

Archbishop Vining Memorial Church Cathedral, GRA – Ikeja
GATHERING OF THE NOBLES

BIBLE EXPOSITION OUTLINE: Tuesday 11TH February, 2020

DIOCESAN THEME: "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH" - ROMANS 1:17

ZECHARIAH 6

Introduction:

As already noted in the earlier preliminary studies, the book Zechariah is divided into several segments according to focus or events. The first segment covers the first six chapters of which chapter 6 is our focus in this study. In the first segment that we are concluding with the sixth chapter, Zechariah encourages Judah's repentance, receives eight visions from God in one night, and is told how to reward Joshua (Judah's High Priest).

The chapter under study (chapter 6) deals precisely with two issues namely:

1. Jehovah's revelation through the 8th Vision – Vision of the Four Chariots
2. Joshua's reward

In this study of this 6th chapter, we shall focus on-

- i. What Zechariah sees in the eighth (8th) vision and what it symbolizes
- ii. What he is to do to Joshua the High Priest and why he is to do it.
- iii. What lessons God intends for us in the study.

Discussion

A. Zechariah's Eight Vision – Vision of the Four Chariots (6:1-8)

What Zechariah sees in the vision (6:1-3)

Zechariah sees four chariots coming from between two bronze mountains, each pulled by a different team of coloured horses.

What it symbolizes (6:4-8)

- i. Commissions and instructions come from God, the King of all nations- **v.5**
- ii. The four heavenly spirits- four angels from God are assigned to different parts of the world to do God's bidding- **Heb.1:14; Ps.18:10,68:17**
- iii. The presence of chariots suggests battle, and this implies judgment, various ways in which the judgments of God are visited upon His enemies (sinful nations)- **Isa.66:15**
- iv. The red horses symbolize war: the black horses, famine; and the white horses, death- **Ezk.6:12**. The dappled horses symbolize plagues.

The implication of the vision on the (sinful) nations

During the 'Day of the Lord,' God will use wars, famines, plagues, and death to punish the (sinful) nations of the earth- **Joe.2:1-5; Zeph.1:14-18**

Thoughts on Vision, Visioning and Visioning

Despite having had seven (7) visions in one day, Zechariah still disposed himself to receiving more messages from God through visions. Hear him, Then I turned and raised my eyes and looked,..'' **Zech.1:1**. In an era when people argue that vision has ended with the Old Testament prophets and cast doubts on it's operation in the present day Church, we cannot afford to gloss over the point of vision. Zechariah disposed himself to seeing more and hearing more by turning to God, raising up his eyes unto God and looked and behold...

#Discussion:

- i. Where and to whom do we turn? To whom do we lift up our eyes?. And what actually engages our focus?

- ii. If vision died with the Old Testament prophets as some claim, how come it was in operation in the New Testament? **Act.10:3,9**
- iii. Is vision still relevant in today's church?
- iv. What should be the Christian's attitude to God's promises concerning the Day of the Lord (judgment)? **Amo.5:18-24; Zeph.2:3; 2 Pet.3:10-12a**

JOSHUA'S REWARD (6:9-15)

1. What Zechariah is to do (6:9-11)

He is to collect the gifts of gold brought to Jerusalem by four Jewish exiles who arrive from Babylon and make a crown of gold for Joshua the high priest, setting it upon his head.

2. Why Zechariah is to do it (6:12-15):

- 1. By this action the high priest represents the future reign of the Messiah over Israel (**6:12-13**)
- 2. By this same action the four exiles represent the future return of the Jews to Israel (**6:14-15**)

3. Message of hope for the future (Zechariah 6:9-11)

- Following the vision of judgment against nations was a message for the future as well.
- During the "Day of the Lord," the nations would be punished for their sins, but Israel would be delivered. At the climax of that day, Messiah would return, the Jews would see Him and trust Him, and the nation would be cleansed. Then Messiah would be crowned as King-Priest to reign over His righteous kingdom (**Zech 9-14**).
- It is important to note that after the coronation of Joshua, Zechariah took the crown from off Joshua's head and gave him his priestly **mitre (3:5)**. Why? Because the symbolic act was over and the crown did not belong to Joshua. It belonged to the coming Messiah.
- Zechariah placed the crown somewhere in the temple as a memorial (reminder) of the Lord's promise of a King-Priest who would bring peace and holiness to His people.
- God will be faithful to His promises even if His people are unfaithful (**2 Tim 2:12-13**), but they will miss out on the blessings.
- He didn't put any conditions on the wonderful promise of a future King-Priest, but **Zech.6:15** seems to limit God's working to the obedience of His people.

#Discussion:

- 1. What does the message of future hope treated above imply about the Biblical concept of "remnants"? **Ezr.9:14-15; Rom.11:1-5**
- 2. Could **Verse 15** imply anything about our (Christian's) capacity to frustrate the purpose of God for our life?

Conclusion:

God's nature of compassion restrains Him from totally destroying man in His justifiable anger. He found Noah and his household worthy of preservation as remnant that would escape the flood; Elijah thought he was the only man standing and his death could mean an end to God's righteousness, but alas, God had reserved 7,000 remnants that would escape the immanent destruction looming on the sinful Israel. Zechariah's encounter of God did not end with the vision of judgment, but had with it message of hope. Sin is a breach, but our genuine repentance and firm resolve to walk in step with Him can get us numbered among the remnants that are reserved from judgment, fury and condemnation that attends the "Day of the Lord".

Memory Verse: 'Where there is no vision, the people perish'... Pro.29:18