11 (Mark 14:24)
 - vi. Shepherd to a people scattered like sheep- 10:2 (Num. 27:17, 1 Kings 22:17, Ez. 34:5)(Matt. 9:36)
 - vii. Rejection and betrayal for 30 pieces of silver- 11:12-13 (Matt. 26:15, 27:6-10)
 - viii. Shepherd who was pierced and struck down-12:10, 13:7 (Is. 53) (Matt. 26:31, 56)
 - ix. Return in glory to save Israel from enemies- 14:1-6 (Matt. 24:30, 25:31)
 - x. Establish a new world order under His reign- 14:6-19 (Rev. 21-22)
- e. Messiah has conflicting expectations
 - i. He is conquering king and priest
 - ii. He is humble and slain shepherd

- f. The incongruity of messianic expectation was difficult for intertestamental Judaism
 - i. Some sects of Judaism resolved the conflict by expecting 2 Messiahs
 - 1. One from the tribe of Levi would be priest
 - 2. One from the line of Judah would be king
 - ii. Some Jews today admit Jesus as Messiah for gentiles, but still expect another Messiah for the Jews

DQ: How could one Messiah fill both roles of kingship and priesthood that were historically held by different Hebrew tribes?

How do we reconcile the Messianic expectation of a slain shepherd priest who was supposed to be a conquering king of righteousness?

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