



Correspondent's Corner

“The Prophet Zechariah has a Message for us Today” November, 2021

There is a section of the Bible called the Minor Prophets. The Minor Prophets are twelve prophetic books written around the time that Israel was taken into captivity for

seventy years. These twelve books, starting with Hosea and ending with Malachi, are generally shorter than other Old Testament books, which is where they get their heading called “minor.” The reason for Israel being taken into captivity was their unwillingness to put away the idols of the nations around them. The living God of the Bible was going to deal with His earthly people, Israel, regarding their sin.

The eleventh of these twelve books is called Zechariah after the prophet who wrote it. I would like to look at some things from the prophecy of Zechariah. There are about nine places in this prophecy that mention things about the coming Saviour. We won't have space to touch all nine but we will look at a few of them.

First, there are two places in Zechariah that one called the “Branch” is written about. In 3:8 and in 6:12-13 we read of this one. In 3:8 God says that He will bring forth His servant the Branch. This could be focused on the first and second coming of the Saviour. In 6:12-13 the Branch is said to be a man who will establish the temple of the Lord. We also read that he will rule upon his throne and the counsel of peace shall be established. This is clearly showing that this one who is called the Branch is none other than Jesus who will rule the entire world in righteousness from his earthly throne in Jerusalem.

Second, there is seen in 9:9 a prophecy regarding Jesus who rode a donkey's colt into the city of Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11). Zechariah was written about 550 years before the Lord Jesus came to be the Saviour by dying on the cross for our sins. Another verse from Zechariah regarding the still future 1,000 year reign of Jesus is the next verse, verse 10. In verse 10 we read “He shall speak peace unto the nations: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.” These two verses take in the first coming of Jesus as Saviour and the second coming as the coming king to reign.

Third, there are four verses that are linked together in that they are occupied with the work of Jesus on the cross. #1) 11:12-13 The thirty pieces of silver that the Jewish religious leaders gave to Judas Iscariot for arranging a time and place where they could apprehend Jesus and take him away. These two verses also mention that Judas brought the thirty pieces of silver

back to the leaders. He threw the silver pieces down before the leaders and went out into the night. #2) 12:9-10 These verses speak of the nation of Israel that shall acknowledge their Messiah in a future day. They will look upon their Messiah and feel great sorrow for the nails that were driven into Jesus' hands and feet. Verse 10 says "they shall look upon me whom they have pierced". #3) 13:1 Here we read of a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. The basis for this cleansing fountain is the work of Jesus on the cross. God cannot just overlook our sin, it needs to be righteously dealt with. God has dealt with sin on the cross where his only Son died for our sins. #4) 13:7 This verse speaks of a sword of judgment coming on the shepherd who gave his life for the life of the sheep. The verse also tells us of the scattering of the sheep when the shepherd is smitten. The fulfillment of this is found in Matthew 26:31 where we read of this verse being quoted by Matthew.

Fourth and last is from the last chapter of Zechariah, chapter 14:4, where we read of the future scene of when Jesus comes back to reign from Jerusalem. Verse 4 says that "his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east." There are details given of great things happening at that time. Geographic changes to the area of Jerusalem will mark the return of Jesus Christ to reign. It will be a wonderful time in the experience of this old world. Receiving Jesus as your Saviour and Lord is the only hope that we have. "The Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me". Galatians 2:20

Sincerely, *John Eggers*

P.S. Please feel free to respond to this article by using the contact form on the "Contact Us" page. I will respond, with no obligation on your part