

## **Zechariah Chapter 8 Historic Interlude Part 3 The Future Homecoming**

---

Frank G Warbuton / General Adult

Zechariah / Zechariah 8:1-23

---

We are in the Second Section of the Book of Zechariah, the Historic Interlude. This section covers Chapters 7 and 8. The events of Chapter 7 take place two years after the visions of Zechariah Chapters 1-6. This is halfway through the rebuilding of the temple.

Jerusalem during this time is in ruins, and the walls surrounding the city are destroyed; following the return of the Exiles from the 70-year Babylonian captivity.

The LORD also rebukes the Children of Israel for engaging in fasts that HE did not ordain. They were fasting for themselves; and not in obedience to the LORD. These were religious activities.

Religion is doing things to try to earn GOD's favor. Remember in the Garden of Eden we see the first attempt at religion. When Adam and Eve fell and sin entered the world; they saw that they were naked. To hide their nakedness; they sewed fig leaves together. This was not acceptable to GOD. (explain)

Biblical Christianity is what JESUS did for us. If you are new here this evening, GOD does not want religion from you; he wants a relationship with you.

Last time we took a closer look at Zechariah Chapter 7 verses 13-14

[Zechariah 7:13-14](#)

13 "Therefore it happened, that just as He proclaimed and they would not hear, so they called out and I would not listen," says the Lord of hosts.

14 “But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations which they had not known. Thus, the land became desolate after them, so that no one passed through or returned; for they made the pleasant land desolate.”

Here, the LORD tells Zechariah that just as they have just come back from the Babylonian captivity— he is going to cast them out of the land again. This happened in 70 AD after JESUS prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem after HIS crucifixion.

This event was called the diaspora and recounts the Children of Israel being cast out of the land of Israel, throughout the world. When the Children of Israel were out of the land; the land became desolate; as GOD promised that it would when they were out of the land.

We studied last time the Jewish hatred experienced by the Children of Israel in the Diaspora. The hatred the Jewish people experienced in numerous European Nations began to be described by a sanitized phrase — antisemitism.

This leads us tonight to Chapter 8

### [Zechariah 8:1-5](#)

1 Again the word of the Lord of hosts came, saying,

2 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; With great fervor I am zealous for her.’

3 “Thus says the Lord: ‘I will return to Zion, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the Lord of hosts, The Holy Mountain.’

4 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Old men and old women shall again sit In the streets of Jerusalem, Each one with his staff in his hand Because of great age.

5 The streets of the city Shall be full of boys and girls Playing in its streets.

### [Zechariah 8:1-2](#)

1 Again the word of the Lord of hosts came, saying,

2 Thus says the Lord of hosts: “I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; With great fervor I am zealous for her.”

Here in these verses, we see that it is GOD speaking directly to Zechariah. GOD uses the title, “LORD of Hosts” eighteen times in this chapter. The Hebrew word for Hosts is tsaba and means that which goes forth; or an army. In Hebrew it would read Y’hovah tsaba. Meaning, “I am the ONE who goes forth;” or I am the ONE who is your army, who goes to war for you.”

Brothers and sisters, how true is that for us as well. It is the LORD, who goes before us and fight the enemy on our behalf.

The number of times this title appears in this chapter has meaning as well. Chuck Missler who as a Bible teacher; liked to “dig deep” in the study of the Bible. Chuck taught on something that the Hebrew scholars would look into. It is called a remez. A remez is a “hint” or a sign post that says, “dig here.” As you read through the scriptures, look for things that seem out of the ordinary. That may be saying — look deeper into this. What you could be looking is “GOD’s fingerprint” on the authorship of the Bible.

A Jewish sister in Y’shua reminded me of this recently. The word for life in Hebrew is Chai. Chai is made up of two letters. A Chet (resembles a lower-case n) and Yud (which resembles an apostrophe.) Hebrew is a language that has numeric values for the letters. A chet would be equal to 8 and a yud would be equal to 10. (????) Could HE be saying that HE is the ONE who goes forth, and HE is the ONE who is life? GOD is the GOD of the details.

### [Zechariah 8:2](#)

2 Thus says the Lord of hosts: “I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; With great fervor I am zealous for her.”

The LORD is zealous for Israel. In this passage it would refer to jealousy— as a husband would have for his wife. Zion would be a reference to Jerusalem. While

Zechariah Chapter 7 was a chastisement and a rebuke. The words of Chapter 8 are a comfort. (Describe the Book of Hosea and God's commands)

### [Hosea 3:1](#)

1 Then the Lord said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the Lord for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans."

### [Zechariah 8:3-5](#)

3 Thus says the Lord: "I will return to Zion, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the Lord of hosts, The Holy Mountain."

