The Lord Remembers The Book of Zechariah

Sermon Outline

- I. The background.
 - A. Zechariah prophesied after the exile of the Southern Kingdom.
 - 1. Israel had been released from Babylonian captivity and journeyed back to destroyed Jerusalem.
 - 2. Israel was to rebuild the temple that was destroyed but they had stopped working on the restoration. Israel had begin to lose hope.
 - 3. Zechariah's mission was to encourage and revive hope in Israel.
 - a. Zechariah was a contemporary of Haggai (and Ezra, Nehemiah).
 - b. Zechariah's style was compassionate and positive. He was an encourager through affirmation. Haggai was the opposite.
 - 4. Zechariah is quoted in the New Testament at least 40 times.
 - a. For good reason! It is a Messianic prophesy.
 - B. The genealogy of Zechariah.
 - 1. The three generations represented by Zechariah, his father Berechiah, and his father Iddo have significant meanings in their names:
 - a. Zechariah—"The Lord remembers".
 - b. Berechiah—"The Lord blesses".
 - c. Iddo—"The appointed time".
 - 2. "The lord remembers and blesses in His time".
 - C. An important biblical principle:
 - 1. Zechariah 1:2-4—"return to Me that I may return to you".
- II. The eight visions (five discussed).
 - A. A horseman (1:7-17). The myrtle trees a picture of Israel—"still standing"
 - B. Four horns and craftsmen (1:18-21).
 - 1. Four horns = the four nations who tormented Israel.
 - 2. Craftsmen = They displace the nations to save Israel.

- C. A man with a measuring cord.
 - 1. The measuring cord will show the growth of Israel/Jerusalem in both population and size—a blessing from God.
- D. The high priest and branch—as the priest is cleansed so will Israel be before presented to God.
- E. The golden lampstand—The "fully automated menorah".
 - 1. "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord of hosts"
- III. The Messianic prophesies.
 - A. (9:9-10) the prophesy of the triumphal entry and the great tribulation.
 - 1. Note the prophet had no concept of the time between the two—over 2000 years!
 - 2. See Isaiah 61 for a similar prophesy, and Luke 4 for Jesus's reading of the prophesy.
 - 3. Verse 9 was exactly played out 2000+ years later as reported by Luke 19:28-38.
 - B. (11:10-14) Prophesy of the 30 shekels of silver at the betrayal of Jesus by Judas.
 - 1. The prophesy was played out precisely in Matthew 26:14-16.
 - C. (Chapter 14)—the return of Jesus and the millennial kingdom.
 - 1. Jesus will return the second time just as He left the first time (Acts 1:9-11).
 - a. Jesus did not descend from Jerusalem but from the Mt. of Olives.
 - 2. Confirmed y Zechariah in 14:4-9
 - a. The ground will split the Mt. of Olives in two.
 - b. Israel will escape through one of the new canyons.
 - c. The lights of the world will go out replaced by the light of Jesus (His millennial reign.)

And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name one.

Zechariah 14:9

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Sermon Notes

Let me begin with an apology... last week I failed to tell you that this week we would be going out of order with the Minor Prophets... if you have been diligent reading the upcoming book each week... you have Zephaniah under your belt.... Only to find out now I am speaking on Zechariah instead... so sorry!

Lord willing next week I will be speaking on the last book of the Bible Malachi... the two weeks that follow that... Randy will be going back to Zephaniah and Haggai... and speaking on those wonderful books.... That's the plan!

So open your Bible to the second to last book in the Old Testament, Zechariah.

A state trooper had set up a radar trap on the interstate when a car went by...not going too fast but too slow... way too slow... so he put on his lights and pulled the car over... five senior ladies were in the car... the officer said to the driver... "Mam, do you realize you are only going 26 miles an hour when the speed limit is 65?... there is a danger in going too slow.

The sweet senior lady driver responded "I don't mean to be disrespectful but the sign said "26" so I've been going exactly "26" miles per hour officer."

