

NOT FORGOTTEN

Intro – license plate identity

Opening:

Zechariah is one of those books most Christians haven't completely read, but it contains some of the most notable quotes of the entire Bible.

Here's a couple of them:

9-10 “Shout and cheer, Daughter Zion! Raise the roof, Daughter Jerusalem!
Your king is coming! a good king who makes all things right, a humble king riding a donkey,
a mere colt of a donkey. (Psalm 118:24 *This is the Day*)

4:6 ... It is not by might or by power but by my Spirit, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

No other Old Testament book gives more information about Jesus Christ:

- His humble appearance and humanity,
- His rejection and suffering,
- His betrayal for thirty pieces of silver,
- His priesthood and kingship,
- His glorious second return to earth
- His ultimate victory and reign

Author Muriel Anderson credits four words with launching her career as a writer: *Of course you can!* “I was fortunate to have a father,” she says, “who was good at shouting; *Of course you can* the right moments.”

This is the message of Zechariah –

In the book of Ezra we saw the Jewish exiles had begun rebuilding the temple but they gave up in discouragement.

The project was abandoned for years until Haggai and Zechariah came preaching, *Of Course you can rebuild this temple!*

Zechariah's name means, The LORD has remembered ... How interesting since He was called to do that bring that very message to his nation!

Preaching to a people who had lost sight of who they were – mostly because they had also lost sight of God

LOOKING OUT FOR #1

The people saw the task of rebuilding Jerusalem as unreachable ...they withdrew into a protective shell –fearful and frustrated

They isolated themselves from each other ... instead of supporting and encouraging one another they pulled away leaving themselves even more open to attack.

☆ Sue Cerruto's writing in this week's Good Morning

WORK TO BE DONE:

Discouraged people tend to forget God's promises ... What did God promise?

- The city of Jerusalem, which lay in ruins, would be rebuilt
- The temple that had been leveled would be rebuilt

Isaiah 6:4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins, repairing cities destroyed long ago.
They will revive them, though they have been deserted for many generations.

The walls had already been rebuilt by Nehemiah but rest of the work had been abandoned for generations

IDENTITY CRISIS

Zachariah had to deal with more than just a rebuilding project; he had to find a way to restore an national identity crisis!

The Jewish exiles had been abused, kicked around and mocked by their captives for generations.

They'd lost their connection to their past - to their great heritage

People like Abraham, Moses, Samuel, David and Isaiah

When people lose sight of their past – they put their future at risk

REFOCUSED FAITH

QUESTION ... How do people lost their faith get it back again?

It begins with the understanding, that your identity is connected to God

Max Lucado writes: “With God in your world you are no accident or an incident; you are a gift to the world, a divine work of art signed by God. ...We are created in His image to do good deeds. We are significant not because of what we do but because of who we are.”

AMERICA'S ROAD OF LOST IDENTITY ...

These are troubling, frightening and discouraging times and America is showing signs of losing its national identity **“One Nation under God”**

The roots that tie us to God are being methodically cut away bit by bit

A tree without roots is like a ship without an anchor- it drifts with every changing wind or current

There are no absolutes ... What seems to be right ... must be right

- Save the trees but kill the children
- Five police officers assassinated in Dallas – comments: its justice pay back for past abuses
- Why should I have to work hard –I deserve it - it should be given to me
- Your personal convictions and religious beliefs aren't as important as my civil rights!

GOD USED ZECHARIAH TO REINVIGORATE THE IMAGINATION OF HIS PEOPLE BY VISIONS AND MESSAGES

1. **The Visions** were about a sovereign God who cares for His people –reminding them *they were not worthless or useless and absolutely not forgotten!*
2. **The Messages** - energized them regarding God's plan for them and the coming Messiah

They had a major role to play in God's plan in bringing about His promise to rebuild the city and temple

- Rebuild the temple Jesus would enter and teach in
- Rebuild the city of Jerusalem on whose streets, Jesus riding on a donkey would be hailed as Messiah with people cutting palm branches and shouting Hosanna – *Save Now*

Not only did God intend to keep His promise – He intended to use them to do it!

When a person gains that kind of perspective it changes everything.

1. You're not a mistake, an insignificant pawn
2. You are here for a reason – and even though you may have for a time lost your focus –
3. God has not forgotten you – He wants you to understand you're part of His plan.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

This week I experienced what I can only call extreme fatigue I suddenly felt overwhelmed – I was in the middle of another task when it hit me –

I cried out to God – I can't do this anymore – I can't handle this anymore

I turned on my car radio to hear these words: *Moses was overwhelmed and cried out to God,*

I can't do this anymore! [Number 11:14](#) so God answered by providing helpers for him 70 of them

The speaker went on to say ... *What if God delights in helping His Children? What if He is seeking ways to do just that?*

Vision of the Lampstand and Two Olive Trees

In Chapter 4 Zachariah has a vision of a Lampstand



Then the angel who had been talking with me returned and woke me, as though I asleep. ²“What do you see now?” he asked.

“I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl of oil on top of it. Around the bowl are seven lamps, each having seven spouts with wicks. ³ And I see two olive trees, one on each side of the bowl.”

⁴ Then I asked the angel, “What are these, my lord? What do they mean?”

⁵ “Don’t you know?” the angel asked. “No, my lord,” I replied.

⁶ Then he said to me, “This is what the LORD says to Zerubbabel: It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. ⁷ Nothing, not even a mighty mountain, will stand in Zerubbabel’s way; it will become a level plain before him! And when Zerubbabel sets the final stone of the Temple in place, the people will shout: ‘May God bless it! May God bless it!’”

Not by will power or by strength will it be accomplished but by God’s Spirit

Why do we always look at the mountain instead of the Lord?

Lyrics by Casting Crowns – ***Just Be Held***

So when you're on your knees and answers seem so far away / You're not alone, stop holding on and just be held / Your world's not falling apart, it's falling into place / I'm on the throne, stop holding on and just be held

Daily Bread “Something I Should Know?” by David McCasland

During a concert, singer-songwriter David Wilcox responded to a question from the audience about how he composes songs. He said there are three aspects to his process: a quiet room, an empty page, and the question, “Is there something I should know?” It struck me as a wonderful approach of followers of Jesus as we seek the Lord’s plan for our lives each day.

God is going to whisper your name - when he does be ready with the question, Is there something I should know?

Take a moment right now to pray and listen