

## Parish Fellowship Bible Study

Monday 28th March 2022

### Zechariah 2-3

#### Zechariah 2 (NIV)

Then I looked up, and there before me was a man with a measuring line in his hand. 2 I asked, "Where are you going?"

He answered me, "To measure Jerusalem, to find out how wide and how long it is."

3 While the angel who was speaking to me was leaving, another angel came to meet him 4 and said to him: "Run, tell that young man, 'Jerusalem will be a city without walls because of the great number of people and animals in it. 5 And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,' declares the Lord, 'and I will be its glory within.'

6 "Come! Come! Flee from the land of the north," declares the Lord, "for I have scattered you to the four winds of heaven," declares the Lord.

7 "Come, Zion! Escape, you who live in Daughter Babylon!" 8 For this is what the Lord Almighty says: "After the Glorious One has sent me against the nations that have plundered you—for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye— 9 I will surely raise my hand against them so that their slaves will plunder them. Then you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me.

10 "Shout and be glad, Daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you," declares the Lord. 11 "Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you. 12 The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. 13 Be still before the Lord, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling."

#### Zechariah 3 (NIV)

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. 2 The Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"

3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. 4 The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes."

Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you."

5 Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by.

6 The angel of the Lord gave this charge to Joshua: 7 "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.

8 "Listen, High Priest Joshua, you and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. 9 See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.

10 "In that day each of you will invite your neighbour to sit under your vine and fig tree,' declares the Lord Almighty."

### **Zechariah 2:1-5**

An angelic being but some think it was the Angel of the LORD.

Youth suggests someone who doesn't yet know God's ways.

Jerusalem is being measured to make sure that it is big enough for all the people who will arrive.

"Planters and waterers do matter, and resources and strength are important to Zerubbabel in connection with the temple-building project." Goldingay

"The motif of great repopulation of humans and animals is a prophetic mode of expressing renewed national wellbeing and prosperity (Isaiah 54:1; Jeremiah 31:27; Ezekiel 36:10-11; Hosea 2:1-12)" McComiskey

God would be the glory at the centre of the city- very like Revelation. God's glory is revealed in the way he loves and vindicates his people.

### **Zechariah 2:6-7**

Verses 6-13 are poetic- which doesn't come across in most translations.

There is a change of genre, change of speaker and change of destination.

The North symbolises exiles from any direction. God is calling all kinds of people together as he builds his new community.

"Yahweh has not finished with Babylon. Judahites will find themselves scattering from there. They'd be wise to leave while they still have the chance... Babylon may have looked like the center (sic) of the world. Actually Jerusalem is." Goldingay

### **Zechariah 2:8-9**

Joyce Baldwin thinks verse 8 is one of the most difficult verses in the book.

"We know now why this angel heads the host of cosmic riders that stand behind him: he has come not only to command them to traverse the earth, but also to pursue glory for Yahweh, whose word he represents." McComiskey

The phrase "apple of His eye"- something very sensitive and needs to be looked after- it could imply the eyelashes- the 'gate' of the eye- or to the pupil- the 'daughter' of the eye.

God continues to preserve his people- which is why we have the church.

"Today, the panorama of history witnesses to the rise and fall of nations (Isaiah 40:23-24) while God continues to preserve a remnant in the world." McComiskey

### **Zechariah 2:10-13**

God expects them to sing and rejoice because:

1 He will be among them in a unique and powerful way.

The new covenant affirms the spiritual presence of Christ in the church.

1 Peter 2:5, 2 Cor 6:16, Ephesians 2:21; 1 Cor 3:16-17 and Christ is resident in that temple: John 6:56; 14:2-; 15:5; 17:23; 1 Cor 6:19; 2 Cor 13:15; Gal 2:20; Col 1:27; 1 John 3:24; 4:13

2 He will bring many into His Kingdom.

"The Christian may understand "Zion" and "daughter of Zion" to transect the Testaments to embrace the church. bringing with them affirmations of divine promise." McComiskey

"The people of Zechariah's day were an important link in the chain of redemptive events the Bible records. They might not have fully understood their awesome function in the divine plan, but Zechariah's words would

have encouraged them to work on toward a distant goal, knowing that the future held the bright prospect of Yahweh dwelling in a kingdom of vast population and spiritual prosperity.”  
McComiskey

Allusions to the song of Moses- which is sung in Heaven.

