

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths Part 462—Again The Word Came Through God Is With You (Zechariah 8:1-23)

1. Did Zechariah the prophet receive favorable news from the Lord concerning Jerusalem?

Yes: *“(1) Again the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying, (2) Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury. (3) Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain. (4) Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. (5) And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof. (6) Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts. (7) Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; (8) And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness” (Zechariah 8:1-8).*

- As we have noted throughout this book, we see the word of the Lord coming to the prophet (**Zechariah 1:1, Zechariah 1:7, Zechariah 4:8, Zechariah 6:9, Zechariah 7:4, Zechariah 7:8**, etc.) as with other prophets in the past (**Genesis 15:1, Genesis 15:4, I Samuel 15:10, II Samuel 7:4, II Samuel 7:4, II Samuel 24:11, I Kings 6:11, I Kings 13:1, I Kings 13:20, I Kings 16:1, I Kings 17:2, I Kings 17:8, I Kings 18:1, I Kings 18:31, II Kings 20:4, II Chronicles 11:2, II Chronicles 12:7, Jeremiah 1:2, Jeremiah 1:13, Ezekiel 1:3, Daniel 9:2, Jonah 1:1, Haggai 1:1, and Haggai 2:20**).
- We covered in the first chapter of this book that the Lord was jealous for Zion in a way that brought His mercy as we see here (**Zechariah 1:14-16**; cf. **Ezekiel 39:25** and **Joel 2:18**).
- He planned to return to Zion (**Zechariah 2:10**).
- Again, Zion would be a city of truth as things change (**Isaiah 1:26**). The city of the Lord (**Isaiah 60:14**).
- Zion, in Jerusalem (**Psalms 135:21**), was significant in the bringing about of the New Covenant (**Isaiah 2:2-3, Micah 4:1-2, and Luke 24:44-53**).
- The change of the state of things (**Lamentations 2:11**). The view of children playing in the streets signifying the return to normal (**Jeremiah 30:19-20**).
- It's marvelous [a wonder]. Yet, God is capable of such (**Jeremiah 32:17**).
- The remnant would be gathered from all over and returned to their city, their land (**Amos 9:14-15**). At the time Zechariah is a prophet, that is what was happening (See: Ezra and Nehemiah).

2. As the people heard the words of the prophets, should they have been strengthened and looking forward to a more promising future?

Yes: *“(9) Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Let your hands be strong, ye that hear in these days these words by the mouth of the prophets, which were in the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built. (10) For before these days there was no hire for man, nor any hire for beast; neither was there any peace to him that went out or came in because of the affliction: for I set all men every one against his neighbour. (11) But now I will not be unto the residue of this people as in the former days, saith the LORD of hosts. (12) For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things. (13) And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong” (Zechariah 8:9-13).*

- Hands be strong is a phrase that indicates one needs to be strong (**II Chronicles 15:7**). That mindset was needed in the coming restoration (**Isaiah 35:4** and **Haggai 2:4**).
- Be strong to finish the work of building the temple. Fear had come upon them at this time (**Ezra 3:3** and **Nehemiah 6:9**).
- Solomon was originally addressed to be strong to do the building of the temple (**I Chronicles 28:10**).
- They weren't going to plant in vain, the seed would prosper (**Ezekiel 36:30** and **Haggai 2:19**).
- God was going to save them (**Psalms 69:35** and **Zechariah 10:6**).

3. What point did the Lord make in telling them not to fear?

That when He made a decision, He didn't change. So, His decision for good will not change: *“(14) For thus saith the LORD of hosts; As I thought to punish you, when your fathers provoked me to wrath, saith the LORD of hosts, and I repented not: (15) So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah: fear ye not” (Zechariah 8:14-15).*

- Once God decided... **Isaiah 14:24**
- Now, He has decided to save them (**Jeremiah 29:11-14**).
- The point: *“And it shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the LORD” (Jeremiah 31:28).*

4. What things did the Lord expect them to do?

*“(16) These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates: (17) And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD” (Zechariah 8:16-17).*

- Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour (**Leviticus 19:11** and **Proverbs 12:17**).
- Execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates (**Amos 5:15**).
- And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour (**Leviticus 19:18** and **Micah 2:1-3**).
- Love no false oath (**Malachi 3:5**).
- The Lord hates (**Psalms 5:4-6**, **Psalms 11:4-5**, and **Proverbs 6:16-19**).

5. When they fasted, was the atmosphere going to be sorrowful?

No: *“Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be to the house of Judah joy and gladness, and cheerful feasts; therefore love the truth and peace”* (**Zechariah 8:19**).

- **Esther 9:22**, **Isaiah 35:10**, **Isaiah 51:11**, and **Jeremiah 31:13**

6. Why were people going to come to Jerusalem from many cities and nations?

*“(20) Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: (21) And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also. (22) Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. (23) Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you”* (**Zechariah 8:20-23**).

- We know this happened in the first century. However, it was something even promised under the Old Covenant (**Psalms 86:9**, **Isaiah 60:1-3**, **Jeremiah 16:19**, and **Malachi 1:11**).
- Remember, as we come into the first century, there were proselytes (**Acts 2:10**, **Acts 6:5**, and **Acts 13:43**).
- Lest one get too confused, remember, those such as Ruth who existed even before these days of Zechariah.