

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: August 6, 2023

Spring/Summer Series: The Minor Prophets

Text: Zechariah: "Yahweh has remembered" (ze-kar-yah; זָכַרְיָה)

*This theme dominates the whole book: Israel will be blessed because Yahweh remembers the covenants He made with their forefathers (Abraham & David).*

### **THE CROWNING OF JOSHUA (6:9-15)**

Abruptly, Zechariah is commanded to deliver a message to him [Joshua]: "Here is the man whose name is the Branch." The word Branch is a Messianic title used numerous times (Isa. 11:1-5; 53:2; Jer. 23:5-6; 33:15-16; Ezek. 17:22; Zech. 3:8; 6:12). It is a messianic title related to the "shoot" & "Branch" (Isa. 11:1; 53:2) descended from David.

### **Four Explanatory Messages (chs. 7-8)**

#### **1. Questions by the people (7:1-3)**

A delegation from Bethel arrived in Jerusalem to seek counsel fr. priests & prophets concerning fasting. They asked whether the annual fast commemorating the destruction of Solomon's Temple should be cont'd. since a rebuilt Temple was well on its way toward completion. Apparently, people were growing weary of keeping this fast, along with others they had instituted while in Babylon. These fasts had become burdensome rituals devoid of spiritual significance.

In chaps. 7 & 8, God addresses the delegation's question on fasting. Zechariah presented His message in four messages that told the Bethel delegation what it needed to hear, not what it expected to hear. Each message was introduced with a form of the phrase "the word of the LORD Almighty came to me" (7:4, 8; 8:1, 18).

#### **2. Answers by the prophet (7:4-8:23): Four Explanatory Messages.**

A direct answer was not given until the fourth message (8:18-19).

A. \_\_\_\_\_ - for feasting, not fasting (7:4-7)

B. \_\_\_\_\_ - the cause of the captivity (7:8-14)

It focused on the conduct of the earlier gener. that resulted in Exile.

In chap. 8 we have 10 promises, each beginning with "This is what the LORD (Almighty) says" (vss. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 14, 18, 20, 23).

**BKC - F. Duane Lindsey**

"As chapt. 7 resembles the call to repentance in 1:2-6, so chapt. 8 reflects the promised blessings pictured throughout the night visions (1:7-6:8). Thus, the 3rd (8:1-18) & 4<sup>th</sup> (8:19-23) messages view the restoration from Exile in Zechariah's day as a precursor of future blessing and prosperity in the Millennial Age. They also place emphasis on that future time when righteousness, justice, and peace will fill the earth."

**David M. Levi**

"In chapter 8, Zechariah turned from God's past discipline to bring the remnant a new message of hope. He focused on the Millennial Kingdom when Israel will experience restoration, renewal, peace, & prosperity. In that day, Israel's fasting will be replaced with joyful feasting. The phrase 'The LORD of Hosts' (used 18 times in this chapter) reassured Israel that God will fulfill His Kingdom promises."

- C. \_\_\_\_\_ - I will return to save (8:1-17)
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ - Many will seek the Lord (8:18-23)