The officer replied, Mam... that sign was the interstate sign... you are on interstate 26...the speed limit is 65."...."Oh, I'm so sorry!" and the officer let them off the hook.... As he was getting ready to walk away he noticed the other four ladies had the most horrified looks on their faces...

He stopped and asked the driver why they were so horrified.... She replied... Oh don't worry, they'll be alright in a few minutes.... We just got off of interstate 150,

Now... I really do not want to get mistaken for someone else who like to begin his messages with a "funny little story"... but when it comes to Zechariah... when most people finish reading it... they have looks on their faces similar to those ladies!...

In fact... I think Zechariah had that look on his face as God delivered to him a set of visions that completely perplexed Zechariah as we will see...Written much like Revelation...with many "interesting?" visions....

Each one of the Minor Prophets is unique... some tell us how to live in difficult times... some show us how to handle our spiritual doubts... and perplexing questions such as Habakkuk form the last two weeks...

Some of them reveal to us who God is... what He desires from His people... we learn about His holiness... His mercy... His patience... and yes... His wrath... some key in on the future... all the way to the end of the age.... Zechariah is one of those books.

While there is instruction for our lives in this book... it reveals to God's people back in that day what was ahead....specifically the coming of the Messiah... which we can look back and see Zechariah's prophesy came to fruition just like it said.... And it shows us what is in our future...

It is important we have the historical context of Zechariah... it vital for our understanding.

If you've been with us there will be some review here... for you who are with us the first time... you need this to understand what's going on... the minor prophets lived around or in the time of the divided kingdom of Israel... Israel for various reasons divided into two kingdoms ... the Southern Kingdom Judah.... And the Northern Kingdom Israel...

Both kingdoms would eventually face God's judgement for spiritual adultery... and both would end up in exile and captivity... God sent the prophets to inform, warn and deliver to the people messages from God... mostly to turn from their evil ways...to repent or they will be judged.... Which they eventually were.

The Northern Kingdom was conquered by Assyria in 721 BC...Israel basically disappears [expound]

The Southern Kingdom hung on for another nearly 130 years until God carried out His judgement on them through the treacherous Babylonians... Judah was taken into captivity in Babylon for 70 years...

We classify these prophets into three categories based on when they prophesied... pre-exilic... those who prophesied before the judgement of both Israel and Judah...Jonah, Amos, Micah... they all prophesied before Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom... Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah all prophesied just before the Southern Kingdom fell to the Babylonians...

After 70 years of Babylonian captivity... Israel is released to go back to Jerusalem... Jerusalem is a mess... when the Babylonians conquered Judah they destroyed the city... including the temple and the massive wall surrounding the city...

Israel was released to return in two stages... the first was to go back and rebuild the temple... (Ezra)... the second stage they were to go back and rebuild the wall (Nehemiah)... Zechariah is among those who later returned...after the rebuilding of the temple had begun... but by the time he gets to Jerusalem... nobody is working on it anymore...

Israel is depressed... it's like they lost their ambition and drive to rebuild the city...specifically the temple...Many who had come to Jerusalem had never seen the city...they were born in Babylon...Zechariah was one of those.....

So Zechariah's job is to light their fire again... in a few weeks Randy will be speaking on Haggai... Haggai takes place at the same time... two different personalities... same job.... To "encourage" Israel to get working again on the temple.

Haggai's style is "kick them in the pants".... Zechariah's style is to give them a hug and encourage them... something like "good cop bad cop"... that's why Randy is doing Haggai... I don't know if you've discovered this yet... but Randy is bad cop I'm good cop!... if you come visit is un the office... Randy is the tuff one... I'm the nice one... it's working out great.... Well that is Haggai and Zechariah.

We know a little more about Zechariah than most of the other Minor prophets... if you've read through the Old Testament you would have noticed his name pops up all over the place... but not all of them are this Zechariah.... There are some 30 Zechariah's in the Bible... so we have to be careful... this one is on of them... the most notable of all of them.

