

**"God's Blessings for His People"**

**Zechariah 8**

**Introduction:** It has been 3 weeks since we have been in the book of Zechariah, so we need a brief review. As we stepped into Zechariah 8 God spoke through the prophet to explain that He had chastened the Jews but He also brought them back into their land because He had great blessings for them to enjoy. The blessings could only be enjoyed when the Jews were walking in obedience.

**Deuteronomy 28:1-7**

*And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:*

<sup>2</sup> *And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.*

<sup>3</sup> *Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.*

<sup>4</sup> *Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.*

<sup>5</sup> *Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.*

<sup>6</sup> *Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.*

<sup>7</sup> *The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.*

The Lord also gave them a warning of what would happen if they turned away from Him.

**Deuteronomy 28:15, 45-50**

<sup>15</sup> *But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:*

<sup>45</sup> *Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:*

<sup>46</sup> *And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever.*

<sup>47</sup> *Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;*

<sup>48</sup> *Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.*

<sup>49</sup> *The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;*

<sup>50</sup> *A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:*

I show you all of this to help you to see that in order to enjoy the blessings the Jews had to be walking in obedience. God brought the chasten to correct them and bring them back to a life of obedience so that the Jews could enjoy what God had for them.

### **Notice Zechariah 8:1-8**

The two most vulnerable groups, the young and the elderly, will one day live in great peace in Jerusalem. Verse 6 here is a key verse. This will be as pleasing to God as it will be to the Jews. God wanted the very best for His people.

### **Application:**

Did you know that God desires the very best for you? That is there are warnings and commands in His Word. It is not because He is a Drill Sargent that likes to see us tremble under His Authority. Every command and every warning in His Word is for our benefit. We need to understand this because Satan makes it look as though God is keeping something from us when He gives a warning, that is really for our protection.

### **Genesis 3:1-6**

*Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*

<sup>2</sup> *And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:*

<sup>3</sup> *But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*

<sup>4</sup> *And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*

<sup>5</sup> *For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

<sup>6</sup> *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

This brings us to where we are going to start today.

## I. "God's Plan for His People"

### Notice Zechariah 8:9

All of this prophecy was to get the Jews motivated. They were to strengthen their hands and listen to the Words of Haggai and Zechariah as they continued the rebuilding of the temple.

#### Application:

There are two applications here and one of them we briefly considered the last time we were in this letter.

#### 1. Prophecy should motivate us.

The prophecy given to the Jews here was to motivate them to service. God had plans of great blessing for the Jews and therefore they needed to build the temple because the Messiah was coming and He needed a temple to come to.

I want to show you something concerning prophecy that we briefly looked at in our Kingdom study.

### 2 Peter 1:16-19

<sup>16</sup> *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

<sup>17</sup> For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

<sup>18</sup> And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

<sup>19</sup> We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Prophecy is far greater than any personal experience and it is a light that shines brightly in this dark world in which we live in.

## 2 Peter 3:10-14

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

<sup>11</sup> Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.

<sup>12</sup> Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

<sup>14</sup> Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

### 2. We should strengthen our hands for God's service.

The hands of the Jews were to be strong for the building of the temple. But what should our hands be strengthened for? The Lord's work as well!

## Psalm 90:9-12, 16-17

<sup>9</sup> For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.

<sup>10</sup> *The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

<sup>11</sup> *Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.*

<sup>12</sup> *So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*

<sup>16</sup> *Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.*

<sup>17</sup> *And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.*

## II. God's Blessings on His People

### Notice Zechariah 8:10-12

Here in verse 12 is a description of what Israel will experience in the Kingdom. Joel gives us even more details.

### Joel 2:21, 22, 24-31

<sup>21</sup> *Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things.*

<sup>22</sup> *Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.*

<sup>24</sup> *And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.*

<sup>25</sup> *And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.*

<sup>26</sup> *And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.*

<sup>27</sup> *And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.*

<sup>28</sup> *And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:*

<sup>29</sup> *And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.*

<sup>30</sup> *And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.*

<sup>31</sup> *The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.*

**Notice Zechariah 8:13**

Here we see that God promised protection for His people as they would finish building the temple.

**Application:**

We too have the promise of God's Almighty protection.

**Romans 8:31-39**

<sup>31</sup> *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

<sup>32</sup> *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

<sup>33</sup> *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

<sup>34</sup> *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

<sup>35</sup> *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

<sup>36</sup> *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

<sup>37</sup> *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

<sup>38</sup> *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

<sup>39</sup> *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Conclusion:**

God has great plans for the Jews in the Kingdom. We too will be there. We shall rule and reign with Jesus Christ in our new glorified bodies. Then after that God has the eternal state for us to live in.

**Revelation 21:1-5**

*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

<sup>2</sup> *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

<sup>3</sup> *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

<sup>4</sup> *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

<sup>5</sup> *And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*