The only place where the phrase ‘Holy Land’ is used in the Bible. Psalmists use the concept of Holy Hill or Holy Mountain.

It does not refer to Israel as a geographical entity. It refers to somewhere God dwells.

“Zechariah is the last Old Testament writer to address the theme of the Lord’s choice of Jerusalem and he takes it to new heights. God forsook his people but he will again choose them, taking up his abode in a Jerusalem that the prophet could hardly envision”  
McComiskey

### **Zechariah 3:1-3**

The setting changes to an image of the Temple courts- where ‘court’ is the operative word.

Joshua, the High Priest is on trial- accused of being unclean.

Is the Angel of the Lord- the Lord?

Is the official prosecutor Satan or a satan?

“The Hebrew has the definite article and is not using the word as a name but as a common noun in the sense of ‘the accuser’ fulfilling a necessary role in the tribunal” Joyce Baldwin

Other commentaries treat this as being Satan himself- while Baldwin concedes that there is a certain maliciousness to the satan’s role even here.

"Satan must have been pointing to those [filthy clothes] and declaring forcefully that Joshua was unfit to stand before the Lord in this office."  
Boice

Joshua represents the post-exilic community.

Joshua was rescued as a brand plucked from the fire.

This refers to the people as much as to Joshua; they are the remnant- the bit that was saved.

"Such is the divine economy, that God makes much of brands, fragments, castaways. What others regard as unworthy of their heed is dear and priceless to the great Lover of souls."  
Meyer

### **Zechariah 3:4-5**

The High Priest is supposed to wear some very intricate symbolic clothes- but Joshua was guilty of standing before God in filthy garments.

The LORD cleansed Joshua, taking away the filthy garments and the iniquity they represented.

“The removal of the filthy garments silenced the accuser, making his charge baseless, because the supreme judge has done the unthinkable: he has removed the guilt of the people by a sovereign act of grace.”  
McComiskey

Hebrew word translated filthy is "the strongest expression in the Hebrew language for filth of the most vile and loathsome character."  
Feinberg, cited in Barker

The turban was part of the High Priest's garments and on the front it had a gold plate inscribed with the phrase HOLINESS TO THE LORD (Exodus 28:36-38).

The believer in the new testament is given a crown of glory.

1 Peter 5:4; 2 Tim 4:8; James 1:12; Rev 2:10

### **Zechariah 3:6-7**

'If': God promised Joshua that he would continue to serve as High Priest as he was diligent to stay obedient to God.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

### **Zechariah 3:8-10**

The summons to hear creates a sense of expectation.

"BRANCH" is used as a title for the Messiah (Isaiah 4:2 and 11:1, Jeremiah 23:5 and 33:15).

BRANCH is associated with fruitfulness and life.

Jesus used the same image when He said that He was the vine and we are the branches (John 15:5).

The stone may have been the one from the High priest's headband but it doesn't seem to be a precious stone and does seem to be very large and have the connotation of building.

The eyes? God is keeping his eye on things.

God is always near me,  
hearing what I say,  
knowing all my thoughts and deeds,  
all my work and play.

Early Christians saw the engraving on the stone to be a picture of Jesus' wounds but the engraving could also be a mark of identification or beautification.

"The Branch, like Moses and Joshua, will act in a representative capacity, remove the guilt of the land, and bring true prosperity."  
Baldwin

### **Conclusion**

"The prophet responds to the plight of these former exiles by recounting visions of angels, empires, and mysterious forces that control world events: the prophecy of Zechariah presents in bold panorama the history of redemption."  
McComiskey

We have the same right as the High Priest to enter the presence of God.