

Zechariah Chapter 8

V: 1-2 “*Thus says the LORD of hosts:*” (10X’s) Authority!

- God is passionate with great zeal for Zion - then and now! The word used here to express passion and zeal is also translated as “jealous” a word that convey’s a very strong emotion more akin to anger.
- Here the words translated as zealous, and great fervor express a passionate desire and fondness for Zion, that land of Israel in general, but Jerusalem in particular.

He said the same thing at the beginning of this prophesy:

Zechariah 1:14 “... I am zealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with great zeal.”

Previously:

Joel 2:18 “Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, and pity His people.”

Paul would later describe feeling the same way about the church:

2 Corinthians 11:2 “For I am jealous for you with Godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

- In the New King James this verse is presented in the present tense, that God is zealous for Zion - which I believe He is.
- In the KJV it is presented in the past tense with the word zealous being rendered as “jealous” - “I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy; and I was jealous for her with great fury.”
- God loved them. They were His people, yet they turned to other Gods. They forsook Him. They refused His counsel, rejected His Word, they ignored Him.
- Jealousy and fury speak of great anger - and they brought God’s judgment upon themselves.
- The KJV speaks to her sordid unfaithful past; whilst the NKJV translation seem to speak of His present passion and zeal.

V: 3 There was a definite departure of God’s glory, the Shekinah glory of God departing from the Temple, and from Jerusalem:

- The glory of the Lord moves from between the cherubim in the Holy of Hollies, to the threshold of the temple in the Holy place, then:

Ezekiel 11:23 “And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain, which is on the east side of the city.”

- The glory of God departed the Temple and the city of Jerusalem. Now God is saying that He is going to return to Zion and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem - just like Ezekiel also said.

Ezekiel also describes the glory of God returning to the Temple:

Ezekiel 43:4-5 “⁴And the glory of the LORD came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east. ⁵The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.”

- Jerusalem will be called by various names:
 1. The City of truth.
 2. The Mountain of the LORD.
 3. The Holy Mountain.
 4. The City of David.
 5. Zion. (amongst others.)

V: 4-5 He is describing a time of peace and security - something that is still elusive to this day.

- Old men and women can sit in the midst of the city and watch children at play - speaking of the Millennial reign of our Lord.

Micah 4:4 “But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.”

- This also speaks of the longevity that people will experience during the Millennium:

Isaiah 65:20 “No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.”

V: 6 Another way to put this would to say: “*Just because men will be impressed, does that mean that God will be impressed?*”

- In general it is probably fair to say that God see’s things differently than man; after all He has all the information, He understands the true context more than we do.

1 Samuel 16:7 “But the LORD said to Samuel, do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as

man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

V: 7-8 God will save His people from the land of the east and from the west - but their most recent captivity experience was from the Babylonians from the North, and from the Egyptians from the South. East and West wouldn't come into play until the Romans in 70 AD and the diaspora that followed - dispersing the Jews to every part of the world.

- This is an allusion to being delivered after that future time, then being brought back into their land ala 1948.

Psalm 107:2-3 “²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, ³and gathered out of the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.”

- He's going to bring the back:

Isaiah 43:5-6 “⁵Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; ⁶I will say to the north, give them up! And to the south, do not keep them back! Brings My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth.”

- God's desire is that we would live in communion with Him, that He would be our God, and that we would be His people.

“In truth and righteousness.”

- This is not presently the case. They are dwelling in the land, but not in righteousness - they are a very secular, worldly culture. Only 7-10% of the Jewish people are religious - the rest are totally secular and non-religious - and live like it. This is speaking again of a future time.

Jeremiah 31:33 “But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD; I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

V: 9 Presently, he is encouraging them to be strong and keep to the work at hand, to keep building the house of the Lord, just as they've been encouraged by Haggai, and now Zechariah.

1 Chronicles 22:13 “Then you will prosper, if you take care to fulfill the statues and judgments with which the LORD charged Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and of good courage; do not fear nor be dismayed.”

Haggai 2:4 “Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel, says the LORD; and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong all you people of the land, says the LORD, and work; for I am with you says the LORD of hosts.”

- What is the purpose of this encouragement, the goal: “*That the Temple might be built.*”

V: 10 Previously, when the work had been stalled; there had been no wages for men or beast - un-employment was high. They were suffering attacks from without, no peace, no ability to raise crops, there was discord and division - no one working together.

