

Zechariah 14:16-21- Motivations to Expand the Kingdom

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Phillips, Moore, QT, JFB, Poole, Clarke, INT, Geneva, Spurgeon, Henry, Calvin, Delitzsch, Barnes, Trapp? 39, 41, 118:15
Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: As we conclude our sermon series on Zechariah, let me remind you of the purpose of this book: God was calling Judah to **repair the temple, restore worship, and ready themselves for the expansion of the kingdom** so others could join them in worship.

In this final sermon **you will hear how God motivated the Jews** to expand the kingdom so more people could join them in worship. **He motivated them to do their work in 3 ways.**

Expansion of worship around the world
Enticement to worship through blessings
Evidence of worship among commoners

Our goals are: **That you will be encouraged to work to expand the kingdom through the preaching of the Gospel so the world might come to worship Jehovah.**

Expansion of Worship around the World

16 And it shall come to pass that **everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles (住棚节).**

1. God would increase the number of true worshippers from foreign countries, even from countries that were enemies of God.

These pagans saw how God destroyed those who came against him and his people, and instead of fighting God, they surrendered. They knew that they could not fight against God and win!

The increasing in the number of worshippers from around the world was a **fulfilling of God's promise.**

Isaiah 66:23 And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath (安息日) to another, **All flesh shall come to worship before Me.** says the LORD.

“Everyone” is hyperbolic (夸张的) language. **It means “most” people; it does not mean every single one.**

2. These new foreign converts would be consistent in their worship, not careless as the Jews were.

a. They would go up (ascend) yearly to worship. So this is not referring to heaven, as no one will be going up “yearly” to heaven. Jerusalem was up on the mountain, so the language fits.

b. They would worship the true God. They would no longer serve Molech or other idols!

c. They would recognize this one true God as the God of justice-the Lord of hosts.

d. They would recognize him as God who was near them.

3. Specifically, these nations would come to celebrate the “Feasts of the Tabernacles.” This was a joyful feasts.

Nehemiah celebrated the Feast of the Tabernacles as a picture of Christ's 1st coming. It was a joyful time!

Nehemiah 8:15 and that they should announce and proclaim in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying, "Go out to the mountain, and **bring olive branches, branches of oil trees, myrtle branches, palm branches, and branches of leafy trees, to make booths,** as it is written." 16 Then the people went out and brought them and **made themselves booths, each one on the roof of his house,** or in their courtyards or the courts of the house of God...

The people in Jesus' day celebrated the Feast of the Tabernacles with joy as Jesus came into Jerusalem.

Matthew 21:8 And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; **others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road.** 9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"

John looked back at the coming of Jesus and the joy he would bring.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and **dwelt among us,** and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Revelation 21:3..."Behold, the tabernacle (帐幕, 会幕) of God is with men, and **He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people.** God Himself will be with them and be their God.

Jesus will continue to be among his people and bring joy to them – people from all parts of the earth.

This language is symbolic of the presence of Jesus among his people -New Jerusalem-the church. The other 2 yearly feasts (Passover 逾越节/Pentecost 五旬节) are missing because they were completed.

Psalms 118:15 The voice of **rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous;** The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.

The Bible confirms that Christians are part of the household of God – the house where God dwells. (Ephesians 2:19)

4. Lessons:

a. It is good to learn from the failure of others. Don't make the same mistake as your fathers. Don't fight against God. Surrender, body and soul. If you father were a pagan (异教徒) and opposed Christ, don't follow him. Hear God's invitation to his house where he will live among you. Don't stay away.

b. Do you love worship? Do you look forward to worship? Do you make the same kind of effort to worship the Lord Jesus for all his wonderful works for you? God feeds you in worship with food that gives you joy.

John 7:2 Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. 37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "**If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.**

c. Is Christ the center of your worship...even as he tabernacles among you today? He should be! Worship must never be man-centered.

Enticement to Worship through blessings

17 And it shall be **that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship** the King, the LORD of hosts, on them **there will be no rain.**

1. God motivated his people to keep evangelizing and worshipping by telling them of the consequences of not doing so: He would withhold their rain!

In the past, when the Jews refused to build the physical temple to worship him, God stopped their physical rain. With no rain there was no food. With no food there was no life!

But "rain" is here used figuratively 比喻地 to picture spiritual blessings-like faithful teaching of sound doctrines. 教义
Hosea 6:3 Let us know, **Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD.** His going forth is established as the morning; **He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.**

So God was saying that **if his people refused to worship and evangelize, they would starve and die.**

18 **If the family of Egypt will not come** up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive **the plague** with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the **Feast of Tabernacles.**

2. But God knew that there would be some who would think they could ignore evangelism and worship and get away with it! So he illustrated his point, using Egypt, that no one could avoid punishment if he ignored evangelism and worship.

