The Messiah in Zechariah

Assignment 7-1 for BI5533 Old Testament History

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The messianic prophesies of Zechariah is part of the Minor Prophets sometimes called The Twelve. The book specifically deals very closely with Haggai because “Haggai’s primary purpose was to rebuild the temple; his preaching has a tone of rebuke for the people’s indifference, sin, and lack of trust in God. He was used to start the revival, while Zechariah was used to keep it strong with a more positive emphasis, calling the people to repentance and reassuring them regarding future blessings.”[[1]](#footnote-1)The future blessing that Zechariah is talking about is the promised Messiah that would one day inhabit that temple.

Zechariah can be split into two main portions which include section one being chapters 1-8 and section 2 being chapters 9-14.[[2]](#footnote-2) Section one deals with historical situations that are linked to Haggai and section two goes into future situations of the coming messiah. We see mainly in the first section of Zechariah messianic associations like the word “branch” and “stone”. In Zechariah 3:9 we see a clear indication of the coming messiah when it says “I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day.” This section also mentions the roles of the priest and the king combining which we see through Jesus Christ.

Zechariah continues to allude to the coming messiah following into the second section of the book. In chapter 9 is when we see a humble king riding on a donkey which points directly to a section in the NT with Jesus Christ. Jesus comes down as an infant to be that humble king that Zechariah is talking about. Jesus came down not to enslave and rule over people but instead He came down to be a guide to us. Much more than just being our guide He was our sacrificial spotless lamb that laid His life down for us which is prophesied here in Zechariah 9:11 when it talks about “the blood of my covenant.” We see in Zechariah the coming king who ushers in salvation and restores Gods people to Him. I want to say the bulk of the messianic prophecies come in the later half of Zechariah but I do not want that statement to overshadow the importance of the first half of the book especially because we do see areas that allude to Christ in it as well.

Zechariah moves into talking more about the coming messiah and the salvation that he brings in the next few chapters. The main prophecy that we have not gotten to yet is one that comes in chapter 14 and deals with a coming king that is conquering when it says “For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle.”[[3]](#footnote-3) This other prophecy that we see deals with Jesus even though it does not seem like it and some may even think Zechariah is talking about two different messiahs because this new king is more of a warrior instead of a humble king. The new king is Jesus though and we know this because in His second coming during final judgment He is described in similar manner in the book of Revelations. Zechariah describes God reigning supreme over all the repentant and believing nations of the earth. Zechariah’s prophecy come in multiple parts all describing the same messiah, part of it has been filled through Jesus as the humble king in His first coming and the other part we are currently waiting on which is Jesus coming back to reign supreme over the earth.

The main purpose of this book is to continue spurring the nation of Israel on but it is also for us to have even more assurance in the things we have been given later in the NT. Reading through The World and The Word I noticed 7 theological principles pointed out including “(1) the disobedience of Israel, (2) the judgment of Israel, (3) the restoration of Israel, (4) the judgment of the nations, (5) the salvation of the nations, (6) the coming Messiah, and (7) the sovereignty of the Lord.”[[4]](#footnote-4) I felt it necessary to point out the theological principles of this passage because I have been taking a hermeneutics class as well and learned the importance of them in a passage, which include application of a passage. I feel it important not only to look at a passage for what is happening in it but also what can I take from this passage and bridge into my life which I have been trying to do more of every week. One of the main things I will take away from this book is almost perfectly described in The World and The Word “The promises of the Lord are sure, and what He has begun in world redemption He will bring to ultimate and magnificent conclusion.” The previous quote sums up my thoughts exactly after studying this book and I still find it amazing that Gods Word is so living and active that it was able to reach people back in OT times and us today.

Bibliography

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1. The MacArthur Study Bible, English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The King In His Beauty, Thomas R. Schreiner (Grand Rapids MI: Baker Academic, 2013) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The MacArthur Study Bible, English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The World and The Word, Eugene H. Merrill, Mark E Rooker and Michael A. Grisanti (Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2011) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)