

The Journey Through Zechariah

Session 3 Chapter 2

Opening Statement:

Just some encouragement to start off with today: Most of us are not familiar with the book of Zechariah, so give yourself some time to get to know the book. Stay with it and you will begin to get it. Don't be too hard on yourself — you will get through it with time. This is just our first attempt to really familiarize ourselves with this book.

The prophetic purpose of Zechariah is to present a somewhat detailed picture of Israel's future in relationship to the Messiah. This subject has gained renewed interest on account of the establishment of Israel as a nation in 1948, and the obtaining of Jerusalem by the Jews as a result of the Six Day War in 1967.

Zechariah reemphasizes the prophecies of Joel and Zephaniah concerning The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord, a day of blessings for Jerusalem (14:1). We also know that Zechariah is one of the most prophetic books in the Old Testament. (Isaiah is also another significantly prophetic book.)

Zechariah was commissioned to proclaim the message of God's zeal for Jerusalem (1:14) and the sure destruction of her enemies (1:15, 21). When I say, **make this book a part of your life message**, please take me seriously. Proclaim everywhere that God has great zeal for Jerusalem, His people, and that His plans and purposes are amazing!

So let's recap visions one, two, and touch on three:

In the first vision (1:7-17), God promises to restore Jerusalem and the temple. In the second vision (1:18-21), He promises to judge the nations that afflicted Israel. In this third vision (2:1- 13), Zechariah develops the themes of Jerusalem's glory, prosperity, expansion, and protection.

Summary: In the first three visions, the Lord promises to manifest His zeal and mercy by returning to personally live in Jerusalem, to fill the temple with His glory, to take full possession of the land of Israel, and to draw all the nations to worship and obey the LORD (1:16; 2:10-12).

Zech. 1:14-16 – "I am zealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with great zeal... I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house [the temple] shall be built in it.

Zech. 2:10-12 – "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the Lord. Many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you. And the Lord will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem."

This is the only time that the term "Holy Land" is found in the Bible. The land is holy because Jesus' throne will be there (Jer. 3:17) and because all the residents of the land will live in holiness (14:20-21; Isa. 60:21). The Lord referred to the land of Israel as the Holy Land even when Israel

was being called to repentance (1:3). Israel will be the first entire nation to walk holy before God in every area of their life (14:20-21).

God's original purpose for Israel was that they live as a holy nation of priests (Ex. 19:6). When Jesus returns and sits on His throne in Jerusalem, never again will a person who rebels against God be allowed to enter Jerusalem. For the first time, the world will see an entire nation in which every individual is radically dedicated to Jesus. Jerusalem, as the world capital, will truly be The Holy City. God's zeal has been manifested and the Lord will cause the counsel of His will, His government to rule and reign for all eternity! Amen!

Vision Three – The Man with the Measuring Line, vs. 2:1-13.

I have always read a lot of Charles Spurgeon's work, so when I found his take on Zech. 2:1-5, I was excited and hoping we were on the same page. And we were!

The measurement of Jerusalem, vs. 1-5.

Spurgeon comments concerning Zechariah 2:1-5: *"I am not given to prophesying, and I fear that the fixing of dates and periods has been exceedingly injurious to the whole system of premillennial teaching; but I think I clearly see in Scripture that the Lord Jesus Christ will come—so far I go, and take my stand—that he will come personally to reign upon this earth. At his coming it appears clear to me that he will gather together the Jewish people, that Jerusalem shall become the metropolis of the new empire which shall then extend from pole to pole, from the river even to the ends of the earth. If this be a correct interpretation of prophecy, you may read the whole of this chapter through and understand it; you have the key to every sentence: without such a belief; I see not how to interpret the prophet's meaning."*

Vision Three:

Zech. 2: 1-5 – Then I raised my eyes and looked, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand. So I said, "Where are you going?" And he said to me, "To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length." And there was the angel who talked with me, going out; and another angel was coming out to meet him, who said to him, "Run, speak to this young man, saying: 'Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls, because of the multitude of men and livestock in it. For I,' says the Lord, 'will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.'"

