

Summary of the sermon – December 1th, 2013, 14h30

Reading of the Holy Scriptures: Zechariah 1,1-6 and 2,5-17

The subject of the sermon is: Zechariah 2,14-17 (other numbering: 2,10-13)

Theme of the sermon:

Expect the coming of the Lord

1. Coming and expecting

It's the first Sunday of Advent. The beginning of a new ecclesiastical year. We expect the coming of the Lord. First we remember the birth of Jesus Christ. We also expect his second coming.

'He comes'. This promise of the Lord stays valid. Like he was to the prophets of the Old Testament. The Lord says: 'I am coming'. And 'I am here.'

Coming and expecting, both words stand under the covering arch of Gods promise. These words we also find in the songs for the period of Advent.

2. Promise

The text doesn't give a special prophecy about the coming of the Saviour, the Son of David. For sure we read a promise of the Lord of hosts. "*I am coming, I will make my dwelling among you.*" That promise causes great joy to the people of Sion.

Zechariah was a prophet in the first years after the return of the Jews from the Babylonian exile. With the words of God he stimulated the rebuilding of the temple and the city of Jerusalem.

God shows him in a vision that He will rebuild his city with open frontiers.

The Lord says: 'I am coming'. That always means: 'I get into action'. For example to save His people.

There is a motion from both sides: of Sion into the Lord and of the Lord into Sion. See Zechariah 1,3. "Come back to me..."

3. 'I will make my dwelling'

What's the meaning of that promise of the Lord? The Lord returns to his people. And the temple shall be reconstructed. On hearing the messages of God in Zechariah's visions we understand there is a spiritual reality in it. An different, spiritual Sion, where God will dwell among his people.

He is fulfilling the promise unto Abraham. See Genesis 12,2-3. There is also an opening in the direction of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. Than the gospel of salvation goes worldwide. Due to the giant inflow of nations Gods new Jerusalem have to stay an open city. The words of God show how incredible precious Sion is for the Lord. Here we think about the Bride of Christ, waiting for the wedding-supper of the Lamb.

John 1,14: '*So the Word became flesh; he came to dwell among us...*' That's Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of men. The Word of God is fully reliable.

4. Shout aloud and be silent

Look at the first and the last verse of our text. "Shout aloud" and "Silence, all mankind". That's a great difference.

When the Lord of Hosts appears, people get impressed en get silent. The Lord is an awesome God. We stand in awe for Him. But it is not necessary to be afraid of Him. In Jesus Christ God makes His dwelling among us. He enters our life.

That's the reason we shout aloud and at the same time we prepare for the coming of the Lord. And for the Lord's Supper next week.

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