4 Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Old men and old women shall again sit In the streets of Jerusalem, Each one with his staff in his hand Because of great age.

5 The streets of the city Shall be full of boys and girls Playing in its streets."

(Explain the phrase- " Thus says the LORD")

Verse 3 is a yet future prophecy to be fulfilled. Isaiah describes it this way:

[Isaiah 2:1-2](#) 1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it.

The LORD HIMSELF will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem Will be called the city of Truth. The mountain of the LORD shall be called Holy.

JESUS described HIMSELF as the Way and the Truth.

### [John 14:6](#)

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Jerusalem is NOT the City of Truth, today. It is filled with false religions; for example, Islam, Catholicism, cults and other false religious groups.

Verses 4 and 5 are yet future also. Jerusalem is not a city of peace, today. There are numerous attacks that happen in the city. (Share the story of James with Pastor Phil -Sbarro's Pizza)

Verses 4 and 5 point to the Millennial Temple and reign of JESUS. Turn to Revelation Chapter 20.

### [Revelation 20:1-6](#)

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Old men and women will be welcome and safe here. Children will be able to play in the streets. Isn't it a joy to hear the sound of children running around and

playing in the Main Sanctuary after service. It is the sound of life. This will be a true time of peace in Jerusalem. For a thousand years the enemy will be bound. There will be no “The devil made me do it.”

Turn back to Zechariah Chapter 8.

### [Zechariah 8:6](#)

6 Thus says the Lord of hosts: “If it is marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, Will it also be marvelous in My eyes?” Says the Lord of hosts.

GOD is faithful to always have a faithful remnant. Remember the Victory that the LORD gave Elijah over the 450 prophets of baal and the 400 prophets of Ashtoreth. (Describe what happened when he was threatened by Jezebel and his response in [1 Kings 19:10, 14](#) .) Describe GOD’s response in [1 Kings 19:18](#).

Paul recounts this story in [Romans 11:1-5](#).

(Describe the faithful remnant in our day)

As the Temple was being rebuilt, some of the people who had never beheld the splendor and glory of Solomon’s Temple wept at the beauty of this Temple. As splendid as this was, the LORD is saying the work that he is going to do will be even more marvelous.

For those who have surrendered to JESUS, think of the work that HE has done in you and in me. Think of the change that JESUS has brought to your life. (Share about guys who were witnessing to me and ashamed of who I was before CHRIST.)

### [Philippians 1:6](#)

6 Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

HE is going to finish the work that HE has started in each of us.

(Share the Gospel )

### [Zechariah 8:7-8](#)

7 Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Behold, I will save My people from the land of the east And from the land of the west;

8 I will bring them back, And they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My people And I will be their God, In truth and righteousness.

Many times, in scripture the LORD makes reference to the lands North and South of Israel. (Describe the North/South Nations)

The reference to the lands East and West would refer to the world. The LORD will bring HIS people back from all over the Earth.

In Verse 8 this regathering started in the late 1800’s and came to pass on May 14, 1948 on our calendar. On the Hebrew calendar it would be the 5th of Ilyar, 5708. This would be the 2nd Month on the Hebrew Calendar.

The Jewish people are HIS chosen people and in the future they will come to see JESUS as Y’shua the Messiah and that HE is their GOD.

### [Zechariah 8:9-11](#)

9 Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Let your hands be strong, You who have been hearing in these days These words by the mouth of the prophets, Who spoke in the day the foundation was laid For the house of the Lord of hosts, That the temple might be built.

10 For before these days There were no wages for man nor any hire for beast; There was no peace from the enemy for whoever went out or came in; For I set all men, everyone, against his neighbor.

11 But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days,’ says the Lord of hosts.”

In these verses, GOD is encouraging those who are building the temple. May their hands be strong.

May the LORD strengthen your hands in service to HIM.

GOD is promising future blessings upon those who are building the temple.

HE is promising that while there was judgement and chastening in the past, there are blessings coming. This continues in the following verses.

### [Zechariah 8:12-13](#)

12 “For the seed shall be prosperous, The vine shall give its fruit, The ground shall give her increase, And the heavens shall give their dew— I will cause the remnant of this people To possess all these.

13 And it shall come to pass That just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, So I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. Do not fear, Let your hands be strong.”

GOD brought verse 12 to pass in Zechariah’s day. It also has a fulfillment in recent history, when Israel was brought back into the promised land.

### [Isaiah 35:1](#)

1 The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.

If you have every visited Isreal, you have seen the desert blossom like a rose. (describe the fruit and food of Israel and the irrigation and hydration innovations)

The LORD has blessed the Children of Isreal with many material blessings.

### [Zechariah 8:13](#)

13 “And it shall come to pass That just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, So I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. Do not fear, Let your hands be strong.”

