

## The 12 Minor Prophets

“Do you get second chances? Yes, by His Word in Community”

Zechariah 7-8

Sunday, March 24, 2013 (Palm Sunday)

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **• What does Zechariah have to do with Palm Sunday?**

##### **A. God’s Word in Community Past (7)**

1. Praying & Hearing (7:1-3)
  - a) Seeking God’s favor
    - (1) Through mediators
    - (2) The Word explained
  - b) Submitting to God’s judgments
    - (1) The Word of the Lord here is reminding the people
    - (2) The point is seeking what will please God the most
  - c) Hearing (7:4-7)
    - (1) The Word determines the right questions
      - (a) The question raised by God
      - (b) The question gets to motive
      - (c) The Word divides true from false religion
      - (d) **Deuteronomy 10:12-15**
    - (2) The Word demands the right answers
    - (3) The Word determines the right course

2. Saying (7:8-10)
  - a) God’s Word is meant to be spoken
  - b) God’s Word speaks justice and mercy
3. Acting (7:11-14)
  - a) God’s Word scatters the disobedient
  - b) God’s Word creates desolation
  - c) ...but it will gather the remnant

##### **B. God’s Word in Community Future (8)**

1. God’s presence (8:1-8)
  - a) Place of His Presence
  - b) People of His Presence
  - c) Pleasure of His Presence
    - (1) Long life
    - (2) Gifts of enjoyment
    - (3) **Psalms 37:4**
    - (4) All a far cry from their present circumstances
2. God’s people in community (8:9-23)
  - a) Redeemed community (8:9-13)
    - (1) Renewal of God’s ancient promise
    - (2) Rescuing to keep those promises...His renown
    - (3) Strength to obey (rebuilding the temple)
      - (a) Strength is derived from God’s promises
      - (b) **2 Peter 1:4-5**
    - (4) Centrality of Word

- b) Restored to community (**8:14-17**)
  - (1) Keep the past failed communities in mind
  - (2) Keep God's promise (the gospel) in your midst
    - (a) Are you part of this community?
    - (b) Not all Jews made the remnant

- 3. God's kingdom in community (**8:18-23**)
  - a) Kingdom of Joy
  - b) Kingdom of His Word
    - (1) Love Truth & Peace
    - (2) Delight of heart (joy in His pleasure)
    - (3) Appeal to the Nations

### **C. Results**

- 1. Encouragement to endure
  - a) Keep doing what God demands
  - b) Doing what God demands with Joy (in future kingdom)
- 2. Hope for the mission
  - a) Putting God's future kingdom on display in the present church
  - b) His kingdom NOW is through the church
- 3. Pleasure of God
  - a) This is why
  - b) The pleasure of God...nothing less, for this is what gives His community the deepest satisfaction

### **Application**

#### **A. Deal with it**

- 1. The Word must undo us as a community in order to put us back together
- 2. We must deal with all of our lesser motives in religious practice, and seek to make sure the Word is central in all our communal gatherings

#### **B. Ways to Foster the Word in Community**

- 1. Information fuels Intimacy (2 Peter 1:1-5)
  - a) Read the Word in community
  - b) Study the Word in community
  - c) Gather often to discuss knowing the Word
- 2. Intimacy demands Application (2 Peter 1:8)
  - a) Matthew 28:19-20
  - b) Increasingly put into play what you know
  - c) Determine to ask yourself the basic 2 Timothy 3:16 questions...
- 3. Application produces Delight (2 Peter 1:11)
  - a) Gift of present assurance
  - b) Hope for the future kingdom