There were four persons interacting in this vision (2:1-5)

1. The man (2:1) is possibly the same man (Jesus) who is in the first vision (1:8, 10)
2. The prophet Zechariah—called a young man (2:4).
3. The interpreting angel—called "the angel who talked with me" (2:3)
4. Another angel, who told the interpreting angel to run to Zechariah (2:3, 4)

Here we are again with the man, not on a red warhorse defending Israel, but measuring to determine how far that it could expand. The measuring line being stretched out over Jerusalem to indicate its coming growth and prosperity.

This was also mentioned in *Zech 1:16-17* – ***“Therefore thus says the Lord: “I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it,” says the Lord of hosts, “And a surveyor’s line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem. Again proclaim, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “My cities shall again spread out through prosperity; The Lord will again comfort Zion, And will again choose Jerusalem.””***

Zechariah saw a man with a measuring line in his hand. Zechariah asked him where he was going and he replied that he was going to measure the width and length of the walls of Jerusalem (in preparation to expand the city). The interpreting angel was “going out” from talking with Zechariah in the last vision to be with the man with the measuring line. Then another angel met the interpreting angel to instruct him to run back to the young man (Zechariah) to tell him the good news of Jerusalem’s future increase, prosperity, and divine protection. The hope of Jesus living in and protecting Jerusalem is one of the greatest promises in the Bible

2:5 – ***“For I,’ says the Lord, ‘will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.’”*** Wow!

The angel will interpret the vision (v. 3)

This “angel” is the interpreting angel of 1:9. He moves away from Zechariah to greet an angel coming to him from the Angel of Jehovah, the man standing among the myrtle trees who had dismounted from His red horse. Thus revelation from Christ is passed on to a ministering angel in turns passes it on to the angel who is to instruct Zechariah.

The angel who talked with me

This was the same interpreting angel who talked to Zechariah throughout the night visions (1:9, 13, 14, 19; 2:3; 4:1, 4; 5:5, 10; 6:4). This interpreting angel was “going out,” from talking with Zechariah in the last vision to be with the man with the measuring line (2:3). Another angel met this interpreting angel, urging him to run back to the young Zechariah to tell him of Jerusalem’s future (2:4). Go tell young Zechariah the good news!

Now let’s look at a multitude of men and livestock:

Jewish people living in the nations will move to Israel in vast numbers in the Millennium (Isa. 11:12; 49:18-20; 60:4).

Isa. 49:18-20 – ***Lift up your eyes, look around and see; all these gather together and come to you... For your waste and desolate places... will even now be too small for the inhabitants... The children you will have...will say in your ears, “The place is too small for me.”***

Isa. 60:4 – ***Lift up your eyes all around, and see: they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be nursed at your side.***

Cattle are mentioned:

Isaiah prophesied God’s blessing on the cattle in the Millennium (Isa. 30:23-26). The mention of livestock shows that this passage is literal. I want you to begin to see the connection.

Isa. 30:23-26 – Then He [the Lord] will give the rain for your seed...in that day your cattle will feed in large pastures. Likewise the oxen and the young donkeys that work the ground will eat cured fodder... There will be on every high mountain and on every high hill rivers and streams of waters... The light of the sun will be sevenfold...in the day that the LORD binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound.

The future Jerusalem will enjoy a prosperous population explosion in the midst of previously unknown safety. The LORD Himself will be a wall of fire around Jerusalem. The LORD will inhabit Jerusalem with glory, (v. 5b).

The LORD will Himself gloriously dwell in the midst of Jerusalem in a manner that has not been known to this present day. This could be the radiance of Christ that the apostles briefly beheld on the mount of the transfiguration (Matt. 17:2; cf. Isa. 4:4-6; John 1:14). I think it's that, and much more. Jesus will live in the city and He will light up the City with His Glory. This will be the only city in history surrounded by the Shekinah Glory of God!

