

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
Sunday Sermon

Date: December 1, 2019

Text: Zechariah 8:1-23

Scripture Reading: Zechariah 8:1-23

Subject: Zechariah Series, Chapter 8, Jehovah shall bless Israel in the kingdom

In our last message from Zechariah we considered chapter 7 in which we read of a question asked by those sent to the temple. "Should I weep in the fifth month, separating myself, as I have done these so many years?" God's answer was a stinging one to the remnant – a reminder of what their fathers had done in refusing to heed the prophets which the LORD sent before the Babylonian Captivity.

Today, we are come to the eighth chapter in which we see the reiteration of God's promise to bless Israel in the kingdom. Clearly, this has always been God's purpose, therefore, nothing can stop what has been determined of the LORD for them – or for us.

Part 1 – (Verses 1-8) God's unfailing purpose to bless Israel in the kingdom

Zechariah 8:1-2 (KJV) Again the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying, 2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury.

Again...these same words were recorded for us in the 1st chapter of Zechariah: Zechariah 1:14-16 (KJV) So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy. 15 And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped

forward the affliction. 16 Therefore thus saith the LORD; I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it, saith the LORD of hosts, and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem.

As we remember, those words were spoken to the remnant to encourage them in the rebuilding of the temple. The LORD shewed them mercy, therefore the temple was rebuilt and completed in the 6th year of Darius, king of Persia.

Zechariah 8:3 (KJV) *Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.*

This passage looks to the future. The LORD is returned unto Zion, and **will dwell** in the midst of Jerusalem. We saw that in our study of Ezekiel when the glory of the LORD came in through the eastern gate and said to Ezekiel: "... *Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places.*"

Ezekiel 43:7 (KJV)

The LORD will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth – How different from the other names Jerusalem has borne in her humiliation! She was called an unclean woman; a harlot and a murderer; and Sodom and Egypt as we see in these passages.

Lamentations 1:8 (KJV) *Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she is removed: all that honoured her despise her,*

because they have seen her nakedness: yea, she sigheth, and turneth backward.

Lamentations 1:17 (KJV) *Zion spreadeth forth her hands, and there is none to comfort her: the LORD hath commanded concerning Jacob, that his adversaries should be round about him: Jerusalem is as a menstruous woman among them.*

Isaiah 1:21 (KJV) *How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.*

Revelation 11:8 (KJV) *And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.*

But these infamous, degrading names shall be no more – she shall be called a city of truth.

And the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

When mountain is used in this way – in a figurative expression, it speaks of the kingdom – the kingdom of the LORD of hosts as he reigns as king over all the earth (Zech. 14:9).

Zechariah 8:4 (KJV) Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age.

Old men; -- very old men, and very old women: formerly war, or famine, or pestilence and wasting disease, or wild beasts, did cut off men and women before they grew to old age; but now it shall be otherwise, I will bless with health and long life in a peaceful state.

Old women; -- though naturally the weaker, though by child-bearing further weakened, yet there shall be many of these very old; or possibly it may intimate a very long life with their beloved mates, and so old men will be ancient husbands, old women their

ancient wives. However, this old age shall be a crown of honor to this city.

Every man with his staff in his hand for very age; -- through multitude of days; it shall not be from weakness and diseases that they lean upon their staff, but very age shall bring them to it.

Zechariah 8:5 (KJV) *And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof.*

The streets; -- which speaks of every street.

Shall be full of boys and girls; -- have many young ones healthful, strong, brisk, and lively, the present joy and future hope of all the nation now one again and no longer divided; so will the LORD fulfil the promise of multiplying your children.

Playing in the streets: -- Jerusalem shall be in that peace, health, and plenty, that parents shall neither fear danger to their children abroad, nor need their labor at home. Psalms 128 shall be fulfilled to them.

Psalm 128:1-6 (KJV) *A Song of degrees. Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways. 2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. 3 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. 4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD. 5 The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. 6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.*

Zechariah 8:6 (KJV) *Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of*

hosts.

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days,-- Will it not be marvellous and very surprising to those brought back to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in those days. Was it not a wonder when the king of Persia worked with that remnant at the end of the Babylonian Captivity to send them back to build the temple and the walls of Jerusalem? No doubt, their mouths were, upon their return, open with amazement and wonder. How much more will that be the case when they are gathered from the four corners of the earth and brought back to this land promised to them?

Page | 5

should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts. – God’s promises to his covenant nation shall be fulfilled and the LORD of hosts shall bless them in an unprecedented manner. Does not the LORD delight to bless his people? Not as if it was impossible to be done; it shall be done, as marvellous as it may seem to be – for nothing is impossible with God.