Egypt was not as dependent on rain because **they got their water yearly from floods from the Nile,** where all the nutrients would flow from the mountains as natural fertilizer. **But while rain was not as important to them, God would still make them suffer.** He would instead bring plagues on them like the plagues that brought Egypt to its knees during Moses' time.

Psalm 2:8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance (产业) , And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; **You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."**

3. The point: Those who would think they didn't need worship and evangelism would surely be worse off in the end.

Plagues would visit them. On the other hand, those who would upon a regular nourishment of God's Word in the worship services and meet with Christ regularly in his house, would be blessed beyond belief to do the work they were called to do.

4. Lessons:

a. The one who doesn't fear the drought (the lack of God's Word) will tremble before the disease. The one who thinks he knows everything and doesn't need to worship and hear God's Word will be blighted - plagued! **Avoiding Christ and his worship is the most damning sin of the world.** It leads to starving, suffering, and spiritual suicide. Those who reject Jesus and his worship are murderers of their own souls. This is emblematic (象征性的) of North America today.

b. But think of the encouragement to worship...think of the blessings when God's Word is faithfully proclaimed, believed, and lived! Make sure you get a good serving each Lord's Day. Get two servings!

Evidence of Worship Among Commoners

20 In that day "**HOLINESS TO THE LORD**" shall be engraved on the **bells of the horses.** The **pots in the LORD'S house** shall be like the bowls before the altar. (祭坛) 21 Yes, **every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD** of hosts. Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them. In that day **there shall no longer be a Canaanite in the house** of the LORD of hosts.

1. God motivated his people to evangelize and worship him by showing the evidence of common people.

a Because holiness (圣洁) will be everywhere, even the horses' bells would be engraved with "Holiness to the Lord." Before, only the High Priest had this wonderful sign on them. Later, **everything the New Jerusalem church has would be**

considered holy...even the most common thing. Example: These bells on horses were of trifling (微小的) value...not as important as the saddle (马鞍), but they would be considered holy.

b. Because holiness would be everywhere, even the fire pots would be like the special bowls on the holy altar. Before, only the bowls were made of precious material. **The priests used the bowls to catch and pour the sacrificial blood**, but later, even the blackened pots that were placed on the fire would be considered holy.

c. Because holiness would be everywhere, even the Canaanites, who were symbolic of sin, would become holy. Remember the Canaanites were to be totally destroyed because they were so polluted... men, women, and children. But just like God saved the Canaanite, Rahab and her family, so God would save the wickedest, and declare them holy.

Joel 3:17 "So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, And no aliens shall ever pass through her again."

Yes, God would cause even the insignificant things to become holy: ordinary people from ordinary nations would come...the sick...the weak...the poor...the uneducated...male and females...! God would cause former infidels 不信者, 异教徒 and untouchables 遥不可及的人群 to be his holy people.

2. Do you see how this will be a motivation for God's people to evangelize (传教, 传福音)? God showed them that the Gospel would spread and be believed everywhere. The Gospel would have a redemptive (救赎的) effect around the world. Men would bow their hearts in worship.

John 4:21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.

3. Lessons:

a. You were chosen to be holy. Though you may have come from insignificant backgrounds, though you might have been an idol (偶像) worshipper, the Lord chose you and called you to himself.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy** and without blame before Him in love,

b. Are you living up to God's standards in your life? Is your house holy? Are you children holy? Do you treat your wealth as if it really belongs to the Lord? Do you worship the Lord as you ought to? **The fact that God would make his church holy is an incentive (动力, 鼓励) to strive to be holy.** Remember, Divine sovereignty (神的主权) doesn't take away human responsibility.

c. Is your church living up to God's standards in her life? Does your church remove those who are doing wickedly from inside her ranks? Is your church working to cause men to worship God by evangelizing and supporting evangelizing?

Conclusion:

God sent his Son to tabernacle among man in order to live and die for him, restore him into a good relationship with him, and bring him into his church – his household. With that relationship restored and the church established, man can now worship God and he can now **spread the news of the open doors to the family of God** so the world can come and worship the Lord.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Are you playing your part in spreading the kingdom so the world can come to know and worship the Lord? Have you learned the Good News well enough to tell others?

2. There is another way of spreading the kingdom. Let your life be a liturgy 礼拜仪式, a holy service of acted worship. (Moore) When you do this Christ's death will be proclaimed as the sweetest melody!

Finally, if you are not a Christian, you could be the footstool of Jesus, or you could be his friend. You choose! As his friend, there is fullness of joy for eternity 永恒. As his footstool there is eternal regret in hell.