

3 Zechariah 5-6 FINISHING THE BUILDING

In today's passage we finish the last of the eight visions that God gives to Zechariah. So far the prophet has been made to watch imagery of 1. horses, 2. horns and craftsmen 3. a measuring line across Jerusalem 4. the cleansing of the high priest, Joshua and 5. Zerubbabel in the midst of lampstands and olive trees. This is certainly not your normal sort of day-dream! According to the below verses, what's the overall message these visions are supposed to convey to the nation of Israel:

1:16-17, 21; 2:4-5; 4:8-10.

The first five visions provide a message of hope and renewed blessing. God will bring vindication to his people - the oppression from foreign powers won't go on forever. And this is certainly where the book of Zechariah ends as well—Jerusalem will be great once again, greater than it's ever been before. God will live among his people and holiness will reign. But we need to now look at the last three visions. Along the way to establishing holiness, there is still the problem of sin. God is just and he needs to deal with sin. That's the issue of this last set of visions in chapters 5 and 6. **Read Zechariah 5:1-6:8.** As with the previous studies, have a go at drawing what Zechariah's visions are about:



Your Title:

What is the message of this vision?:

1. How does Deuteronomy 29:18-20 help us understand the significance of the scroll?

We've already looked at Deuteronomy in this study series, see p2. In Deuteronomy, God says that if the people return to their God, He will return to them. There will be great blessing. But there is still the promise of curses in the meantime. There is still the problem of sin.



Your Title:

What is the message of this vision?:

2. In Zechariah 2:6, the message is "Come! Come! Flee from the land of the north". In other words, flee from Babylonia. And then we have mention of Babylonia again in 5:11. What is the significance of this house in Babylonia, for Zechariah's hearers who have returned from exile there?

Babylonia or Shinar has always represented the antithesis of God's promised land. It was the place that Abraham left when God made a covenant with him. It was the place where the tower of Babel was built. It's the place that Israel was dragged off to, as punishment for their sin. A house is being rebuilt in Jerusalem (1:16) but this house is also being built for sin in Babylonia. Wickedness does not belong among God's people. And God will remove it from them and send it into exile.



Your Title:

What is the message of this vision?:

3. We now come to the last of the visions given to Zechariah. The first vision was about coloured horses, and the last vision also is about coloured horses. In that first vision, the horses go through out the earth a report comes back to the angel of the Lord. What is discovered (1:11)?

4. In this last vision, the horses go throughout the earth again, but what is discovered this time (6:8)?

5. Between the first and last of Zechariah's visions, what events or achievements have been described that will give God rest?

6. Read Hebrews 10:11-14. What is the significance of the fact that Jesus 'has sat down'? Why is this good news for us? What are the links to Zechariah's vision in 6:1-8?

7. How will our lives be different if we are living in light of the fact that Jesus 'has sat down'?

The visions have ended, but now the word of the Lord comes to Zechariah. And it is an absolutely huge and surprising word that the Lord gives to the prophet.

Read Zechariah 6:9-15.

8. This word has already come to Zechariah in 3:8, and the title has been used by earlier prophets. **Read Jeremiah 23:5-6.** What role does this Branch have according to Jeremiah?

9. According to Jeremiah, this Branch is a great king who will rule over all. But in Zechariah, he is also the high priest. No one like this has ever appeared in Israel before. This is probably what 6:13 means - harmony between priestly role and kingly role. And also have a look at **Zechariah 4:14.** What makes this a very unorthodox statement for a Jew to accept?

10. Read again Hebrews 10:11-14. How is Jesus the fulfilment of this priest/king branch in Zechariah?

11. What will it mean for Christians if they are to help people understand that they need a priest as well as a king?

Pray Praise God that Jesus, as God's priest-king, fulfils the message given to Zechariah. Pray that individually and that as a church we would help others to know that Jesus perfectly deals with our problem of sin, and also is the perfect king over all our lives.