

God's Purpose for Man

Zechariah 3:9-10
4: 6-10

2/ 29/ 04

Intro
Christ”.

Seeing the movie, “The Passion of the

.....
Zechariah was a prophet who lived during a time when Jerusalem was being rebuilt, but the temple still lay in ruins. This happened when the Jews were allowed to return to their land after **70 years in captivity in Babylon, modern day Iraq.**

There were many obstacles and they became discouraged. They became **indifferent** in their lives and for a time they lost sight of God's purpose for their lives.

It was during this time of indifference and discouragement that God sent them a prophetic message of hope that also applies to us. **He told them how they would find life.**

The Word of God is also for us – for anyone who wants to find life.

The key is what God does to give us life. That is what we will see in the verses we are reading today.

These, then, are the principles of the God's purpose in our lives.

I. Behold, the Stone

A. The foundation of life

- Jesus was called the “living stone,” the cornerstone, the foundation.
- We need a foundation to build our lives on that is right and true.

Isaiah 28:16, “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.’”

- Many people are looking for life in things which will not satisfy the soul.
- When you build your life upon these things they disappoint.

Illus – Nicole leaning on the boat.

Luke 6:47-48, “Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.”

- What have you built your life upon?

B. And the Rock of offense

- Jesus is also called the Rock of Offense, because some people stumble on that Rock.

Psalm 118:22, “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone.”

Illus – The Pharisees rejected Him because they didn’t want to change, they didn’t want to stop what they were doing, and they stumbled over the Rock.

Acts 4:11-12, “He is the Stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief corner stone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

- He must either be accepted or rejected.

Illus – This is why people use “Jesus Christ” as a cuss word, to try to take away His power.

C. On it is the Word of God

- Vs 9 – God inscribes His words on that stone – Jesus.

John 6:68-69, “Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”

- It is God’s Word that will shed light on how we should live.

Psalm 119:105, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

I. He is the Rock of Salvation

A. Salvation belongs to God

- Many people do not give their lives to the Lord because they believe that they have to have their acts together first.
- **They think they have to deserve to be saved.**
- **But the scripture says “salvation belongs to our God.”**
- Vs 9 – “I will accomplish it”

Isaiah 43:25, "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”

- Notice that he says that He does this for *His sake*- **We should respond to that love.**

Psalm 62:6-8, “He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be shaken. On God my salvation and my glory rest; the rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him.”

B. In one day

- In one day God will make a way for all men to find life, hope, and salvation.
- That was the day Jesus Died on the cross.
- **But it was a very long day.**

Illus – the “Passion” movie...

C. He will remove our iniquity

Vs 10

- If God removes our iniquities – where do they go?

- **This is truly an amazing demonstration of God's love.**

Romans 5:8, "God demonstrates His own love for us in this; Christ died for us when we were still His enemies."

- By His stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:4-6 – Our chastening fell upon Him.

III. His Strength in Me

A. By the Holy Spirit

4:6

- Jesus said that He would send the Helper, the Counselor – the Holy Spirit.
- **He gives us the Holy Spirit to bring life into our dead hearts.**

Ezekiel 36:26-27, "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you..."

B. Not by might

- There are so many religions in the world that teach that you must somehow save yourself.
- **But the scripture tells us that there is only one way to salvation, through Jesus Christ.**

- **The Lord must build the house, or they labor in vain that build it.**

Psalm 127:1, "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain."

Psalm 127:2, "It is vain for you to rise up early, to retire late, to eat the bread of painful labors; for He gives to His beloved even while he sleeps."

Conclusion

God has poured out His love to us when Jesus died on the cross. He is offering us life.

RSVP – respondez, si vous plait.