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**Zechariah’s Joy:**

**Trusting God in Days of Pain # 9, ‘The Four Chariots’**

**May 7th, 2017**

**Text: Zech. 6:1-8, 12-14**

Keith M. Doyle, Lead Pastor – Winnetka Bible Church

**I. Intro:**

1. **Context:** **How are we to read the promises given to Israel? (4 ways)**

* They are for national Israel (c/f Zech. 8:13)
* There is still a future for repentant ‘Israel’ (c/f Rom.11)
* Through Christ Gentiles become partners in the promises (c/f Eph. 2:12; Gal. 3:29)
* Many of these promises are ‘layered’…partly fulfilled in Zechariah’s time

1. **Setting**

* Zechariah = ***‘one whom the Lord remembers’***
* **Two main sections:**
  + Chap.1-8 – **God will intervene! Trust His Promises!**
  + Chap. 9-14 – **Messiah (Jesus) is the center of God’s intervention plan!**

1. **Summary Theme:**

* ***It is an encouragement to God’s discouraged and frightened people to pursue Him, because He will keep ALL His covenant promises (despite current circumstances) – most important of which is sending His Messiah!***
* 8 ‘Night Visions’…summary. Continuity of 1st and last vision
* **Illus.** Luke 20:9-18, **‘Parable of the wicked tenants’**

***Q. Will God really avenge all His enemies?***

**II. The Message (1:1-5; 11-14 *‘…four chariots came out from between two mountains…’*1,1-8)**

1. **The Vision Described (1-3)**

* ***‘Again I lifted my eyes and saw…’*** (1)
* Compared to the 1st vision – ‘ease’ now becomes ‘judgment’
* 4 chariots, 2 bronze mountains, colored horses (red, black, white, dappled - all ***‘strong’,*** 3) – these were all power images from Assyrian/Babylonian empires
* Two thoughts on the chariots, ***‘The Lord judges’***, (c/f Zech. 14:4)

1. **The Vision Explained (4-6)**

* Comforting angel, Zechariah is not afraid to ask questions (4)
* ***‘Four winds of heaven’ =*** 4 directions of the compass; God will exercise his rule over the whole earth and He will reign in strength and power
* ***‘To the north country’* =** Babylon, two of the horses focused on the north…(whole earth)

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* ***‘Go patrol the earth’* =** God had fulfilled his will, accomplished his word and quieted his Spirit. The Lord is well-pleased for his righteousness’ sake…
* **Summary:** God will exercise His rightful rule over all the earth…and it will have its intended affect – God’s spirit will ‘rest’ in the most hostile place! But How?

1. **Gospel: God’s Priest-King Champion, *‘the Branch’* (6:12-14)**

* Zechariah describes a most unusual scene – ***‘The Branch’*** will do 3 things:
  + He will build the temple (12)
  + He will carry a royal office of a King (ruling on a throne, 13)
  + His reach will be ‘expansive’ and He will rule from a throne (13)
  + **Apply:** Crown(s) 11 - An unusual throne-sitting Priest? Harmonizing the offices…(‘***a counsel of peace shall be between them both’***)
* Wrong expectations of Messiah…many misunderstood
* God reigns and will conquer God’s enemies (c/f Isa. 52:7***, ‘Good News’***)
* How the Romans viewed ‘Good News’
* **Apply:** In His death and resurrection ‘the Branch’ dealt the death blow
* To Satan and Sin (c/f Col. 2:15; 2 Cor. 2:14;1 Cor. 15:24-26); His final triumph

**III. The Meaning (7, 8)**

1. **The Reality of God’s judgment should terrify those who don’t know Him**

* His final triumph (c/f Rev.6:1-8); At Jesus second coming He will fully fulfill Zechariah’s vision
* These will be ‘dispatched’ by the Lamb to destroy all God’s enemies

1. **The Reality of God’s judgment brings the warning of no escape**

* North, south, east and west – nothing is too hard for God, no one escapes God
* ***‘The day of the Lord will come like a thief…exposed***…’(c/f 2 Pet. 3:1-10)

1. **The Reality of God’s judgement should be a great comfort to His people (2 Thes.1:5-10)**

* Assyria and Babylon - God will ‘judge’ the ones who judged (1st vision, Zech. 1:15, ***‘ease’*** and ***‘furthered’***)
* God as the Divine Warrior…and He and His Champion are on your side! (Ps.104:1-3)
* Bronze pillars in the temple (1 Kgs. 7:13-22); leading to the temple of the Lord
* **Apply:** Why did this seem so crazy? And crazy to us?

1. **Gospel:** God (judged) atoned for His peoples sins on Jesus’ cross

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* ***‘Go patrol the earth’* =** God had fulfilled his will, accomplished his word and quieted his Spirit. The Lord is well-pleased for his righteousness’ sake…
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