The New Testament quotes from the Old Testament all the time... Genesis, Psalms, Deuteronomy and Isaiah are the most quoted of all the books... but Zechariah... as short as it is... is quoted no less than 40 times in the New Testament....

Why?... Because Jesus is all over the book!... much of Zechariah is what we call "Messianic"... foretells the coming of Jesus... both His first coming (1st advent) which has taken place over 2000 years ago... and His second coming... which we eagerly wait for....

But it doesn't stop there... Zechariah goes all the way to the final age... when Jesus reigning... His kingdom has come!...and all of this was written down over 500 years BEFORE Jesus came to earth the 1st time... important to remember!

Zechariah opens with a plea to Israel not to be like their forefathers...this is a new generation...a fresh start... don't mess it up!

Read 1:1

In Hebrew the word Zechariah is pronounced Zec-car-ee-ah... in that little genealogy that he gives us here is something interesting... some of you may think this is a stretch or I'm making too much of it.... but there are three names mentioned... Zechariah...his father Berechiah... and his father Iddo...three generations.

Zechariah's name means "The Lord Remembers"..... Berechiah's name means "The Lord Blesses".... And Iddo's name means "The appointed time"... if you put the three meanings together...the three generations... it would read The Lord remembers and blesses in His time...

I don't think that is an accident... I think it represents the entire book of Zechariah well... Zechariah is speaking to a people that for the most part were insecure in their relationship with the Lord... they thought the Lord had forgotten them...

They had just finished 70 years in captivity in Babylon...they return to a messed up Jerusalem... it's all very overwhelming... and they need some encouragement that God has not forgotten

them So Zechariah through these names including his is showing them that going back over three generations...

That God remembers...God blesses... in His time.... that really is a snapshot of this book.... and it is something for us to engrave in our minds as well....

Read verses 2-4

There's another principle that runs throughout the entire Bible... you should highlight this in your bibles... God says to His people... remember His people had strayed from Him...ending up for 70 years in captivity... now they are discouraged... so God says **Return to Me**...

Repent... if you are straying from God... If He feels distant... He didn't move you did... return to Him...**return to Me that I may return to You**...it's the picture of the Lord turning His head towards you ...before...as you were in your sins... His head is turned away from you.,... so... repent... turn to Him and He will turn His face to you in blessing rather than anger and wrath.

A beautiful picture!... here Zechariah warns Israel... *Don't be like your fathers*... who turned from me... and ended their lives under My wrath!...remember as we go through this... the main purpose if Zechariah is to bring hope... hope to these refugees that have returned to their city of ruins.

By the way... this is a pretty small group... comparatively... there were about a million Jews in captivity in Babylon... only 50,000 of them returned... and now some of them are in this ruined city... enemies around them...the work is overwhelming.... And they need hope.

Zechariah can be best understood in two parts... if you picked up a chart when you came in it represents it well... the first part.. chapters 1-8 reveal eight visions Zechariah receives from God... all eight of these visions relate to rebuilding the temple.

Chapters 9-14 are all about the Messiah.... Jesus Christ... "HE's coming"... "He's coming again"...and He will rule and reign forever..... Now... we're not going to go through all eight of these visions... but let's look quickly at a few of them...

1. A Horseman

Read 1:8-9

Myrtle trees...these are fairly small trees... but very hardy... they are a picture of the nation of Israel... picture small trees going through all sorts of bad weather...[Central Coast, Monterey, "Lone Pine"]..... storms... rain, snow... yet they're still standing... that's the picture with these trees.

The Babylonians conquered Israel... destroyed their cities... took them into captivity for 70 years... BUT THEY'RE STILL HERE!... this is a vision of hope...

Read verse 13

See... all this is to comfort... 1st the prophet so he can comfort the people.

Read verse 16

The project of rebuilding the temple that has been started WILL come to completion... but that's not all... Jerusalem itself is going to grow... it is going to increase in population and size... a **measuring line will be stretched over Jerusalem**... to measure its growth.... These are comforting words.

