

Zechariah 2:1-5

The book of Zechariah focuses mainly on the city of Jerusalem.

The prophet was one of those who had returned in 538 BC to restore the city after its desolation by the Babylonians almost fifty years previously.

The city was the spiritual center of God's people. The Lord was pleased to manifest His presence at Jerusalem and the people worshipped Him there.

The holy city of Jerusalem pointed to something greater to come, however, the New Testament church and the eternal city of God that is in heaven.

Thesis

In Zechariah 2:1-5, God speaks about Jerusalem and His plans for the city in the third vision given to the prophet in 520 BC.

1. Dominant Perspective vv. 1-4

In the first vision given to Zechariah, God promises to return to Jerusalem to build and to bless (**Zech 1:7-17**). The second vision gives assurance of the Lord's ability to overcome those who threaten to attack and scatter God's people (**Zech 1:18-21**).

The third vision picks up on the image of the measuring line being stretched out over Jerusalem in the first vision (**Zech 1:16**).

The point of the measuring line is that Jerusalem, desolate and ruined in Zechariah's time, would be built up so as to be inhabited.

The limitations of human evaluation and expectation is corrected by God's perspective on the city (**Zech. 2:3-4**).

If we are to take our view of the church from man, at best, they tell us what *is* but not what *ought* to be.

Zechariah's vision reminds us that we need our measuring line to be corrected and controlled by God's measurements. We must run to the Lord for a vision of the church both in terms of what ought to be and what will be.

2. Divine Vision vs. 4

This vision gives God's vision for His city (**Zech 2:4**).

The church is "a city without walls." The idea is that of an ever-growing urban sprawl, the way our cities today keep growing outward

The basic idea was fulfilled in the years following Zechariah but this vision of expansion is ultimately fulfilled in the church (**Acts 1:8**).

The idea of a city without walls also speaks to the character of the church. We are a city with our own holy culture. Yet we are a city without walls, inviting all to come in.

3. Protecting Presence vs. 5

Though the city has no walls, God will be her protection (**Zech. 2:5**).

This is why it is the greatest folly for Christians to rely ultimately on worldly sources of protection and strength. What God promises for his church he also promises for each of his people (**Psalm 121:7-8**).

The Lord also says, “**I will be the glory in her midst**” (**Zech 2:5b**).

What a motivation this is for God's people, that God will come to be the glory within his church (**Rev 21:10-11, 23**). Given all that is still to come, how tragic it is when the church exults in mere earthly riches. Many today have adopted a worldly way of measuring the church.

4. Preliminary Application

After all the wonderful things God has said about his church, this city that neither has nor needs any walls, he now invites everyone to come for salvation (**Zech 2:6-7**).

The focus here is God's gracious and free invitation for all to come to Him and therefore to his city.

You should join in the everlasting communion of all the redeemed through faith in the Savior that God has sent.

If you are not a Christian, if you have not come to God in faith, God invites you to come out of the world and into his city.

This world is passing away but God's eternal city will last forever.

The invitation of **Zechariah 2:6-7** is especially addressed to those Israelites still living in Babylon, who had comfortably settled down in exile and may have forgotten their true citizenship.

How great a danger this poses to worldly believers today!

If you are a Christian, then you must love God's church, the city in which you hold eternal citizenship.

You must make God alone your glory, the joy of the Lord your strength.

This is what will last forever, long after every earthly fortress has fallen and so we offer ourselves to God for the building of his city

Through faith in Jesus Christ, Christians have membership now in the city of God, the true church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Though now we see that city only by faith, the day will come when it will fill our sight and we will dwell there forever (**Rev. 22:3-5; 14**).