

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

August 8, 2021

Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!

Prelude

Worship Theme

God is the Creator

John 1:1-3: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross

Ps. 95:3-7a

+We Adore Him

Insert, "Creation Sings"

We Confess Our Sin

O God, You who choose to live in hearts that long for Your presence and humbly seek Your will: we come to You to confess that we have sinned against You this week. In thought, word, and deed, we have many times been unfaithful to You. We have not always longed for Your presence, nor have we wholeheartedly sought Your will. We freely admit that we are not worthy to inherit eternal life.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed of our behavior, and we are sorry for transgressing your Law. Teach us to hate our sins, and give us strength to turn from them. Give us the grace to trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. Deliver us from all our sin. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Insert, "See the Destined Day Arise"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

Acts 4:23-24

We Give Him Our Offering and Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Insert, "I Run to Christ"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship Ps. 119:161-168

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Insert, "Golden Harps Are Sounding"

God Blesses us in the Benediction

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

An Expose of Persecution
Zechariah 12-13:1
Study Notes for August 8, 2021

I. Introduction

Tribulation vs. and Persecution (cf. Jn. 16:33 & Jn. 15:20b; 2 Tim. 3:12; Jn. 16:2b-3)

The Book of Zechariah

- The First Section consisting of 8 Visions (Zech. 1-6) was written to encourage God's people struggling with the "pressures"/"tribulations" of this life!
- The Center Section consisting of 2 Sermons (Zech. 7-8) was given to keep God's people from lapsing into a relationship of works-righteousness when it came to the Lord. God's people were and are blessed NOT because anything they do, BUT because the Lord set His love upon us when we were yet sinner!
- The Last Section consists of 2 Prophetic Discourses pertaining to the near/distant future (Zech. 9-14). The first section (Zech. 9-11) concerns itself with various judgments against the enemies of God's people and the promise of God's enabling grace for His people. With the second section (Zech. 12-14), the focus shifts to God's people's response to this persecution and so their encouragement in the Lord.

The Final Part (Zech. 12-14) of the Last Section (Zech. 9-14) through word and theme repetition creates the feeling of intensification.

Joyce Baldwin wrote, "A glance at the [the outline of this section] will show that the themes dealt with in chapters 9-11 recur in chapters 12-14, but with increasing intensity as they progress towards 'that day'." (*Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi*, TOTC, p. 202)

II. An Expose on Persecution, Zech. 12-13.1.

A. The Reality of Persecution, Zech. 12:1-2.

The whole of this section concerns itself with a brutal time of persecution against God's people, specifically "Jerusalem." (cf. also v. 3b & 9)...

Are we to take Jerusalem" literally or figurately (in reference to the church)?

If literal, then we expect that on the last day Jerusalem will be attacked by men on horses (cf. v. 4)!

Because of this and more, most take the reference to "Jerusalem" in reference to "the genuine people of God"- as in Gal. 4:25 & Heb. 12:22-23a (and Zech. 2:2, 4; 8:3, 4, 8, 22)...

As we move closer to the time of Christ's return, the world is going to become increasingly hostile toward the body of Christ! Yet we ought not to be alarmed! For notice how God prefaces this section in Zech. 12:1 (cf. Ps. 2:1-4; Acts 4:24b-28)...

B. The Curse Involved in Persecution, Zech. 12:2-9.

What is reaped when the nonChristian attacks us on account of Christ?

A Cup of Reeling, Zech. 12:2 (cf. Is. 51:17b)

A Heavy Stone, Zech. 12:3

A Calvary Charge Abated, Zech. 12:4

What an incredible reversal! In Scripture the more you beat a Christian, the better he will smell (cf. Rom. 5:3-5; Jam. 1:2-3; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; Rev. 3:8-11). So in the end, persecution ultimately cannot hurt the Christian. But not so for the nonChristian! Like all sin, their attack against Christ and the Christian will leave them ultimately reeling/shaking!

***Point**

1. Such is what eventually occurs in the lives of those who actively endeavor to attack or kill Christians! Their passion reflects a depth of depravity which if not removed will destroy the persecutor themselves!

The Example of Satan

2. Yet, whatever persecution we might encounter as a Christian ultimately will not harm us. Our life remains safe in Christ (Zech. 12:8-9)...

C. The Blessing the Comes from Persecution, Zech. 12:10-13:1.

1. The Outpouring of the Spirit, Zech. 12:10-14.

A Reference to Pentecost, Acts 2:15-21!

Two Consequent Results

“Grace and Supplication”

- The “and” is epexegetical and so could be translated as “that is” - “I will pour out the Spirit of grace, *that is* the Spirit of supplication...”
- The word for “supplication” has “grace” at its root and so speaks of a fervent longing for God’s grace, mercy, help, aid, and the like.

“Mourning”

Its Depth

The loss of an only son!

Its Breadth (vv. 11-14)

The Mourning of [at] Hadadrimmon (v. 11; cf. 2 Chron. 35:24-25)

The Mourning of the Entire Nation (vv. 12-14)

2. A Fountain Enjoyed, Zech. 13:1.

Another referencing of Jer. 2:13...

Akin to the Living Example God gave in Hosea 3...

Does God do this outside of persecution? Most certainly! Yet here we learn that Persecution has that glorious element which lets us see the world for what it really is (empty, worthless, sinful), ourselves for what we really are (weak, vulnerable, temporal, and sinful), and God for who He is (our light, life, refuge, support, and salvation)!

It is as the words of William Cowper, “Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds ye so much dread are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head.” (*Red Trinity Hymnal* #128)