

Zech 9:1-17

Session Eight, Zechariah

Review of Last Week: Top Ten List

Zechariah 1-8

exhortation & encouragement
political peace
now/520-518 BC
names and dates
many questions

Zechariah 9-14

admonition & warning
turbulence and upheaval
not yet/coming kingdom
no names/no dates
one question (13:6)

“Everyone _____ in the last six chapters: God’s people, their enemies, the coming Messiah, and, most surprising of all, God himself gets pierced in the battle” (Lessing, 327).

“Because this section is topsy-turvy, with motifs that shift suddenly and frequently, chapters 9-14 are some of the most difficult chapters in the Bible to interpret (327).

“As a single Old Testament passage, next to Ps 22, it offers the most extensive background for the _____” (328).

Oracle #1 (9-11)

New king reunites kingdom
Evil leaders judged

Oracle #2 (12-14)

Two perspectives of one war
Divine cleansing and new creation

“Zechariah presents a collage rather than a circumscribed progression of events. These chapters for not unfold chronologically, but present the inbreaking of God’s kingdom through ecstatic victories and crushing defeats” (331).

Zechariah 9:1-8

Zech 8 was about Gentiles coming to Jerusalem, clinging to the hem of a garment. The progression continues in Zech 9 with remnant nations becoming part of Israel.

“Zech 9:1-8 does not say why YHWH judges the Gentiles (Syria/Phoenicia/Philistia). Stranger still is that the prophet (writing toward the end of the sixth century BC) lists cities and empires that by Persian times had exited the world’s stage” (349).

“Zechariah’s list cites past enemies to illustrate the future Davidic King’s conquering power”... “Zechariah employs historical names to announce the future eschatological hope tied to a new Davidic King who will reign over a reconstituted Israel” (351).

God’s Weapon: SWORD or WORD

Luther observes: “The prophet wants to prophesy and foretell that it will come to pass that the neighboring peoples around Jerusalem—Tyre, Sidon, and all Palestine—are going to be converted to Christ by the Gospel revealed throughout the world” (349).

On the map:

Hadrach = Umm-esh-Shershuh on Orontes River, never part of an Israelite state

Tyre = _____ because it was a city situated on a rocky island

Five Cities of the Philistines: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Gath, Ekron

v. 3 “Tyre has built a fortress for herself”; walls were _____ thick!

Why did fear overwhelm the Philistine cities?

“Yet miracle of miracles, YHWH’s mercy extends even to Israel’s archenemy and rampant idolaters—the _____!”

Why are the Jebusites significant? (2 Sam 24:16-25; 2 Chr 3:1)

“Zechariah envisions the final and definitive battle where YHWH defeats every foe. Victory will be complete and total” (355).

Zechariah 9:9-17

Horses are used in times of _____; donkeys are used in times of _____.

Mt 21:5 and Jn 12:15 cite Zech 9:9 for their Palm Sunday account.

Luther: “Here there is no violence, no armor, no power, no anger, no wrath. All these, you see are proper for kings of this world. Here there are only kindness, justice, salvation, mercy, and every good thing” (374).

Like a bow and arrow working together, Ephraim and Judah are united (v. 13). “Greece loomed large in everyone’s mind in the early Persian period. It is no wonder, then, that Zechariah should have seen it as a potentially hostile power on the western horizon” (368).

T / F This is the only place in the OT where YHWH blows the shophar (ram’s horn).

Blowing the trumpet (shofar):

- a) Liturgical purposes
- b) Warned people of an advancing army
- c) Different military maneuvers
- d) Coronation of kings
- e) Theophany (Ex 19:16, 19; 20:18)

v. 16 “that day” puts this section into an eschatological context