Notice also how many times the word "will" appears in Zechariah... I gave up counting after 40... they're all over the place!... I will... I will... I will... Is that not reassuring?.... God constantly promising I WILL!

2. Four Horns and Craftsman

Throughout the Bible...horns...think ram horns... are used as symbols of power... authority... might... powerful nations... the horns here are nations that at one time controlled Israel... they had Israel under their thumbs

Read 1:18-19

Notice every time there is a vision... Zechariah says "What is this?... what are these?"... "I don't understand all this!"

Then there are four craftsmen... possibly stone masons... and they have come to overpower the horns...

Read 1:20-21

These horns COULD be the same nations listed in the Book of Daniel...remember the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream?... with a head of gold, arms and chest of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet of mingled iron and clay....all representing the four empires... Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome... all of which persecuted the Jewish people.

The message here is than God *remembered* Israel through all their persecution...then blessed Israel....all in His time.

3. A Man with a Measuring Cord.

We just read that a measuring line would be stretched across Jerusalem...

Read 2:1-2

The vision tells how the Jerusalem of that day would not be the final Jerusalem as far as size goes... it is going to expand tremendously in growth...This is a blessing from God.

3000 years ago... Jerusalem had a population of 2000 people... at its peak... the entire city was inside of 10-12 acres.... That was the Jerusalem being measured here in Zechariah.

Today... Jerusalem has a population of 875,000 people!... close to one million people!... and all that is NOT inside of 10-12 acres... today it is 49 square miles!...there's much more to that vision but we'll leave it there.... The picture?... The Lord remembers... the Lord blesses... all in His time.

4. The High Priest and a Branch.

Chapter 3... this vision includes Joshua... not Joshua fit the battle of Jericho... but another Joshua... Joshua the high priest... the vision is about the cleansing of the high priest... a high priest must appear before God cleansed from impurities... the bigger picture is the cleansing of Israel itself as a people before God...

Read 3:1

This is a picture we can relate to isn't it?... You there wanting to serve the Lord... you want to live a life pleasing to Him... but right next to you is the Adversary... the evil one always trying to bring you down...

The adversary... Satan is relentless to get us disqualified in the eyes of the Lord... that's what he's doing here with Joshua... and the picture is... if Joshua is victorious over Satan... hence "cleansed".... so will Israel. the bigger picture.

Read 3: 2

This is a very interesting verse and statement... **The Lord said to Satan, The Lord rebuke you**...being the Lord... He could have said "*I rebuke you*!"... but He said "*the Lord rebuke you*"...

He uses the third person in rebuking Satan... Lately I've been reading about "spiritual warfare"... both in scripture and in theological works...I am convinced that Satan is having a field day in our culture and even in the church... I've always been a skeptic when it comes to some of the claims about demonic warfare and satanic activity...

Something that keeps coming up is the warning about getting involved with "rebuking Satan"... I've heard Christians say things like "I rebuke you Satan!"... or "We rebuke you Satan in Jesus name!"... I have concluded that we are NOT to address Satan directly... Most likely we should not address Satan at all...but

What we see in this verse is that even the Lord didn't use 1st person.... The Lord didn't say "I rebuke you Satan" even though He most certainly could... The Lord said "**The Lord rebuke you!**"...

There's another place in the Bible that supports what I'm saying... in the New Testament... Jude 9...Here we have Michael the Archangel... and even Michael the Archangel when disputing with Satan over the body of Moses dare not PERSONALLY bring a reviling accusation against the Devil...

Jude 9... But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him an abusive judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Don't even talk to the Devil... ask Jesus to do your talking for you!... stay out of it!... this morning we sang one of the greatest hymns of all time... Martin Luther's *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*...did you catch verse 3"

And though this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us, We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us: The Prince of Darkness grim, We tremble not for him; His rage we can endure,

One little word shall fell him.

