

#48

12/29/18

# The Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord

Zechariah 10-14; Malachi

(add 7-8)

GT

When Israel returned from exile, their hopes were high:

Return, rebuild temple, all of promises would come true, blessed days

Instead, poverty, corruption, drought, oppression (Daniel 8-12)  
Malachi: 100 yrs. after exile  
490 years instead of 70

6 disputes: ① God loves his people → proof: he chose Jacob over Esau  
God is faithful, Israel's doubt is exposed

② Israel despises the temple → proof: they bring diseased & blemished animals  
the priests themselves participate in disrespectful worship

③ Israelite men have a pattern of adultery, divorce, & idolatry → proof:  
divorcing their ~~own~~ wives to chase non-Jewish women & worship their gods

④ God neglects us! → reply: God will send a messenger to purify  
his people (Malachi = "my messenger") and the purified remnant  
will receive his blessings

⑤ Turn back to me! → means: pay tithes and offerings to fund the temple  
blessings of peace and abundance if they will do it Lev. 27:30

⑥ pointless to serve God! → reply: a story about those who fear God &  
wicked people succeed  
choose to remember him. They are given the gift of the scripture

conclusion:

picks up day of the Lord from 4<sup>th</sup> dispute → this day will be wonderful for  
the righteous

summary of Torah and prophets - remember the Torah - I will send Elijah before that  
day, to heal their hearts (Deut 30 Jer 31 Ez. 36)

## Zechariah

People:

Are the 70 years almost up? the promises don't seem to be coming true.

→ response: don't be like past generations. repent & be forgiven

chiasmic collection of visions about exile & punishment

question again → is God's kingdom coming now?

Zechariah turns question around. Are you going to become the people ready to live

in God's kingdom? ch. 7-8

We are invited to decide whether we are the people who will live in  
God's kingdom.

## Zechariah 9-14 2 visions

① Messianic King rides into New  
Jerusalem: he's humble (on a  
donkey), righteous, & powerful  
BUT Israel rejects him, their  
shepherd, and wicked shepherds  
turn the people away

② vision of justice to nations,  
repentance of Israel for having  
rejected their king, and life flowing  
from temple.

Zechariah 10: Yshweh is whom you should pray to for rain.  
He will support Judah and punish the nations that threaten her

11: Zechariah engages in theater (remember Ezekiel?)

He hires out as a shepherd. He has two crooks (sticks) called Favor and Unity  
He fires some other shepherds, but then tells the owners of the sheep that he won't watch over them any more, and he breaks the sticks

He hires out again, but doesn't do his job well, and then describes the state of the sheep.

12: Jerusalem will be a sought-after prize, but God will protect it  
He will fill the Jews with mercy and remorse

13: There will be a purifying fountain

Prophets shall be ashamed of their visions

(unclear whether this is referring only to idolatrous prophets, but it seems pretty sure that it is talking at least about them)

"What are these wounds in thine hands?"

The land/people will be purified like gold & silver

14: The city will be taken and looted

Half the people will be carried off

Yshweh will fight for Judah as in times past

He will stand on the Mount of Olives, it will split in two, and the people will escape through the middle

No darkness at night

River will flow from Jerusalem

Land will be leveled

All nations will observe the yearly Festival of Shelters or be stricken with disease

Everything in Jerusalem from cooking pots to horse bells will be dedicated to God.

There will be no merchants in the temple.