

# Prophetic Fall Feasts of The LORD

Feb. 13, 2019 Lesson #6: Zerubbabel & Joshua

Isa. 44:28 That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

Israel's sin had resulted in 70 years of captivity. Their rebellion against the law of God had separated them from the land, city and temple that God had promised as a reward for their obedience. They were no longer a people. They were slaves, captives.

But in God's perfect timing He raised up Zerubbabel, commissioned by King Cyrus, as the conquering hero to lead them back to the Promised Land; their heritage as God's people.

## Zerubbabel Led The Return Of The 1<sup>st</sup> Group of The Remnant To Jerusalem

Remember: The city is in ruins, walls and gates broken down, houses & temple burned

Note: We have the ruler role [Zerubbabel] and the priestly role [Joshua] as types of Jesus Christ who is our King and High Priest.

### 1. Zerubbabel & Joshua Led The Remnant To Build The Altar:

Ezra 3:1-7 And when the seventh month was come [Tishri 1 Feast of Trumpets; New Moon], and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem.<sup>2</sup> Then stood up Joshua, high priest,... and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and Builded The Altar Of The God Of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God.

- Joshua, the high priest, restored the altar so he could offer sacrifices for the people.
- The people were afraid of the strong nations around them who resented the return of the Jews. They wanted to be sure they were pleasing to the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>...and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto the LORD, even burnt offerings morning and evening. [Altar = God's presence & protection; seek God's guidance; rededicate to obedience; built the altar at original site in the midst of the ruins; restore worship of God]

<sup>4</sup>And afterward offered the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons, and of all the set feasts of the LORD that were consecrated, and of everyone that willingly offered a freewill offering unto the LORD. From the first day of the seventh month began they to offer burnt offerings unto the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not yet laid.

### 2. Zerubbabel Led In Rebuilding the Temple: Laying The Foundation [2<sup>nd</sup> Year; 2<sup>nd</sup> Month]

The first priority of Zerubbabel's mission was to rebuild the temple that had been demolished and burned to the ground. [Ezra 3:8; 5:2; Hag. 1:1-11]. God's holiness dwelled in the temple, sin was atoned for in the temple, and men met with God in the temple.

Ezra 3:11 And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endures forever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout [#8643 Teruah = shout of joy], when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

However, the foundation showed the new temple would be much smaller than Solomon's original.

Ezra 3:12-13 But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted [teruah] aloud for joy:

So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy [teruah] from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout [teruah], and the noise was heard afar off.

### 3. Zerubbabel Protected the Purity of God's People

Ezra 4: As the Jews began to work on the temple, opposition arose when they were approached by the adversaries who had taken up residency in the land during their captivity.

Ezra 4:2 Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.

- Enemies brought in ~130-142 years earlier

Yet Zerubbabel quickly declined the offer and ran them off.

Ezra 4:3 Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us.

Why the harsh response?

These inhabitants had indeed learned to worship the Lord. II Kings 17:24-28

- ❖ The king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria and dwelt in the cities thereof.

<sup>25</sup> And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they feared not the LORD:

Therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which slew some of them.

- ❖ They told the king of Assyria who told them to get a Jewish priest who would teach the people the manner of the God of the land.
- ❖ The priest came and dwelt in Bethel and taught them how they should fear the Lord.
- ❖ BUT they continued in their former idolatry. [II Kings 17:29-41]
- ❖ Didn't repent of their false religion; simply incorporated God into their diet as one of many gods.

Consider: If Zerubbabel had accepted their offer, he would have put Israel into an alliance with the very idolatry, paganism and false doctrine that had gotten them exiled in the first place.

By driving them away, Zerubbabel protected the flock of God from spiritual and moral compromise.

## Enemies' Reaction: Ezra 4:4-24

- ❖ People of the land weakened the hand of the Jews.
- ❖ Mocked; ridiculed; discourage and frustrate the Jews
- ❖ Made false accusations against them
- ❖ Used "legal" means to undermine their authority to build
- ❖ Sent letters to King Darius of Persia with various accusations against the Jews
- ❖ The King finally issued a decree that the work must stop on building the Temple.
- ❖ 16 years passed: Enter Haggai & Zechariah

The prophets Zechariah and Haggai come to Jerusalem to prophesy to the people of Judah. Haggai 1:1-2, 5 ...in the 6<sup>th</sup> month [Elul], in the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month [New Moon], came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built. Consider Your Ways! They obeyed and feared the LORD.

