

Outline for July 25, 2010 – Zechariah 1:1, 12:1 - The Word of the Lord

Introduction: John Frith, a close friend and co-laborer in the gospel with William Tyndale, was martyred in 1533 for preaching the gospel and working with Tyndale to distribute the English New Testament. It was through Tyndale's influence that Frith, "received into his heart the seed of the gospel and sincere godliness." Listen to his words to Sir Thomas More, "I assure you I neither will nor can cease to speak, for the Word of God boileth in my body like a fervent fire and will needs have an issue." Oh, the power and might of the Word of God!

I. "The Word of the Lord came..." (Zechariah 1:1, 7; 4:8; 6:9; 7:1, 4, 8; 8:1, 18; 11:11)

A. The Massive Revelation of God

1. He reveals Himself in His Word

- The Lord speaks, He will not be silent
- He declares His Word in specific times and all during the course of history
- His Word is revealed in law, judgments, precepts, statutes, ordinances, testimonies and promise (Psalm 19:7-11)
- God has revealed Himself clearly in His creation but He has revealed Himself infallibly in His Word

2. How gracious and merciful it is for God to speak and reveal Himself (Zechariah 7)

B. The Foundational Authority of God

1. His Word is forever settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89-91)

- He is sovereign over His Word
- His Word is not subject to man's approval or acceptance

2. His Word comes as He appoints it in time – "the Word of the Lord came" (I Samuel 3:1, 7, 19, 21; Psalm 18:30, 33:4, 6-9)

- It comes outside of man, not from within him
- It comes down from heaven as God is transcendent over all

C. The Absolute Conquering Power of God's Word (Zechariah 1:6)

1. The Word of God hunted down Abraham (Genesis 15:1)

2. The Word of God transformed Joseph (Psalm 105:19)

3. The Word of God conquered Moses (Exodus 3:1-5)

4. The Word of God ruled over Joshua (Joshua 1:7-8)

II. "The burden of the Word of the Lord..." (12:1)

A. The Word of the Lord is founded upon God Himself (12:1)

B. The prophets were men chosen, called and commissioned by God

1. They were men under compulsion – the burden of the Lord and His Word weighed heavy upon them

- They did not choose or seek to be prophets
- Prophets are not born but made and molded by God (Jeremiah 1:9-11, 20:8-9)

2. The prophets were men under a heavy burden of urgency (Hebrews 11:32-38; Matthew 23:29-36)

- They spoke for God – they were lightning rods in the culture
- They addressed the issues of idolatry, injustice, righteousness, truth and the holiness of God
- They were passionate and urgent about upholding the honor and glory of God – they lived and died for God's glory

3. The prophets spoke with a sense of dread

- The pronouncements of judgment (Jeremiah 36)
- The pronouncements of judgment laid the foundation for the gospel – the dread of God's judgment is followed by the good news of His marvelous work in Christ to take away our sin, bear our judgment, satisfy His justice, declare us righteous in Christ and accept us in the Beloved (I Peter 1:23-25; II Peter 1:19-21)

NOTE: William Tyndale was used by God to put iron into these men's souls – Miles Coverdale, John Frith, Richard Bayfield, John Lambert, Thomas Hitton, Thomas Bilney and a man who worked in leather by the name of Tewksbury.