Sermon Notes for June 14, 2015

Visions of Hope
Zechariah 1:7 – 2:13

Introduction

In chapters 1-6, Zechariah has 8 visions – all in a single night.

- The date is February 15, 519 B.C.
- They are called “The Night Visions”.
- They were given to encourage the people and fill them with hope.
- They are written in a chiastic order.
  - Visions 1 and 8 show God’s sovereignty over the nations.
  - Visions 2-3 show that God will punish Israel’s enemies and restore them as a nation.
  - Visions 4-5 are about the Messiah as priest and King.
  - Visions 6-7 show that lawbreakers will be removed and sin will be purged from Israel.

I. God is sovereign over the nations. Zechariah 1:7-17

Zechariah sees a secret rendezvous.

He saw a man on a red horse standing among the myrtle trees. He is the angel of the Lord.

The other riders are angels who have gone on a scouting missions to the ends of the earth.

They report to their commander that the world is at peace.

The Lord’s reply was two-fold;

- “I am very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion.”
- “I am very angry with the nations that feel secure.”

The Lord continues:

- “I will return to Jerusalem with mercy.”
- “The measuring line will be stretched over Jerusalem.”
- “My towns will overflow with prosperity.”

It was the Lord fulfilling his promise. Return to me and I will return to you.

At the lowest point of our lives God comes to us.

II. God will judge the nations for how they have treated Israel. Zechariah 1:18-20
Horns represent power and military might.
The four horns are those nations that scattered Israel, Judah and Jerusalem.
The same concern God had for Israel, he has for his church today.

“How long, sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” Revelation 6:10

The four craftsmen are the nations that God raises up to defeat his enemies – until ultimately the Messiah comes to establish his kingdom on earth.

All of this goes back to the promise made to Abram in Genesis 12:2-3.

“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

III. God watches over his people. Zechariah 2:1-13

Zechariah’s third vision is of a man with a measuring line.
The angel tells him, Jerusalem will be a city without walls.
The Lord says, “I will be a wall of fire around it. And I will be its glory within.”

God gives an invitation to his people.

- “Come, O Zion.”
- “Shout and be glad.”
- “Be still before the Lord.”

The invitation is still there. Come out of Babylon and return to the Lord.

Conclusion

The God who watched over a small group of refugees in 519 B.C. is the same God who watches over you and me.

Whatever challenges you may be facing, God is greater still.