Haggai 1:14 And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God, In the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

21<sup>st</sup> Day Of 7<sup>th</sup> Month: Last day of Feast of Tabernacles> points forward to the Kingdom Age.

Haggai 2:1-4 The Word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai,...to Zerubbabel, Joshua and the remnant...Be strong, I am with you...fear not.

Hag. 2:9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

- The glory bestowed on this temple came ~500 years later when Jesus Christ, God's Son, graced the Temple courts.

24<sup>th</sup> Day of 9<sup>th</sup> Month: Haggai 2:20-23 God's Message To Zerubbabel, Governor of Judah

Hag. 2:20-22 God's Explicit Message: The Sovereign Lord Will Prevail In His Eternal Plan

Precept: Because the Sovereign Lord will prevail in His eternal plan, His servants should be encouraged to trust Him and to do His will.

### A. God Has A Definite Plan For History

- "I am going to shake the heavens and the earth..."
- "I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms..."
- "I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen..."
- "I will overthrow the chariots and their riders and the horses and their riders shall come down, everyone by the sword of his brother."

Babylon & Persia were powerful, but God is more powerful. He is weaving His way and His will for His glory.

- He shook the heavens when He destroyed Sodom & Gomorrah. [Luke 17:29-30; Gen. 19:24-25]
- He drowned the Egyptians with their chariots and drives in the Red Sea.
- Everywhere Zerubbabel looked there were reminders of the power of Persia, BUT GOD.
- God is planning something even more powerful in the future.
- Rev. 6:12-14 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; <sup>13</sup> And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.
- Joel 2:10 The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:
- War chariots will give place to Christ's reign of Peace
- Micah 5:10 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots:
- Zech. 9:10 And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.
- Dan. 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

History isn't just careening out of control with God desperately trying to grab the reins! The Sovereign God controls all the events of history for His purpose.

Isa. 14:24 The Lord of hosts has sworn saying, "Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand."

God's ultimate purpose is that He will be glorified. Hab. 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea"

### The Kingly Descendent of David

In II Samuel 7:12-16 God promised King David that one of his own descendants would be the special, Messianic ruler of God's kingdom. Almost 500 years later that royal line was jeopardized when Babylon captured Jerusalem and hauled off King Jehoiachin, David's offspring, into captivity [II Kings 24:15].

➤ For decades the flame of God's covenant seemed ready to be snuffed out at any moment. God had said concerning Zerubbabel's wicked grandfather, Jehoiachin (Coniah), "even though ... [he] were a signet ring on My right hand, yet I would pull you off; and I will give you over into the hand of those who are seeking your life" [Jer. 22:24- 25].

The signet ring was the instrument that the king used to seal all official documents. It was a symbol of honor, authority or ownership with an emblem unique to the king.

When the wicked Queen Jezebel confiscated Naboth's vineyard for her weak-willed husband, King Ahab, she wrote letters in his name and sealed them with his seal.

[I Kings 21:8]. That seal told the recipients of the letters that the king stood behind the message and it had better be obeyed.

In Daniel 6:17 a signet ring was used to seal a stone covering a lions' den: "A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel."

[A royal signet ring is also featured in *Genesis 41:41-43* and *Esther 8:8*.]

Since it carried such authority, the king's signet ring was a precious object of great care, which he usually wore on his person so that no one could steal it.

God's Plan Is Carried Out In Accordance With His Choice and Will

Hag. 2:23 In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, WILL I TAKE THEE, O Zerubbabel, MY SERVANT, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and WILL MAKE THEE AS A SIGNET: for I HAVE CHOSEN THEE, saith the LORD of hosts.

1. I will take you: God used TAKE when He changed the status of someone.
  - ❖ II Sam. 7:8 God to David: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel.
  - ❖ God took Zerubbabel from Babylon to lead the remnant back to Judah to rebuild the temple. [He was called governor or ruler, not king: even though he was in the kingly line.]
  - ❖ Looking to the future: TAKE was used of kings being anointed for kingship. Also, speaking of God anointed Jesus Christ as King.
2. My Servant Zerubbabel: Servant is used in many passages to refer to the Coming Messiah or Promised One. [II Samuel 3:18; I Kings 11:34; Isaiah 42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12; Ezekiel 34:23-24; 37:24-25].

Consider: The Safety of Israel to the End is Guaranteed in Messiah

Isa. 42:1 "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on Him and He will bring justice to the nations."

