



**Sermon Series:** Unquenchable Hope Part 9

**Sermon Title:** Promises for the Coming Kingdom

**Speaker/ Date:** Armin Sommer, June 28, 2020

## Zechariah 8

God is the greatest promise-keeper. We see underscored in Zechariah 8 a series of promises regarding Millennial Jerusalem.

**Big idea:** Boldly trust God for every promise He has made.

4 categories of promise.

### I. He Promises to Bless the City

#### Zechariah 8:1–3

The “jealousy” of God, carries the idea of passionate guarding. He regards Jerusalem as a place set apart. God promises to live in Jerusalem and to bless the city. **Zechariah 8:3** The entire city will radiate holiness.

**Zechariah 8:1-3** foresees a time when God will bless His capital city of Jerusalem in the Millenium Kingdom.

### II. He promises to Bless The People

#### Zechariah 8:4–11

Millennial Jerusalem will be full of people... Both mortal and resurrected. The mortal people survived the Trib; glorified people are those who have returned with Jesus. **Zechariah 8:4-5**

The Hebrew word for "marvelous" (פלא' pala' /paw-law/) also means "difficult" or "hard." God uses the same Hebrew word in **Genesis 18:14** when 90-yr-old Sarah laughs at His promise that she will bear a son. **Zechariah 8:6**

It will NOT be too hard for God to bring His people back to the land. The remnant of Israel will come from all over the earth and stream back to the land. God will bless His people. **Zechariah 8:7–8**

They gather to build a magnificent Millennial Temple in Jerusalem. No more discipline necessary. There will be safety, prosperity, and security.

#### Zechariah 8:9–11

### III. He Promises to Bless the Land (8:12-19) Zechariah 8:12-19

Like in the Garden of Eden, crops and fruit will grow without weeds and pests. When Jesus returns there will be substantial healing to creation as the earth's environment is renewed. **Zechariah 8:12**

God says in Ezekiel that the land would remain desolate as long as the Jews were absent. And so it was - a bleak, barren, undeveloped land - for over 2000 years. Regardless of your political views of the State of Israel, with the ongoing return of the Jews to the land, it's as if the land has awakened. Today as Jews continue to return to Israel, the soil is bursting with fruit, trees and flowers, just as the prophets foretold.

When Jesus returns the earth will be renewed. The entire world, instead of cursing the Jews, will bless them. And because of the willingness of the Gentiles to bless the Jews of Zion, the promise to Abraham in Genesis 12 to bless those who bless His people will be evident. **Zechariah 8:14-17**

What are the fasts mentioned in **Zechariah 8:18-19**? After all, God had prescribed only one fast day, the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). But here we see four more. All of them were observe to remember the dark events that surrounded the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.

When Messiah returns, there will be feasting, not fasting.

### IV. He promises to Bless the Nations Zechariah 8

There will be a spiritual revival such as the world has never seen. There will be deep and urgent desire to experience God. **Zechariah 8:20**

People from all over will travel to Jerusalem to see Jesus Himself, to join with the Jewish nation in worship of the Living God. **Zechariah 8:21-22**

Crowds of non-Jews will grab the sleeve of any Jew they can find and ask to go with them on they journey to Jerusalem. **Zechariah 8:23**

Regularly acknowledge, recite, and claim the promises God has given you. Some promises:

- Salvation to all who believe in His Son (Romans 1:16-17).
- All things will work out for good for His children (Romans 8:28).
- Comfort in our trials (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
- An inheritance kept in heaven for us (1 Peter 1:4).

- Completion of the work He started in us (Philippians 1:6).
- Peace when we pray (Philippians 4:6–7).
- Supply for our needs (Matthew 6:33; Philippians 4:19).
- Timely return for us (John 14:2–3).
- Free access at any time to His throne (Hebrews 4:16)

Be on guard, watch, be ready, live for the Lord and in everything you do, whether you eat or drink (1 Corinthians 10:31) do it all for the glory of God. So you may not be ashamed at His appearing.

### Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- How is the biblical “jealousy” similar to worldly jealousy? How is it different than the way that jealous behavior often acts?
- What are the 2 types of believers who will be present in the Millennial Jerusalem, and how are they “qualified” to be there?
- We learn that when the Millennial time comes, the whole world will bless the Jews. Consider and discuss the treatment of the Jewish people throughout history. Now, focus closer on the treatment of the Jewish people in just your lifetime. Spend time thanking God for the time to come when the Jewish people will no longer be \_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank with examples)\_\_\_\_, and will instead be blessed.
- What are the fasts mentioned in **Zechariah 8:18–19**? Why is it so significant that it is mentioned that there will be feasting in place of fasting?