

5. Will idolatry and false prophecy have a future in God's Kingdom? How serious does He say He will regard these sins? (13:2-3) Why are they to be so seriously abhorred? How seriously do we take them?

6. Read 13:7-9. The events of Good Friday were horrific; Horrific for the Father; Horrific for Jesus; and horrific for the disciples and their faith. It will also be horrific for those who rejected Jesus for they will be cut off. Sin creates a dreadful mess and its remedy unimaginably costly for everybody. And yet God perseveres through to His determined gracious goal see 13:9b

What does God see in us?

Does this make you worship God who is so gracious to us?

Zechariah Study 6

The Day of Destiny

Zechariah 12:1-13:9

What a day it will be when finally we will be set free to enjoy worshipping the Lord in the beauty of Holiness! This is where the prophet Zechariah has been leading us from the beginning.

He began calling us to return to the Lord because God wants to return into our lives (1:1-6). His eight vision set which immediately followed (1:7-6:8) outlined dramatically how God was actively progressing this purpose in the world in Zechariah's day - rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem, judging her powerful enemies, directing the temple capacity and design, affirming the current godly leadership, identifying and removing sin from the community and how final judgment was immanent. Throughout Zechariah speaks of a Coming One 'The Branch' (3:8-10; 6:12-15) of whom the current leaders were only a symbol and a shadow. Along with this progressive work God leads their worship from fasting over sin to more appropriate feasting and joy in their renewed hope (7:1-8:23).

God then gives Zechariah two "Oracles of the Word of the Lord", which concern the future (9:1-11:17 and 12:1-14:21). The first concerned leadership – God's sovereign rule, the importance of human leadership and their coming together in the ideal human king who would come strikingly mounted on the foal of a donkey (9:9-10). The first oracle outlines the devastating results of bad shepherding and straying sheep and ends with the ideal leader being savagely rejected, the covenant broken and a false shepherds being followed (11:4-17).

In this study we consider God's final solution which will happen "on that day", a phrase which Zechariah mentions 16 times in these 3 chapters and for him describes the end of history. Out of this comes the New Testament, new covenant and the Christian Gospel. "That Day" mercifully for us takes in both the first and the second coming of Jesus Christ. We live in what the New Testament calls "the last days".

1. Why do you think this oracle which is about the end or climax of the world begins by talking about God as the Creator in 12:1?

2. Are Jerusalem and its wider remnant special in the eyes of the Creator? In what ways does Zechariah 12:2-9 indicate that this is so? If so when did this special treatment begin and why? (See Genesis 12:1-3) Did this mean that God no longer intended to bless or care about the other nations?

3. In the last chapter the Good Shepherd had come and had been rejected by the false shepherds and the sheep. He had resigned being shepherd, had been paid out and the covenant (contract) had been annulled (torn up) (11:7-14). The covenant with Israel was over! Then this new movement of brokenness and repentance comes in 12:10-14. Where does that repentance come from (v10)?

How deep was that repentance (v10-11)?

How widespread was that repentance? How personal was that repentance? (v12-14)

Did Jesus speak about the need for this deep conviction of sin and who the agent would be (John 16:7-11)?

Did this happen for the early converts? (Acts 2:36-41)

Will everybody, even non-Christians, eventually see the pierced hands of the risen Lord and wail on account of Him? (Revelations 1:7)

4. Does God reveal through Zechariah that even though the Old Covenant would be so trashed by his future descendants, God would still provide salvation for them? How does he describe the extravagance of God grace and mercy in Zechariah 13:1? What does this mean? Does it sound like a new covenant promise?