

God's Optician

Getting our vision corrected in Zechariah 1-6



1:7-21 – When God seems to have forgotten you

- The nations are prospering. Israel isn't. Has God forgotten?
- 8 visions show God's care & plan for his people and the nations
- Visions – don't look for significance in every detail, get the big picture

1. God has not abandoned his people – v7-17

a) Christ encourages us by being present with his people

- The Messengers – God is omniscient: he knows all that is going on
- The Angel of the Lord = Lord Jesus Christ – God is present
- In the midst of trials God is closer than we realise

b) Christ encourages us by praying for his people's welfare

- World at peace – but not God's peace. God's people in weakness
- Peace/blessing doesn't mean God is satisfied.
- Angel of the Lord pleads with God for the welfare of his people.
- Christ at this moment is pleading for his people –Heb 7:25

c) Christ encourages us by promising his people blessing

i) Powerful love - "I am very jealous for Jerusalem."

- God affirms his passionate love for his people. The picture is of God as a husband fighting for his own wife.
- God is not indifferent when He delays His aid

ii) Forceful anger - "I am very angry with the nations..."

- God had used the nations to punish Israel, but they had gone too far
- God reassures the people that his anger is directed elsewhere
- Sometimes difficulties are result of other's sin, not God's displeasure

iii) Future blessing – "I will return to Jerusalem with mercy..."

- God promises overflowing blessing and prosperity
- Not just about Israel, ultimate fulfilment in Christ and his kingdom
- God is not going to leave it small and shabby looking

2. No opposition can withstand God's plans – v18-21

- We are small – how can blessing and growth come about?
- The horns – Oppression and opposition on every side
- The craftsmen (blacksmiths) – God is able to disarm every power
- Opposition is to be expected. We cannot prevail in our own strength, we are forced to rely on God alone.

When we find ourselves in circumstances where God seems to have forgotten us, outward appearances aren't a good indicator. We need to remind ourselves of the realities Zechariah saw.

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