3. "And I will make you like my signet ring" -3 words: shake, take and make. God was going to shake things up, take Zerubbabel from being a lonely, discouraged leader and make him into someone with a definite purpose as God's servant.

As God's signet ring, Zerubbabel is given a place of honor, authority and ownership.

- Zerubbabel was chosen for a unique and noble purpose.
- Zerubbabel carried the torch of God's covenant.
- God was ready to do a great work in Israel that would ripple through all mankind.
- In Zerubbabel's blood he carried not just the royalty of Israel, but the Hope Of The Entire World.
- God is graciously reversing that judgment and restoring through Zerubbabel the Davidic line which would one day give the world a Savior.

- Zerubbabel had to sustain the royal line even though he himself would not occupy any throne during his Old Testament lifetime.
- Zerubbabel was "Zerubbabel, governor of Judah" Haggai 2:21 and thereby typified the Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 2:6 citing Micah 5:2 "And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Ruler, Governor, that shall rule my people Israel."
- Many years later, when the promised King of kings was finally born, the Gospel writers provided the genealogies of both His biological mother and legal father, both of whom were descended from David. On both sides, smack dab in the middle of the Messianic family tree, blazes a name we should now be very familiar with: Zerubbabel. [Mt. 1:12-13; Lk. 3:27]
- Zerubbabel was being promised a place of authority in the future. Encouragement!
- Judah has a future as they look forward to the coming Son of David, the Messiah, who would one day "overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign kingdoms" Haggai 2:22.
- The triad of servant, son, and signet ring creates a special combination of encouragement given to few in Scripture. Zerubbabel was an important leader involved in the reconstruction of the Jewish temple. As God's "signet ring," Zerubbabel becomes a picture of the future Messiah, Jesus Christ, who will establish His people in the Promised Land, construct an even grander temple (Zechariah 6:12-13), and lead the righteous in never-ending worship.

#### Coronation of Joshua: King Priest: Zech. 6:9-15

1. God told Zechariah that 3 esteemed Jews would arrive from Babylon, bringing gold and silver offerings to the Lord for building the temple.
2. They would stay at Josiah's [Hen = gracious one] home. Upon their arrival, Zechariah met them.
3. Then take silver and gold offerings and make an elaborate crown, and set it upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest;

Note: He was to put the crown, not on the head of Zerubbabel the governor who was of the royal line of David, but place the crown on the head of Joshua, the high priest.

#### Problems:

1. The money from the Jews in Babylon was supposed to be used for the completion of the temple.
2. There was no precedent in Scripture for a priest to be crowned king.

Verses 12-13 Zechariah made the crown, took the visitors with him to Joshua the high priest and conducted a coronation service.

1. Zechariah explained God's message to the high priest and the witnesses.
2. He told them that both Zerubbabel and Joshua were "men symbolic of things to come."

3. Even though Zerubbabel was from David's line, he wasn't the one God chose to be crowned.
4. God chose Joshua.

For the 1<sup>st</sup> time in Jewish history, God united the monarchy and the priesthood.

5. This coronation refers to Jesus Christ who is "The Branch."

Zech. 6:12-13 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: <sup>13</sup> Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.

6. Looking forward to the Millennial Kingdom, God announced the Messiah will be both King and Priest.
7. Jesus Christ will sit on the throne and reign, but He will also build the temple and serve as High Priest.

Note: Only in Jesus Christ does God unite the throne and the altar. This is the fulfillment of the Father's promise to the Son in Ps. 110:4 The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

The Commemoration: Verses 14-15

1. Zechariah removes the crown from Joshua's head and gave him his priestly miter. [3:5]
2. The symbolic act was over and the crown did not belong to Joshua. It belongs to the Messiah.
3. Zechariah placed the crown in the temple as a reminder, memorial, of the LORD'S promise of a King-Priest who would bring peace and holiness to His people.

The Reign Of Jesus Christ on Earth

1. Jesus Christ will sit on the throne of His father David as King and Priest. [Luke 1:32-33]
2. This will be the fulfillment of God's covenant promise to David that he would always have an heir seated on the throne. [II Sam. 7]
3. There will be a restored Temple and priesthood. [Isa. 27:13; Ezek. 40-48; Zech. 14:16]

Isa. 2:2-3 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. <sup>3</sup> And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

4. Christ's kingdom will be perfect peace and justice because all civil and religious authority will be harmonized in one Person: Messiah, the King and High Priest.