

Tuesday Evening Bible Study
Series #8: The Minor Prophets
Session #17: Zechariah 6:9 – 8:23
Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Outline of Zechariah

- A. *First Zechariah (Chapters 1-8)*
1. *Superscription (1:1)*
 2. *Oracles and Visions (1:2 – 6:8)*
 - a) *Prologue: The First Oracle (1:2-6)*
 - b) *The First Vision: The Divine Horsemen (1:7-17)*
 - c) *The Second Vision: Four Horns and Four Smiths (1:18-21)*
 - d) *The Third Vision: A Wall of Fire (2:1-5)*
 - e) *The Second Oracle (2:6-13)*
 - f) *The Fourth Vision: Joshua and the Satan (Chapter 3)*
 - g) *The Fifth Vision: The Lampstand and the Olive Trees (Chapter 4)*
 - i) *The Third Oracle (4:6-10a)*
 - h) *The Sixth Vision: The Flying Scroll (5:1-4)*
 - i) *The Seventh Vision: A Woman in a Basket (5:5-11)*
 - j) *The Eighth Vision: Four Chariots (6:1-8)*
 3. **Other Oracles (6:9 – 8:23)**
 - a) **The Fourth Oracle: The Crowning of the Branch (6:9-15)**
 - b) **The Fifth Oracle: The Fallacy of Fasting (Chapter 7)**
 - c) **Seven oracles on the restoration of Zion (8:1-17)**
 - d) **Three oracles on the future joy of Judah (8:18-23)**
- B. *Second Zechariah (Chapters 9-14)*
1. *The First Oracle: The Divine Warrior (9:1 – 11:17)*
 - a) *The approach of the Divine Warrior & fate of the nations (9:1-8)*
 - b) *Joy and protection for Judah and Ephraim (9:9-13)*
 - c) *The arrival of the Divine Warrior (9:14-17)*
 - d) *The Lord: a militant shepherd (10:1 – 11:3)*
 - e) *Two kinds of shepherds (11:4-17)*
 2. *The Second Oracle: The Victory of the Divine Warrior (Chapters 12-14)*
 - a) *The Purge of Jerusalem (12:1 – 13:6)*
 - i) *The Day of the Lord (12:1-9)*
 - ii) *Events on the Day of the Lord (12:10 – 13:6)*
 - b) *Textual Insertion: Continuation of Zechariah 11:15-17 (13:7-9)*
 - c) *The Apocalypse of Zechariah (Chapter 14)*

Notes on Zechariah 6:9 – 8:23

- In this section, Zechariah functions less as a visionary and more like an intermediary for divine instructions, typical for a prophet.
- The “crown” is a memorial for the accomplishment of rebuilding the Temple.
- 7:5 – the fast of the 5th month may be in memory of the destruction of the First Temple; the fast in the 7th month may have memorialized the death of Gedaliah, the governor of Judah.
- 7:9 – true acts of piety before God are true judgments

- 8:2 – God’s self-description as “jealous” is a theme of the Deuteronomist editors (Deuteronomy through 2 Kings). God’s jealousy is zeal for achieving justice for Zion.
- Zechariah seems to maintain the covenant tradition stressing truth and justice as the basis for a new community.
- 8:18-19 – This oracle responds to the question posed in 7:3. All prior rituals of fasting are to become occasions for feasting. The 4th month was when the Babylonians breached the walls of Jerusalem, and the 10th month was when they began their siege. (2 Kings 25:1-4; Jeremiah 39:2; 52:4-7)
- This section (1st Zechariah) ends with a pilgrimage of foreign nations to Jerusalem.
- The bottom line is that by the spirit of God, not their own devices, God will accomplish that which seems impossible to the people of Judah.

Resources

Enterthebible.com, <https://www.enterthebible.org/oldtestament>

Notes from The New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV), 2010

Notes from HarperCollins Study Bible (NRSV), 1989

Notes from *The CEB Women’s Bible* (CEB), 2016