Haggai described this very thing:

Haggai 1:6-11 “⁶You have sown much, and bring in little; you eat, but do not have enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes. ⁷Thus says the LORD of hosts: consider your ways! ⁸Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified, says the LORD. ⁹You look for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? Says the LORD of hosts. Because of My house that is in ruins, while everyone of you runs to his own house. ¹⁰Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit. ¹¹For I called for a drought on the land and the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands.”

V: 11 “*But now...*”

- It’s a new day, a new beginning. Now they’ve got their priorities right, now they are seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness - their focused on building the Temple of the Lord.

Psalm 103:9-10 “⁹He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. ¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.”

Haggai 2:19 “Is the seed still in the barn? As yet the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not yielded fruit. But from this day I will bless you.”

V: 12 Oh the blessing and the favor of the LORD!

Psalm 67:4-7 “⁴Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, and govern the nations on earth. ⁵Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. ⁶Then the earth shall yield her

increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. ⁷God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.”

Proverbs 3:9-10 “⁹Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; ¹⁰So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”

V: 13 In the past God had made Israel and Jerusalem a curse and a byword - a hissing - now just as they'd been a curse, God will make them a blessing!

“So I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. Do not fear, let your hands be strong.”

Zephaniah 3:20 “At that time I will bring you back, even at the time I gather you; for I will give you fame and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I return your captives before your eyes, says the LORD.”

Isaiah 35:3-4 “³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are fearful-hearted, be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you.”

V: 14-15 Just as God determined to punish His children for their disobedience and rebellion - that is now passed and He is just as determined to do them good and to bless them.

Jeremiah 31:28 “And it shall come to pass, that as I have watched over them to pluck up, to break down, to throw down, to destroy, and to afflict, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD.”

Jeremiah 29:11-13 “¹¹For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹²Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

V: 16 This is what I want you to do: He's adding to the list in Zechariah 7:9-10.

Zechariah 7:9-10 “⁹Thus says the LORD of hosts: execute true justice, show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother. ¹⁰Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart against his brother.”

1. Speak truth to your neighbor. (9th Commandment)

Ephesians 4:25 “Therefore, putting away lying, let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”

2. Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace aka Godly judgment.

Amos 5:14-15 “¹⁴Seek good and not evil, that you may live; so the LORD God of hosts will be with you, as you have spoken. ¹⁵Hate evil, love good; establish justice in the gate. It may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.”

V: 17 #3 Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor;

Philippians 2:5 “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil;

4. And do not love a false oath; don't swear falsely.

- Something akin to lying, but with real purpose.

Leviticus 19:12 “And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.”

Deuteronomy 19:18-19 “¹⁸And their judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, ¹⁹then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you.”

Proverbs 19:5 “A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape.”

- None of these things are new or unreasonable.

Micah 6:8 “He has shown thee O man, what is good, and what does the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

V: 18-19 Regarding those fasts: The day of grieving and weeping.

- The Jews command these fasts over their 70 years of captivity; one in the 4th month coinciding for when Nebuchadnezzar broke through and entered into Jerusalem.
- The 5th month to commemorate the destruction and burning of the Temple.
- Another fast in the 7th month when Gedaliah, the Babylonian appointed governor was killed. (The prophet Jeremiah describes this.)
- Then another fast in the 10th month for the complete destruction and burning of the city, with all the people being taken captive.

- No more weeping - it shall be a time of joy, gladness, and a cheerful feast:

“For the house of Judah - therefore love truth and peace.”

- The chastening was terrible, but the result was gladness and joy.

Psalm 119:67 “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your Word.”

James 1:2-4 “²My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete lacking nothing.”

Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

V: 20-22 Again describing the Millennium. People will come and gather in Jerusalem, they will come to worship and pray and to seek the Lord of hosts.

Isaiah 66:23 “And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me, says the LORD.”

Zechariah 14:16 “And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.”

Revelation 15:4 “Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For you alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested.”

V: 23 In those days anti-Semitism will be reversed: everyone will envy the Jew and want to be close to them because they will recognize God’s favor upon them, and will want that for themselves.

Isaiah 60:3 “The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”

- The Gentiles will finally figure it out!

Deuteronomy 32:21 “They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God; they have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.”

Romans 10:19-20 “¹⁹But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger

by a foolish nation. ²⁰But Isaiah is very bold and says: I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me.”

- In the Millennium His plan will have come full circle!

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”