

ZECHARIAH - Jehovah Remembers
"Strength For the Journey"
Zechariah 8:9-17

INTRODUCTION:

1. Zechariah 8:9-17
2. Do not miss what I am about to say!
 - a) God's Word (The Bible) is clear, that our future hope, is essential for the race we are in.
 - 1) It gives us the energy and endurance to be effective NOW!!!
 - b) Our future hope solidifies our objectives:
 - 1) It gives us PERSPECTIVE - 2 *Corinthians* 4:17-18
 - 2) It gives us PERSEVERANCE - *Romans* 5:3-5
 - 3) It PROMOTES HOLINESS - 1 *John* 3:3
 - c) Believers are therefore instructed to set their minds on things above.
 - 1) *Colossians* 3:1-2
 - 2) 1 *Peter* 1:13,16,17,22
3. The theme of HOPE is woven through the 8th chapter of Zechariah's prophecy!!
 - a) False Hope is found in the ritualistic routine of Chapter 7.
 - b) Israel was called to embrace the TRUE HOPE OF MESSIAH and His Future Kingdom.
 - 1) The glory of that kingdom was described in verses 1-8.
 - 2) In the section we are looking @ this morning in Vs 9-17, the Lord continued be calling His people to obedience based on their Messianic hope.
4. So, for this morning in looking ahead to Israel's future glory, the people were instructed to be strong in FOUR STRATEGIC AREAS:
 - a) Doing God's Work - Zechariah 8:9
 - b) In God's Grace - Zechariah 8:10-12
 - c) Knowing God's Promises - Zechariah 8:13-15
 - d) Speaking God's Truth - Zechariah 8:16-17

I. FIND STRENGTH FOR THE TASKS AT HAND

1. Last week we looked @ the first 8 verses of chapter 8 and we saw **FIVE IMPORTANT PRONOUNCEMENTS** (Realities) given to the Remnant of Israel.

FIVE GLORIOUS REALITIES

- a) **GOD IS PASSIONATE FOR HIS PEOPLE**
- b) **GOD PROMISES HIS PRESENCE WITH HIS PEOPLE**
- c) **GOD PROVIDES REFRESHMENT FOR HIS PEOPLE - REST**
- d) **GOD POWERFULLY PREPARES HIS PEOPLE - POTENTIAL**
- e) **GOD HAS A GLORIOUS PROGRAM FOR HIS PEOPLE**

2. These **EIGHT** verses reveal glorious realities about **Messiah's Future Kingdom**.

3. **Now in verse 9** we see the recurrence of the phrase "**Thus says the LORD of hosts**"

- a) Which means we will now be introduced to the practical implications of those **FIVE KINGDOM PROMISES**.

4. **Vs 9**

- a) "**Let your hands be strong**"

1) **NOWS** that's the opposite of apathy or losing heart.

2) The Israelites were to take courage as they worked to complete the job @ hand.

- b) The **RIGHT RESPONSE** to God's Kingdom Promises, was to actively engage in their present work, rejoicing in God's unfailing plan for Israel's future.

5. **Vs 9**

- a) In calling His people to be strong, the Lord focused on those who obeyed His word.

- b) "**you who in these in these days have been hearing these words from the mouth of the prophets,**"

6. In this passage the Lord commended the righteous remnant for "**hearing these words from the mouth of the prophets** (Zechariah and Haggai) **who were present on the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid**".

7. **Vs 9**

- a) "**that the Temple might be built**"

II. FIND STRENGTH FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES GOD GIVES

- **Zechariah 8:10-12**

- **Vs 10**
 - a) *"For before those days..."*
 - 1) Refers to the events of Vs 9.
- Though God had stood in judgment against Israel, those days were now past.
 - a) *God was now ready to bless and sustain the remnant of His people.*
 - b) That knowledge gave them confidence that God would protect them, just as He promised to do.
- Notice what Paul said, Philippians 1:6; 2:12-13

A. ISRAEL HAD EXPERIENCED ECONOMIC STRUGGLES

1. Vs 10b

a) *"there was no wage for man or any wage for beast"*

1) Speaking of that time Haggi said there was not enough money to pay the people, and the harvest was insufficient to feed the animals.

B. ISRAEL HAD EXPERIENCED POLITICAL INSTABILITY

1. Vs 10b

a) *"neither was there any safety from the foe for him who went out or came in"*

b) *"for I set every man against his neighbor"*

C. NOW TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S GRACE

1. Vs 11

2. **NOW** the Lord promised to bless the remnant of this people as they worked to complete that unfinished task.

3. Vs 12

a) *"For there shall be a sowing of peace:"*

4. Vs 12

a) *"and the heavens shall give their dew"*

5. Vs 12c

a) Up to this point the Israelites struggled to keep the little they gathered from harvest.

6. The promise that Israel would inherit all these things served as a clear reminder that the abundance they received was a gift from the Lord.

7. Vs 12 d

a) "and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things."

III. FIND STRENGTH IN GOD'S PROMISES

1. Vs 13

a) "*And as you have been a byword of cursing among the nations*"

2. This reminder of their past national shame, magnified, by contrast, the promise of Israel's future glory.

a) **Because of God's conventual grace**, God will not abandon His people; rather He declared that He would save them.

b) Which means He will intervene and *overcome the former judgment* He had carried out against them.

3. **WOW!!!! THIS IS HUGE** - When God saves us!!!! He saves us from HIMSELF.

a) Because God is HOLY, RIGHTEOUS, and JUST, He must judge sin.

4. **GOD SAVED ISRAEL BY ATONING FOR THEIR SINS**, and RESTORING them to Himself, DELIVERING them from their enemies, and ENSURING their FUTURE IN HIS KINGDOM.

5. Vs 13

a) "*so will I save you, and you shall be a blessing.*"

6. **Israel will be blessed to be a blessing.**

7. In *Genesis 12:1-3*, God promised Abraham that in Israel all the nations of the world would be blessed.

8. Vs 13

a) "*Fear not, but let your hands be strong*"

9. Vs 14

a) "*For thus saith the LORD of hosts*"

10. Vs 14-15

IV. FIND STRENGTH IN GOD'S TRUTH

1. Vs 16-17

2. Vs 16

a) *"These are the things that you shall do"*

3. In the light of the fact that Jesus is coming again, we have things to do now!!!

a) **FIRST** - Speak the truth to one another!! Vs 16a

1) Put away deception and dishonesty.

2) *Ephesians 4:25*

b) **SECOND** - Judge with truth!!! Vs 16b

1) The gates represented the location where major governing decisions were made.

2) They were to have integrity in their politics and Judgments.

c) **THIRD** - Do not devise evil in your hearts!! Vs 17

1) The practical implication of this was aimed at the heart.

2) *Psalms 19:14*

d) **FOURTH** - Don't love false oaths. Vs 17

1) The Lord's command to the people of Zechariah's day was they were not to love false oaths.

4. Vs 17

a) *"for all these things I hate, declares the LORD"*

1) Lying is not a small matter to God.

2) *Proverbs 6:16-19*

CONCLUSION:

1. In these verses 9-17 the Lord exhorted His people to find their STRENGTH

a) IN HIS WORK

b) IN HIS GRACE

c) FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES HE GIVES

d) IN HIS TRUTH