

Zechariah 8

1-2 Echoes of 1:14. That jealousy explains His passionate desire to see them purely His and also His anger toward their enemies. God's jealousy is not based on selfishness to possess, but on genuine love that wants the best for the loved one.

3 (Zechariah 2:10-11; Ezekiel 48:35; [Joel 3:17](#)) The word is not yet going forth from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:3) The finished Temple would be the place He would dwell, but this also foreshadows the Millennial Kingdom when the Lord is the light of the city. (Revelation 22:5) God renames the city, The City of Truth (unique in Scripture) It may be better translated "faithfulness" in this context, both parties keeping the covenant.

4-5 In total contrast to the warning tone of judgment in the last chapter, the Lord graciously points them to future faithfulness and blessing. This envisions the material benefits of the Lord's presence and blessing: growing families, long life, political security, and peace so rare in the ancient world.

6 This was always God's plan. It is sin that has wrought such devastation in this world. The word translated "marvelous" is also in Psalm 139:14 and Genesis 18:14. The challenge is to have faith in God and his good intentions for us!

7-8 East and West includes not only Babylon's captives but is a merism that points to all the seed of Abraham, and which may include the spiritual seed. (Galatians 3:7; Hosea 2:23) The language "be my people and I will be their God" is the language of both the old and new covenant. (Jeremiah 31:33; Romans 11:26; Revelation 7:9)

Isaiah 1:26 describes the city as faithful and righteous and this verse describes God with the same terms. The city will reflect their God in that day- Christ likeness/glory.

9-11 Back to the building of the Temple- (Haggai 2:3-9) They began rebuilding in December of 520 BC with the assurance of God's good intentions. The reason they had stopped was economic hardship and security, but God was declaring a turn around of those conditions. (Haggai 1:6-11; 2:18-19)

12-13 (Haggai 2:19; Leviticus 26:3-5) Be a blessing is the fulfillment of Genesis 12:2-3 Judah and Israel - Zechariah sees this as God's faithfulness to the whole nation.

14-15 As/so formula shows the Lord's resolve to do this. The faithfulness of past judgment assures the faithfulness of future promise, encouraging them to keep faith and get to work. This is the only place that "Purposed or determined (zamamti)" is used for good and not judgment. No reason is given for the blessing thus pointing to sovereignty and grace.

16 –17 Now for their part/responsibilities: truthfulness and righteous judgments. (James 1:22; Proverbs 6:16-19)

18-19 Finally, the answer to the question posed in 7:3. Month 4 – walls breached; month 5 – city fell; month 7 – Gedaliah assassinated; month 10 when the siege began. From fasting to feasting because of the Lord's goodness to bring about transformation. Is that not the joy we should have for the change in our lives?

20-22 These are obviously Gentiles seeking the God of Israel. See Zechariah 2:11. The blessing for all people mentioned in 13 is described further here. (Psalm 47:7-9) Tourism is the main income of Israel. People go because of the Lord Jesus having been in that place, but that is just a shadow of what is to come.

23 Ten represents a complete number, or all the other nations. Some see this partially fulfilled in Acts 2. All nations have since come to Jesus in some degree. The final fulfillment is yet to come, when Jesus reigns on the earth.

Though they would not see the fullness of these promises, they did reveal to them the heart of God and a glorious future for their nation. Do promises of heaven to come inspire us to work in faith?