Wall of fire:

Jesus will live in Jerusalem (1:16; 2:5, 10) and will defend it. Jesus will establish a wall of fire around the expanded city instead of a physical wall. The wall of fire reminds us of the pillar of fire by which God protected and directed His people in the wilderness (Ex. 13:21-22; 14:20; Isa. 4:5). This vision gave encouragement to other Jews still living in Babylon to return, believing it would now be safe.

Zech. 2:1-5 – “For I,” says the LORD, “will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.” Now let's look at verses 6-7. The Lord called the Jewish exiles still living in Babylon to escape her coming judgment.

Zech. 2:6-7 – “Up, up! Flee from the land of the north [Babylon],” says the LORD; “for I have spread you abroad like the four winds of heaven,” says the LORD. Up, Zion! Escape, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon.”

This verse can be easily interpreted, but to me it seemed to be screaming out for the body of Christ in our day. I truly believe it has full application, and what I hear is leave Babylon now says the Lord I have plans for you. The majority in Zechariah's time chose to remain in Babylon. I believe they thought it would be an easier lifestyle. Isaiah, and Jeremiah, and others called God's people to flee from Babylon. The great Harlot of Babylon shall be destroyed and the Great Babylon looms large in our society. God's great judgment will fall upon Babylon.

Bable is the Hebrew word for Babylon.

Bable is defined: *confusion, to mix and mingle, a monument of human pride, to make a name for yourself, disobedience, utter rebellion against God.*

The Lord will judge any nation that plunders Jerusalem (2:8-9). Israel was to flee Babylon (2:7) because the Lord would shake His hand in judgment over her because she had plundered Israel.

Now **Zech. 2:8-9**: ***“Thus says the LORD of hosts: “He sent Me [Jesus] after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye. For surely I will shake My hand against them, and they shall become spoil for their servants. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me [Jesus].”***

Apple of His eye:

The apple of the eye speaks of the pupil. It is one of the most sensitive parts of the body, and therefore we guard it with zeal. It feels the slightest injury, and its loss is irreplaceable. This is how God feels about Israel. Moses and David compared God’s love for Israel to keeping her as the apple of His eye. ***“He kept him as the apple of His eye. (Deut. 32:10) “Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings.” (Ps. 17:8)***

Israel doesn’t need America, America needs Israel!

Shake My hand:

The Lord will shake His hand to release His judgments on the nations who plundered Israel (Isa. 11:15; 19:16). The Lord will shake the nations to prepare the way for Israel and the nations to receive His salvation. ***“With His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River and strike it.” (Isa. 11:15) “In that day Egypt...will be afraid because of the waving of the hand of the LORD.” (Isa. 19:16).***

Understanding “spoil” in verse 9:

With “a wave of His hand,” as a gesture militant opposition, God will reverse the fortunes of the Gentile oppressors so that master becomes slave and slave becomes master. The enemies of Israel will become the **spoil** of Israel because of Messiah’s intervention (Isa. 19:16-17). This astonishing about-face will cause the children of God to acknowledge His sovereignty in their lives.

Now, I want to read verses 8-11 and get your eyes focused on Jesus the sent one, always sent by the Father and the servant of the Father. This is clearly a reference to the second coming of Jesus. We find Zechariah referring to the second coming twice and also how the Jews recognize it’s JESUS! Israel will mourn over this.

Zech. 2:8-11 –Thus says the LORD of hosts: “He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you... For surely I will shake My hand against them...Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me...I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,” says the LORD. Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day...I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.”

Many Gentile nations will also become “My people,” so that “the nations will fear the name of the LORD and all the kings of the earth Your glory.

The Lord makes two statements about the Gentile nations. Those who attacked Israel will be judged (2:9), while others will join Israel in seeking the Lord (2:11).

Isaiah also makes this very clear:

Isa. 66:18-22 – “I will gather all nations [Gentiles] and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory. I will set a sign among them [Gentiles]; and those among them who escape [survive the tribulation] I will send to the nations...to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. Then they [Gentiles] shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the LORD out of all nations...to My holy mountain Jerusalem.”

Now the final 4 verses of this chapter. YES! How exciting to know our God!

Zech. 2:10-13 – “Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. And the LORD will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem. Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!”

