

Zechariah 1:7-17 – Encouragement to do Right – Vision 1

Calvin, INT, TSK, JFB, HebrewLexicon, Phillips, Poole, Trapp, Geneva, Clarke, Delitzsch, Henry, Barnes, Ps 23, 24, 103, 110, 30, 73, 91, 69 Beloved in Jesus Christ: God warned Judah to stop being self-absorbed, stop pursuing his own pleasure and profit, and return to rebuilding the temple and restoring worship. **But God is not only about warnings, threats, and justice.** You will see today how your heavenly Father gave encouragement to Judah to return to worship him and to receive his benefits.

Our headings are:

The Power of the Lord

The Prayer of the Lord

The Promise of the Lord

Our goals are: **That you will learn how the Lord encourages you to keep faithful in his worship and work, and that you will then not allow the pressures and attractions of this life to lure 诱惑 you from him.**

The Power of the Lord

7 On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet:

1. Soon after Zechariah's first prophecy, God spoke to him through a vision, giving him words of encouragements to speak to the people. This was the month of Shebat – meaning “new bud 芽” – a fascinating detail. Notice how God didn't always use words. Sometimes he used illustrations because they can be more powerful than words.

8 I saw by night, and behold, a **man riding on a red horse**, and it stood among the **myrtle trees 番石榴树** in the **hollow 树洞**; and behind him were **horses: red, sorrel 栗色, and white.**

2. In his vision Zechariah saw a man in a ravine 山沟, among myrtle trees, riding a red horse. Behind him were other horses.

a. **Who was the man riding the red horse and what was that symbolizing?** Jesus Christ was on the horse. He was commonly called the “Angel of Lord,” in the OT. He was a messenger. John 8:28-29; Hebrews 1:2. Genesis 16, 22. The fact that **Jesus was riding showed urgency of what God was going to do.** God was soon going to help his people.

b. **What is the symbolism of the red horse?** This symbolize the blood of the wicked that he would shed for shedding of the blood of the saints.

Isaiah 63:2 Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?

Revelation 6:4 Another horse, fiery red 火红, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to

take peace from the earth...

c. **Why is Jesus among myrtle trees?** Myrtle trees represented God's people. It was a dark green tree which showed vitality 活力. Myrtle trees were used as part of the tents in the Feast of Tabernacles, a yearly Jewish festival when they lived in booths. So myrtle symbolized God's covenant people.

Isaiah 55:12 "For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the **trees of the field shall clap their hands.** 13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree 柏树, **And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree;**

And it shall be to the LORD for a name, For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

d. **Why are God's people in the ravine?** The ravine showed that Israel was in some degree of difficulty – in a hole.

e. **What about the horses with strange colors?** They seem to be many horses– but just 3 colors. The horses were first red, showing bloodshed – on the enemies. The sorrel or speckled 斑点 horses were white and red...showing the progression to victory – with less blood. And then the white, showing the victory would be completed.

9 Then I said, "My lord, what are these?" So the angel who talked with me said to me, "I will show you what they are." 10 And the man who stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, "These are the **ones whom the LORD has sent to walk to and fro throughout the earth.**" 11 So they answered the Angel of the LORD, **who stood among the myrtle trees**, and said, "**We have walked to and fro** throughout the earth, and behold, all the earth is resting quietly."

3. And who were the horsemen? The horsemen were angels of the Lord, doing his bidding 投标. They were patrolling the earth and watching over the Lord's people all over the earth. They had “light armor,” so they were like the spies that went through the land to see what the enemy was doing. (Remember, the Jews were sent into captivity all over the earth.)

Psalm 47:7 For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding. 8 God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.

4. Just prior to this prophecy, there was a big battle for leadership of the Medo-Persian Empire. Cyrus, who had given freedom to some Jews, left his son to rule, but his son was murdered and replaced. God used Darius to overthrow the usurper and restore peace. Darius continued to honor the promise Cyrus made to the limited number of Jews to return to Judah. But many Jews were still in captivity. So God's visual promise was a reassurance.

5. Lessons:

a. God is never unaware of your problems. He is omniscient. 无所不知

b. God has his angels all around you to guard you. Be comforted. **He is omnipresent** 无所不在. He knows when you are in the ravine. Hebrews 1:14: "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?" No, you don't worship angels, but angels show the power of your God! Jesus is Immanuel – God with us! When Jesus was going back into heaven and commissioning his disciples to build his kingdom he said the same thing: **Matthew 28:20**...and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

c. God is able to save you. He has a great army. ISIS is powerful, but God is more powerful. **He is omnipotent.** 无所不能

d. God's attributes are tied to his work or redemption. His greatness is tied to his goodness. His omni's are tied to his mercy.

e. So praise God from whom all mercies flow.

The Prayer of the Lord

12 Then the Angel of the LORD answered and said, "O **LORD of hosts, how long** will You not have **mercy on Jerusalem** and on the cities of Judah, against which You were angry these seventy years?"

13 And the **LORD answered** the angel who talked to me, with good and comforting words.

1. Jesus then prayed to God (for Zechariah's sake) asking why God would permit peace in the foreign lands while Jerusalem was still being hounded 追逐 by neighbors who threatened them. He asked how long they were going to have to suffer at

the hands of their enemies. He asked how long Judah would have to wait for mercy and to be restored to his former glory.

