



ADVENT - Hope Awakening



Advent – Hope Awakening - Study Guide

Week 3 – High Priest & King of Kings - Sunday 13th December 2020

Zechariah prophesied to the Jews after they had returned from exile. They had started with high hopes that withered in the face of opposition and struggles. The temple was a ruin, a constant reminder of how far the people were from where they should be: God's people in God's place under God's rule.

Read Zechariah 1.1-6 & Zechariah 2.10-3.10

1. How does God's word "Return to me and I will return to you" still have meaning for the church today?
2. In the prophesy given to Joshua the High Priest in Zechariah 3, Satan stands at his right-hand as his accuser. What hope can we find in the picture given of Joshua and the picture given in **Revelation 12.10** that Satan's relentless condemnation is not the last word over us?
3. How do we ensure that our great High Priest, Jesus, is our "right hand man," not Satan? (see also **Hebrews 4.14-16**)

Joshua and Zerubbabel, the leader of Jerusalem, are told that they are a symbol of things to come, part of a bigger picture. **Zechariah 4.6-10** is both a huge encouragement and also a huge challenge for us to keep in mind that – however small our part and our purpose in the world seems to us – we are part of God's big plan.

4. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit." "Who dares despise the day of small things." How does this word from God encourage and challenge you to see yourself as part of His big picture?

Read Zechariah 6.9-15

The people of Zion really needed their hope restored. God has a message of hope for them. Zechariah 6.9-15 prophesies that Joshua will be both High Priest and crowned King, bringing restoration and harmony **IF** he diligently obeys the Lord. But Joshua was not able to fulfil this prophesy. No person could. Except Jesus – Jeshua/Joshua – who fulfilled the promise of his name ("The Lord Saves") and fulfilled each and every prophesy about him. He is enthroned eternally as our great High Priest and King of Kings.

5. We are going through a difficult time, both nationally and globally. Look again at the prophesies given about Joshua/Jesus from Zechariah. What in particular has helped and encouraged you put your hope in Jesus at a time when it is so easy to be feel hopeless or disheartened?