The whole environment will be one of joyful singing as Zion anticipates the coming of the LORD to dwell with His people. Zechariah is now giving the ultimate description of Israel’s salvation. This can definitely take you from the place of discouragement to a place of rejoicing that Messiah will one day live in your midst.

He is coming to Jerusalem, (v. 10).

“Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,” says the LORD

The whole environment will be one of joyful singing as Zion anticipates the coming of the LORD to dwell with His people.

He comes the first time, as a saving King, (9:9).

“Rejoice greatly...O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey.” Israel’s Messiah was to come first on a donkey in humility (9:9). Verse 9 was fulfilled at Jesus’ first coming by Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Mt. 25:5; Jn 12:15). Verse 10 will be fulfilled at Jesus’ second coming.

The second time, as a reigning King, (14:1-4, 8-9).

He will gather to Jerusalem, (v. 11).

Many Gentile nations will also become “My people,” so that “the nations will fear the name of the LORD and all the kings of the earth Your glory”

The first time of His coming, the Gentiles will come to the Lord, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled (Rom. 11:13-15).

The second time of His coming, Israel will have been saved following “the fullness of the Gentiles” (Rom. 11:25-29).

The Lord will bring people from all nations into His kingdom (66:15-22)

(Isa. 66:18-22) “I will gather all nations [Gentiles] and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory. I will set a sign among them [Gentiles]; and those among them who escape [survive the tribulation] I will send to the nations...to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. Then they [Gentiles] shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the LORD out of all nations...to My holy mountain Jerusalem.”

Zech: 2-12 – “Take possession: And the LORD will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem.”

This passage describes what David prophesies in Psalms 2:8. ***“I will give You [Jesus] the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.”***

Again choose Jerusalem: The Lord chose Jerusalem to be the epicenter of the Millennium, showing her unprecedented favor before the eyes of the nations. He told Solomon that He would put His Name in the temple there (2 Chr. 6:6, 34-38). Zechariah emphasizes three times that God will again choose Jerusalem after their sin that led to the Babylonian captivity (1:17; 2:12; 3:2).

Zech. 2:13 – “Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!”
The Lord will arouse Himself from His heavenly habitation and take action on the earth. His zeal and love will cause Him to move to action. The beginning of this verse is what I think is a awestruck moment. Be still and know that I am God!

The Lord Himself will arouse Himself from a Heavenly Habitation!

Isa. 42:13 – “The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out...He shall prevail against His enemies.”

Personal Reflection

I would like to take this time to give some personal reflection in presenting the book of Zechariah to you. I know as impatient human beings we can always find ourselves asking the question, how long oh, Lord? How long? This, of course, comes in the midst of trials, loss, pain, longing, and it can go on, and on. Many times, people’s hearts will grow impatient under that type of strain. When we begin to disconnect from God in those situations because He seems to be silent or taking His time, we can begin to listen to other voices — voices of men and women begin to speak loudly and we begin to listen. It becomes more and more to sound like foolishness to me then the wisdom of God. To hear the arrogance of man escalating and how nations live in blasphemy against the Most High God greatly concerns me. It seems whatever the popular trend is, we run to it like it is the new standard — we must have it. Well, our God will not keep silent forever, and someday all flesh will be silent and in awe of our blessed, beloved King Jesus returning to take His rightful place in Jerusalem.

Now, I must say that not only have the ungodly spoken in this way, but many believers as well. We truly need to reverence God, in true Godly fear, which is the beginning of wisdom. As we learn in Zechariah, God is coming to earth, and this will mean judgment to some. But it will also be a great longing fulfilled, when our beloved Jesus returns and all prophecy and vision at last is fulfilled! Our God will arise and scatter His enemies and all that hate him shall flee, but the righteous shall be rejoicing, rejoicing, rejoicing!

So, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, my suggestion to both myself and each one of you, is to abide in Jesus, so that you will have confidence in His coming or your going.

In His Grip,

Bob Deering

This was fun! Lets do it again next week! Session 4 and Chapter 3. Chapters 3 and 4 are my favorite chapters in the book. Have a wonderful week in JESUS!