Throughout history the Jewish people have been the curse and scorn of the nations. (Describe the spike in attacks on Jewish People since 10/7/23. in Canada and the U.S.

This spike in attacks is the LORD; drawing the Children of Israel home again. Fulfilling Zechariah Chapter 8 verse 7; and bringing them back from the land of the east and the west.

GOD has not forsaken the Children Of Israel, HE is going open their eyes in the future.

### [Zechariah 12:10](#)

10 “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”

While the Jewish people are cursed by the nations. GOD will use them in the future to be a blessing to the nations. ( describe the presence or lack of material blessings and GOD being pleased.)

The Children of Israel will be a blessing spiritually to the nations during the Tribulation period. Read Revelation Chapter 7 when GOD saves 144,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel and turns them into Paul the Apostles. They will be ministering to the world and pointing many to JESUS. THAT will be a true blessing.

### [Zechariah 8:14-17](#)

14 For thus says the Lord of hosts: “Just as I determined to punish you When your fathers provoked Me to wrath,” Says the Lord of hosts, “And I would not relent,

15 So again in these days I am determined to do good To Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Do not fear.”

16 “These are the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor; Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace;

17 Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; And do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate,’ Says the Lord.”

GOD spoke through the prophets; Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel; and other prophets to warn the tribes in the North of Israel and the South in Judah of the coming judgement. They were judged for rebellion against GOD and idolatry. They were then sent into the Babylonian Captivity for 70 years.

In verse 15, Zechariah would have been comforted by these words from the LORD; “I am determined to good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Do not fear.”

GOD is telling them; it does not matter if you have engaged in rituals or not. HE is extending mercy to them.

Brothers and sisters, The LORD has extended mercy to us, and do not fear!

The LORD has promised that HE going to do a work again among the Jewish people and draw them to HIM.

Read Romans Chapter 11. GOD is not finished with Israel.

Verse 16. We are to be speakers of truth. We are living in an age of lies and deceit. Deception is rampant. JESUS warned of these of great deception and lies.

Verse 17 We are to avoid these things. We are not to harbor evil or hatred towards our neighbors. False oaths— lying.

[Zechariah 8:18-19](#)

18 Then the word of the Lord of hosts came to me, saying,

19 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: The fast of the fourth month, The fast of the fifth, the fast of the seventh, And the fast of the tenth, shall be joy and gladness and cheerful feasts For the house of Judah. Therefore, love truth and peace.”

These four fasts all surround the destruction of Jerusalem.

The fast of the fourth month — Tammuz (which corresponds to our June/July — recalls the City walls being broken through.

The fast of the fifth month — Av (which corresponds to our July/ August — recalls when the temple was burned. (Explain Tisha B’Av)

The fast of the seventh month — Tishrei — (which corresponds to our September / October — recalls when the Jewish Governor Gedaliah was assassinated.

The fast of the tenth month — Tevet — (which corresponds to our December / January — recalls when the Babylonians began the siege of Jerusalem.

These fasts which were sorrowful in their history; were not given by GOD. HE gave them Feasts to Celebrate. HE is going to turn these fasts into Feast days.

GOD does not want us to come worship HIM with long sorrowful faces. HE wants us to come worship HIM with Joy.

### [Zechariah 8:20-22](#)

20 Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Peoples shall yet come, Inhabitants of many cities;

21 The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, ‘Let us continue to go and pray before the Lord, And seek the Lord of hosts. I myself will go also.

22 Yes, many peoples and strong nations Shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, And to pray before the Lord.’”

This is yet future. Verses 20-22 point again to the Millennial Kingdom. Jerusalem shall become the Capital of the Earth. Not only a political capital; but a spiritual one as well.

### [Zechariah 14:16](#)

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.

JESUS will be physically ruling from Jerusalem.

### [Zechariah 8:23](#)

23 Thus says the Lord of hosts: “In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’ ”

The number 10 men is interesting. In Judaism ten men are required to be able to have a Synagogue. The Religious Jewish people get this from Numbers Chapter 14 Verse 27.

### [Numbers 14:27](#)

27 “How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me.”

How many spies did Moses send in? How many gave a good report of the land? How many gave a bad report.

Therefore, they believe that 10 men are required for an assembly.

There are other scriptural examples of this.

Gideon took ten men with him as the LORD told him to do in Judges Chapter 6 verse 27.

Boaz in Ruth Chapter 4 gathered 10 men with him went he went to confront the closer kinsman to see if would redeem the land and marry Ruth.

Why will ten men ask to go with a Jew to Jerusalem, because JESUS will be reigning there.

Brothers and sisters, if you have been struggling in your walk. The LORD is not through with you either. Turn back to him in surrender and repent and HE will restore you.

Let's pray.