

Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



"No Walls Needed"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Zech. 2:5-9 (2:1-5, NASV); Deut. 1:11-18 32:7-9; 1 Chr. 16:17-18; Ps. 105:10-11; Ezek. 40:1-3; Is. 49:18-25; Ex. 3:14; 13:21-22

Before anyone builds, restores, or expands something, measurements have to be taken. A person does not pull out a measuring line because nothing is going to happen. The measuring begins because there is a plan. It means someone is looking beyond the rubble, beyond the empty space, and beyond what presently appears possible. Measurements are evidence that the present condition is not the final condition.

That is the picture Zechariah sees. Jerusalem had been devastated, the Temple had been destroyed, and the rebuilding work had stalled for nearly twenty years. The people could see ruins, vulnerability, and unfinished foundations. But ADONAI saw what He was preparing to restore and fill. Zechariah writes, *"I lifted up my eyes—and behold, I saw a man with a measuring line in his hand"* (Zech. 2:5). God was measuring because He was preparing to build, restore, and expand.

1. THE MEASURING CORD SAYS, "THIS IS MINE"

The man in Zechariah's vision was carrying a *chevel middah*—a cord or rope of measurement. This was more than a tool for determining the width and length of Jerusalem. The word *chevel*, cord or rope, was also used in connection with an allotted inheritance. Deuteronomy declares, *"But ADONAI's portion is His people—Jacob is the share of His inheritance"* (Deut. 32:9). It is the picture of a rope being placed around something as God says, "This belongs to Me."

Jerusalem had been conquered, burned, emptied, and left exposed, but God had not surrendered His claim upon it or His people. Their circumstances did not cancel His covenant. The measuring cord was a declaration that He still remembered what belonged to Him. There may be seasons when something God has spoken over your life appears buried beneath disappointment, failure, or years of inactivity. Yet the ruins do not mean that God has forgotten. He still knows what belongs to Him, and He is able to restore what appears lost.

2. GOD MEASURES IN ORDER TO EXPAND

Zechariah asked the man, *"Where are you going?"* The man answered, *"To measure Jerusalem to see how wide and how long it is"* (Zech. 2:6). He was measuring in preparation for rebuilding, but he was also measuring because Jerusalem was going to expand. Another messenger was told, *"Run, speak to this young man, saying: 'Jerusalem will be inhabited as a village without walls because of the great number of men and*

livestock in it” (Zech. 2:8). There would be so much life in her midst that the old boundaries could not contain it.

To people who had experienced invasion and exile, an unwallled Jerusalem could sound frightening rather than comforting. Walls gave people a sense of definition, protection, and control. Yet God was saying that what He intended to do would be greater than the walls they believed they needed. The same can be true in our lives. Fear and anxiety tempt us to build walls around our future, our relationships, our calling, and even our obedience. We try to create enough structure and control to guarantee our safety. But sometimes the walls we build to protect what we have also prevent us from making room for what God desires to bring.

3. GOD HIMSELF WILL BE THE WALL AND THE GLORY

ADONAI did not tell Jerusalem that protection no longer mattered. He revealed that her true protection had never been the stones surrounding the city. He declared, *“For I”—it is a declaration of ADONAI—“will be a wall of fire around it and I will be the glory inside it”* (Zech. 2:9). They were not guarding God’s dwelling; God had always been guarding theirs. The former walls had not saved Jerusalem, and the physical Temple had not contained the glory of God. Their security had always depended upon His presence.

The language is emphatic: “I Myself will be.” It points back to the name God revealed to Moses: *“I AM WHO I AM”* (Ex. 3:14). The One who is will be everything His people need Him to be. He will be fire around them—protecting, guiding, and surrounding them—and glory within them, filling the very place He has restored. Our greatest security is not found in what we can build around ourselves, but in the presence of the One who stands around us and dwells among us.

CONCLUSION

We are often tempted to trust what we can see, calculate, construct, and control. We trust the wall, the plan, the bank account, the institution, the routine, or the strategy. These things may have value, but they were never meant to take the place of the LORD Himself. Jerusalem’s walls had created the illusion of safety, but the people had forgotten that it was God who protected, sustained, and preserved them. Before they had houses, cities, vineyards, and fortifications, He had carried them through the wilderness. He had been their provider and protector all along.

In this passage, the LORD is inviting His people to release our false securities and return to the presence of God. Perhaps you feel exposed today, as though the walls around your life have fallen and you no longer know what will keep you safe. Or perhaps you have been working desperately to build walls of control around everything you fear losing. Open your hands before ADONAI. Surrender the walls you have trusted, the boundaries fear has created, and the future you have tried to control. Ask Him to be the fire surrounding you and the glory filling you. The safest place is not behind the walls we build; it is within the presence of the One who says, “I Myself will be.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did the measuring cord communicate about God's continuing claim upon Jerusalem and His people?
2. Why would the promise of an unwallled Jerusalem have sounded both hopeful and unsettling to those who had returned from exile?
3. What is the difference between trusting God-given wisdom and placing our ultimate security in the structures we build?
4. What "walls" of control, routine, money, reputation, or self-protection are you presently tempted to trust more than the presence of God?
5. Is there an area of your life that appears ruined, stalled, or too small? How might God be asking you to believe that He is measuring it for restoration and expansion?

CLOSING PRAYER

ADONAI, You are the One who remembers Your covenant and does not abandon what belongs to You. Forgive us for trusting the walls we build more than we trust Your presence. Forgive us for believing that our plans, resources, and structures are what keep us secure. Tear down every wall of fear, pride, anxiety, and control that prevents us from making room for what You desire to do.

Measure our lives according to Your purposes. Restore what has been broken, awaken what has become stalled, and expand our vision beyond what we can presently see. Be a wall of fire around us and the glory within us. Teach us to rest in Your protection, follow Your leading, and trust that the One who is will always be everything we need.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.