For lo! his doom is sure,

We do not need to engage the Devil... God will fell him with one word!...Satan is God's already victorious battle!

Read verses 3: 3-5

I can't **not** have us look at the fifth vision... chapter 4...

5. The Golden Lampstand.

The picture here is something... it is a menorah... a lampstand of seven candles... it was in the temple... representative of God with His people...but here it is not your average menorah... some have described it as a "fully automated menorah"...

Picture this... here's the menorah...plated with gold... seven candles ...above it was a bowl... the bowl was full of olive oil for fuel... pipes went out from the bowl connecting each one of the seven candles... providing fuel to keep them lit...

On each side of the menorah were two olive trees...which supplied oil to the bowl...it was a fully automated menorah!...usually the priest would have to fill the bowl every day... but the trees would perpetually continuously supply the oil and the flames would always burn.

Read verse 4: 1

By the way... all eight visions were in one night!...

Read verses 4: 2-5

Each one of these visions... Zechariah has no clue what God is showing him... I am sure that after seeing this vision... Zechariah's head was swirling like the old ladies in that car going 140 miles an hour!

The name Zerubbabel comes up next... remember who he is?... Zerubbabel is one of the returned captives... he became the governor of Judah after returning from exile... he's also an ancestor of Jesus Christ as his name in mentioned in Matthew and Luke's genealogies... one of the key players in restoring the temple.

Read verse 6

This vision was for the purpose of encouraging Zerubbabel to complete the building of the temple...but here's the great part... God was going to enable him to do so... God was going to provide the means to empower him to finish the daunting task....it's too big for any person!

You can't do it on your own strength Zerubbabel!.... You lack the power to do it!.... it is only by MY Spirit that you will be able to do it!

Whatever obstacle you face building this temple... no problem... it's going to happen!...God's going to do it!

That's the picture of the fully automated menorah... the menorah that has an endless source of fuel supplying the burning candles.....You can only do it through the unlimited resource of God's Spirit!....what a beautiful picture!... God is an endless source of power and strength when He is the center of our lives!

Unfortunately skipping over the last three visions...we want to visit the Messianic portion of the book.

From our end looking back in history.... We can see the huge gap between prophesies... the prophets didn't know the time schedule God had in mind... They couldn't see that there would be an over two thousand year gap between the first coming of Christ and the second...

Here's an example... chapter 9:9-10... in two verses we have two comings of Jesus... as far as Zechariah was concerned this was all just one event... this is much like Isaiah 61 that Jesus quotes in Luke chapter 4...

In Luke 4 Jesus is in the synagogue teaching... He begins reading Isaiah 61:

18"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He anointed Me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives,
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set free those who are oppressed,
19 To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord."

20. and He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down...

But that is not where Isaiah 61 ended... in fact... in Isaiah 61 there is a comma after **To** proclaim the favorable year of the Lord,..... He didn't finish because there is a 2000+ year

gap after that comma...what Jesus read was for his audience of that day pertaining to that day... after the comma Isaiah says

And the day of vengeance of our God to comfort those who mourn... which is referring to a time that still has not come... the tribulation period... over two thousand years after the comma!... that's what we have here in Zechariah 9:9!

Rejoice greatly O daughter of Zion!
Make a loud shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold your king is coming to you;
He is righteous and endowed with salvation
Lowly and mounted on a donkey,
even a colt, the foal of a pack animal.

Sound familiar?... it should... it happened exactly as it was written on April 6th 32AD...when Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem... precisely as prophesied in the book of Daniel 9... The Seventy Weeks of Daniel or better the Seventy weeks of the Messiah...

(25) ...from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah...Nehemiah identifies that date as March 14th 445 BC... Daniel tells us 173880 Days after March 14th 445 BC that Jesus would show up in Jerusalem lowly, mounted on a donkey, even a colt, the foal of a pack animal...

It happened exactly as it was prophesied!... Luke 19...

