

## Finding Focus in a Blurry World

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Major Posts from Minor Prophets: Be an Influencer / Zechariah 7:1–8:23

God saves those He calls and will give them peace, so you do not have to fear, God is with you.

### Notes

09/17 Zechariah 7:1-8:23, "Finding Focus in a Blurry World," Subtitle: Bringing things into focus, Scripture: Phil. 3:7-14

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Why are you here?

What are you facing in this life?

What do you live for?

What is your greatest hope for the future?

In this present time of TV, phone calls, texting, social media, internet at our finger tips, and everyone else's opinions about what is best for our lives, we can become exhausted and hopeless.

Things just don't seem like they should be. Wages that don't go as far as they used to, jobs that don't give us joy like we thought they would. Life that hasn't turned out like we had hoped they would.

And, here we are. Now what? How do we change all this. What can we do about it? Who do we look to for help and advice that actually makes a difference.

Zechariah, in chapters 7+8, gives a similar setting for Israel as we are experiencing today, and then gives 4 messages of hope for them.

God has given these messages, not only to Israel at a time when they were struggling to see clearly, any hope for the future, but for all generations to come, so that they might find focus in a blurry world; bring things back into focus.

The Sons of Korah who were in charge of the corporate worship when Israel would gather together put it this way in Psalm 42:5–11

“5 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him For the help of His presence.

6 O my God, my soul is in despair within me; Therefore I remember You from the land of the Jordan And the peaks of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

7 Deep calls to deep at the sound of Your waterfalls; All Your breakers and Your waves have rolled over me.

8 The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime; And His song will be with me in the night, A prayer to the God of my life.

9 I will say to God my rock, “Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?”

10 As a shattering of my bones, my adversaries revile me, While they say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”

11 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.”

These 4 messages in Zechariah to the people of Israel who had lost their way in this life, explains why they can put their hope in God. Zechariah gives a glimpse into what God has planned for them, what kind of God He is, and how He plans for the future of all His people.

So, why are you here today? Why are you listening in? Why might you need a little look into something that can give you hope?

As we start, Zephaniah asks that question and gives a warning, before he declares the Lord's messages of hope. Let's take a look at chapter 7 before we dive into the four messages.

God asks, "Are you here for me?" (Zechariah 7:1-7)

If you are not here for God, then you will struggle to experience what He has to offer.

God warns, "If I call you and you do not listen, then when you call me I will not listen." (Zechariah 7:8-14)

If you do not listen to God's call for you, then you will struggle to experience God's love when you talk to Him.

Despite Israel doing things for themselves instead of the Lord and despite their ignoring God's call for them, He sends through Zephaniah 4 messages of hope.

## Message #1 - God saves those He calls (Zechariah 8:1-8)

Romans 8:29–32 "29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?"

## Message #2 - There will be peace (Zechariah 8:9-13)

John 14:27 "27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

## Message #3 - You do not have to fear (Zechariah 8:14-17)

Isaiah 41:10 "10 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'"

Psalms 34:4-5 "4 I sought the Lord, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears. 5 They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces will never be ashamed."

2 Timothy 1:7 "7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and discipline."

## Message #4 - God is with you (Zechariah 8:18-23)

Isaiah 41:13 "13 "For I am the Lord your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.'"

Deuteronomy 31:6 "6 "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.'"

Zephaniah 3:17 "17 "The Lord your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy."

Matthew 28:20 "20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.""

Hebrews 13:5 "5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,""

Romans 8:38–39 "38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

**God saves those He calls and will give them peace, so you do not have to fear, God is with you.**

Why are you here?

Do you live for self or for the Lord?

Is God calling you?

Have you, or are you willing right now to answer His call and see His messages of hope come true for you?