

THE LOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF ZECHARIAH'S EIGHT NIGHT VISIONS - Zech. 1-6

- I. The first five visions are prophecies of Hope and Glory for God's people. They speak of restoration and enlargement of the physical and spiritual aspects. These promises are yet to be fulfilled in their exhaustive sense when Jehovah once again will have mercy on Zion and "choose" Israel.
1. The first three of these visions are meant to convey the "good and comfortable word" (1:13) which assure Israel that God has not forsaken nor cast off His people Israel.
 - a. THE MAN AMONG THE MYRTLES (1:7-17) - This vision was meant to show by contrast that political peace and rest will soon come to Israel as it had with the surrounding nations (encouragement to build the Temple).
 - b. THE FOUR HORNS AND FOUR CARPENTERS (1:18-21) - Fulfilling the promise to Abraham (Gen. 12:3) this vision showed that those nations who opposed God's people will be destroyed. (No opposition to building)
 - c. THE MEASURING LINE (2:1-13) - Jerusalem will multiply and become a great city. (When the Temple is built)
 2. However there remains the moral problem. It was because of sin that Israel was exiled in the first place. If sin was not dealt with, this situation would inevitably be repeated and God could not dwell among His people. The next two visions present the solution to this moral problem.
 - a. THE HIGH PRIEST (3:1-10) - Joshua, the High Priest, stands before the angel of the Lord to represent the sinful nation as on the Day of Atonement. God promised to remove iniquity in "one day," at Calvary. Sin will be dealt with by God's servant The Branch who is the Messiah, Jesus Christ.
 - b. THE CANDLESTICK AND THE OLIVE TREES (4:1-14) - This vision represents Israel as the light (Candlestick) of God's revelation to the world and the work of the Lord set before them (to build the Temple as a witness to that light) is to be done through the power of God's Spirit (4:6).
- II. God has two methods of dealing with sin. Grace, as seen in chapter three, in which Jesus Christ, The Branch of the Lord, will give his life a ransom for many but for those who resist God's grace, God will deal with severe judgment. This is the subject of the next two visions.
- * 1. THE FLYING ROLL (5:1-4) - This vision represents the swift judgment and curse that will be upon those who trespass God's law.
 2. THE WOMAN AND THE EPHAH (a unit of measure like a bushel) (5:5-11) - Israel had been contaminated by her captivity in Babylon, the source of idolatry and other foul sins against God. Babylon has become symbolic of all that is evil. Thus the transfer of the ephah and the woman (representing wickedness - 8) represents that Palestine will be purged of her iniquity. (See Revelation 17-18)
- III THE FOUR CHARIOTS (6:1-8) - The final vision is a dramatic display of God's divine vengeance on the gentile world power preparing the way for the Kingdom of the Messiah (the Millennium) which will never be destroyed.
- * The design of this is to show that a curse will fall upon the people if they continue in sin, and two representative sins are named: theft, or sin against one another; and swearing, or sin against the name of God. - Scroggie