28 After Jesus said these things, He was going on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

29 When He approached Bethphage and Bethany, near the [a]mountain that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the village [b]ahead of you; there, as you enter, you will find a colt tied, on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it here. 31 And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: '[c]The Lord has need of it." 32 So those who were sent left and found it just as He had told them. 33 And as they were untying the colt, its [d]owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 They said, "[e]The Lord has need of it." 35 And they brought it to Jesus, and they threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. 36 Now as He was going, they were spreading their cloaks on the road. 37 And as soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God [f]joyfully with a loud voice for all the [g]miracles which they had seen, 38 [h]shouting:

"Blessed is the King, the One who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Now... back to Zechariah 9... between verses 9 and 10 are over two thousand years and counting... Zechariah didn't see the church age... the age we've been in for those two thousand plus years....

Read verse 10

This is the reign of the Messiah after His second coming...if you want more details of this time... another good place to go would be Isaiah 2... I made a note of that next to Zechariah 9...after Christ returns the second time...

He will establish His universal kingdom...this will be a kingdom of peace... there will be no wars... and as Isaiah details out... all the weapons of warfare will be destroyed or converted into peaceful uses:

Isaiah 2:4

And He will judge between the nations,

And will mediate for many peoples;

And they will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning knives. Nation will not lift up a sword against nation,

And never again will they learn war.

This should be a hope builder...a faith builder! If verse 9 came to fruition just like it was prophesied through Zechariah hundreds of years before ... we can place our hope that verse 10 WILL take place JUST AS THE BIBLE SAYS!

Chapter 10 continues to talk about the future kingdom... chapter 11 (these do not follow the chronology as the events happened... chapter 11 goes back to when Jesus was rejected as king... which put Him on the cross... let's do this quickly:

Read 11:10-12

Sound familiar?... 30 pieces of silver...

Read 11:13-14

Zechariah paints Jesus as a shepherd...asking His flock "what am I worth to you?"...He would have liked them to answer YOU ARE WORTH EVERYTHING LORD!.... YOU ARE WORTH ALL THAT I HAVE!...your worth is immeasurable!

But what they say is... maybe 30 shekels of silver... how much is that?.... back then it is the amount you would pay for a slave who has been gored by an ox!... We get that from Numbers 31... where 30 pieces of silver would get you a slave that had been gored by an ox!...think about that!

Hundreds of years later... Matthew shows us that this was fulfilled by Judas Iscariot...

Matthew 26:14-16

14 Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, "What are you willing to give me [a]to [b]betray Him to you?" And they set out for him thirty [c]pieces of silver. 16 And from then on he looked for a good opportunity to [d]betray [e]Jesus.

Later... a chapter later...

Matthew 27:1-8

27 Now when morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus to put Him to death; 2 and they bound Him and led Him away, and handed Him over to Pilate the governor.

3 Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty [a]pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? You shall see to it yourself!" 5 And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and left; and he went away and hanged himself. 6 The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put them in the temple treasury, since it is money paid for blood." 7 And they conferred together and [b]with the money bought the Potter's Field as a burial place for strangers. 8 For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

Let me close with something from chapter 14 we don't want to miss....to see this we need to go forward to the New Testament and read from Acts chapter 1... Acts begins with Jesus leaving earth.... After He was crucified... and rose again... and lived among His disciples for 40 days... He returned to heaven....how did He leave?

Acts 1:9-11

9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were watching, and a cloud took Him up, out of their sight. 10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, then behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them, 11 and they said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

Note this... this did not take place in Jerusalem... it took place on the Mt of Olives... (we get that from verse 12)... how's Jesus going to return?.... the same way that He went...

Read 14:4

I confirmed this, this week... there is a fault line that goes right through the middle of the Mount of Olives... when Jesus returns.... And His feet set on the Mt. of Olives... Zechariah says it will split in two.

Read verses 5-7

Only the Lord knows the fullness of the plan for that day... when the lights go out and are lit again in the millennial kingdom....

Read verses 8-9