Revelation 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Notice how the Jesus' **prayer was based on God's promise to show mercy.**

2. God heard Jesus' prayer with gracious and comforting words.

3. Lessons:

a. Ever wonder why the wicked seem to be at peace and you have turmoil 动荡? Their peace is not real...they have no peace in their hearts. And their apparent peace is temporary. Just learn patience. Philippians 4:6 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

b. If you really want to pray well, know the Scriptures...know the promises of God! Pray the promises of God. (I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me is not a prayer to lift a car, but a prayer to endure persecution.)

c. If you really want to pray well, love the church. (This was why Calvin had to rebuke Luther who had chided Calvin for caring too much for the flock.)

d. God is not angry with you when you unburden 表白 yourself in prayer. He is a loving Father. And know that no prayer ever goes missing.

The Promise of the Lord

14 So the angel who spoke with me said to me, "Proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "**I am zealous** 热心 for Jerusalem And for Zion with great zeal."

1. In answer to Jesus' prayer, the reminded Judah of his zeal for them – though they had sinned. God was willing to do what he displayed in his power. Sometimes people have the power to help but have no desire. God was different. He reminded Israel and Judah of his desire to restore his people, rebuild the temple, and repair the burnt gates.

Joel 2:18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, And pity His people.

Jeremiah 29:10 For thus says the LORD: **After seventy years are completed at Babylon**, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and **cause you to return to this place.** 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to **give you a future and a hope.** 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, **and I will listen to you.** 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

15 I am exceedingly angry with the nations at ease; For I was a little angry, And they helped — but with evil intent." 邪恶意图

2. In answer to Jesus' prayer, God reiterated his extreme anger with the nations that were at ease. The wicked actions of those nations did not slip by his notice. This was a comfort to Judah. But **why was God so angry with the nations?** God was angry with them because they terrorized his people. Yes, God wanted to punish his people because he was a little angry with them, (Isaiah 10:5) but woe was coming on the one who unfairly harmed his people. God prophesied that Babylon would be cruel and what he would do to them. What an answer to prayer!

Isaiah 47:6 I was angry with My people; I have profaned My inheritance, And given them into your hand.

You showed them no mercy; On the elderly you laid your yoke very heavily.

Ezekiel 25:6 'For thus says the Lord GOD: "Because you clapped your hands, stamped your feet, and rejoiced in heart with all your disdain for the land of Israel, 7 "indeed, therefore, I will stretch out My hand against you, and give you as plunder to the nations; I will cut you off from the peoples..."

A man might be angry with his wife, but he wouldn't tolerate others hurting her. Jealousy is cruel!

16 'Therefore thus says the LORD: "I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it," says the LORD of hosts, "And a **surveyor's line shall be stretched** out over Jerusalem.'" 17 "Again proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "**My cities shall again spread** out through **prosperity**;" The LORD will again **comfort Zion**, And will again choose Jerusalem.'"

3. In answer to Jesus' prayer God reiterated 重申 more promises:

a. Jerusalem would be rebuilt on account of God's mercy. It was rebuilt in 4 years. This promise and fulfillment would have strengthened the Jewish faith and this promise covered the future also.

b. The surveyor's line would carefully mark the boundaries. It would not be carelessly built, but planned.

c. Prosperity – affluence to rebuild the city and even the small cities would return. (The word "spread out" can mean be "exhausted," so it probably meant that Judah would be exhausted with so much wealth. Calvin.

Isaiah 51:3 For the LORD will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, And her desert like the garden of the LORD; Joy and gladness will be found in it, Thanksgiving and the voice of melody.

4. The fulfillment of these promises would bring comfort to Zion – the city of God.

Isaiah 40:1 "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. 2 "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD'S hand Double for all her sins."

5. Lessons:

a. **The zeal of the Lord is no less toward you!** So **don't give up working to build up his church and his kingdom.** Don't let the threats of the enemies from near you or far from you, the subtle enemy or the brazen enemy, stop you.

b. **God provided his Son to take your iniquity** on his back when he died on the cross. Be comforted!

c. **Don't be envious of the wicked who may seem to be at ease.** They will suddenly be destroyed and without any remedy for hope.

d. **Don't ever delay praying.** God delights in your prayer. Pray for each other.

Conclusion:

Jesus encouraged Judah to rebuild his temple and restore worship. He encouraged them by showing them his power to destroy their enemies, by making intercessions for them, and by promising them full expansion of their nation again.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. **Don't worry** when you see the nation, the church, the family, or yourself struggle. Don't worry at all. Let the Lord **remind you of his presence.** (Hebrews 13:5 -- "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?") Let the Lord remind you that **he daily makes intercessions** for you before his Father. And let the Lord remind you that **his kingdom will spread** and fill the whole earth... He builds his church in spite of your sins.

2. **Don't be sidetracked with the activities of daily;** don't let them take over your life. Rather work to build the kingdom– starting in your home.

3. **Sing a requiem 安魂曲 to the wicked who will perish.**...that hearing that song they may seek out mercy from the cross of Jesus Christ.

4. **Worship the one who saved you** and secures your life from condemnation to hell.

Finally: Jesus' clothes will be covered in the blood of those who oppose 反对 his people. If you are not his child, it will be your blood on his clothes. I plead with you, make your exodus from yours sins, and join the people of God. The blood that God demanded for your freedom was already shed on the cross when Jesus died.