Zechariah 8:7-8 (KJV) Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; 8 And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; -- This cannot be understood of bringing those Jews that remained in Babylon, and other places, to their own land, for Babylon lay north of Judea. No, it speaks of the end times conversion of the Jews.

Ezekiel 20:39-43 (KJV) *As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols.*

40 *For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things. 41* *I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen. 42* *And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers. 43* *And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed.*

Jeremiah 31:7-9 (KJV) *For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel. 8* *Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither. 9* *They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.*

And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness. – The LORD will bring them to Jerusalem and their land. This is where they will be accepted. Some, in gross ignorance of the scriptures, try to make these promises apply to the church at the end, but it cannot be applied in truth. The land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is for the children of Israel – and they shall be blessed there as God’s people and the LORD God will be their God in truth and in righteousness.

Part 2 – (Verses 9-19) Words of the LORD of hosts to the remnant which returned to Jerusalem about 518 BC.

Zechariah 8:9 (KJV) Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Let your hands be strong, ye that hear in these days these words by the mouth of the prophets, which were in the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built.

These words are intended for the remnant which had returned from Babylon. The foundation of the Lord’s house had been laid a now it would take a lot of labor that the temple might be built. “Let your hands be strong, ye that hear in these days these words by the mouth of the prophets.” What did the prophets say about this?

Haggai 1:8-9 (KJV) Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD. 9 Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.

Haggai 1:12-13 (KJV) Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the

remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the LORD.

13 Then spake Haggai the LORD'S messenger in the LORD'S message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD.

How significant is Haggai's message to this remnant in light of the verses which follow.

Zechariah 8:10 (KJV) *For before these days there was no hire for man, nor any hire for beast; neither was there any peace to him that went out or came in because of the affliction: for I set all men every one against his neighbour.*

For before these days... -- Before the day when the LORD God brought back this remnant – there was no hire (no jobs for men), no hire for beast – no peace to anyone. All was trouble! Why was that? Because the LORD has set all men everyone against his neighbor! Wow, we can hardly imagine a time when our minds could be changed to do horrible things against our neighbors! But these did, because God moved them so.

Zechariah 8:11 (KJV) *But now I will not be unto the residue of this people as in the former days, saith the LORD of hosts.*

That was before you went into captivity! There were no jobs – no peace – trouble everywhere! But now, I will not be unto the residue of this people as in the former days, saith the LORD of hosts. Things have changed. Now God's face is toward his people who have been judged at his hand.

Zechariah 8:12 (KJV) *For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.*

This is the proof which you shall see. Your seed shall sprout and come up. The vine shall give her fruit. The ground will shall bring forth plentifully. You shall have rain, both the former and the latter rain. The LORD God will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these blessings. It is a joyful thing to see God give a bountiful harvest!

Zechariah 8:13 (KJV) *And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong.*

The LORD God knows that you were a curse among the heathen – the Babylonians. Surely the remnant understand that God knew all their sorrows and trouble. Not, He will save them and they shall be a blessing. Don't be afraid! Let you hands be strong – and finish the temple.

Zechariah 8:14-15 (KJV) *For thus saith the LORD of hosts; As I thought to punish you, when your fathers provoked me to wrath, saith the LORD of hosts, and I repented not: 15 So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah: fear ye not.*

The LORD repeats his promise and reminder. ***For thus saith the LORD of hosts; As I thought to punish you, when your fathers provoked me to wrath, saith the LORD of hosts, and I repented not:*** -- Remember, you provoked me to wrath and I

thought to punish you. I did not repent of that. You did suffer punishment in Babylon for seventy years!

So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah: fear ye not. – Don't be afraid now! I have thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. It is like he is saying: I am going to bless you – fear not!

Zechariah 8:16-17 (KJV) These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates: 17 And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD.

The LORD had purposed to bless Jerusalem and Judah, yet, He commanded the way for them to walk. (1) Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor – don't lie. (2) execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates – do right and do it in peace. (3) Let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbor; - no vain imaginations! No wicked thoughts against your neighbor! And (4) Love no false oath! - Lying oaths! For all these things I hate, saith the LORD. Live right! You and I could heed this reminder, could we not?

Zechariah 8:18-19 (KJV) And the word of the LORD of hosts came unto me, saying, 19 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be to the house of Judah joy and gladness, and cheerful feasts; therefore love the truth and peace.

These fasts were like national days of mourning because of what had transpired on these days. ***The fast of the fourth month*** - wherein the city was taken by the Babylonians, who on the ninth day of this month broke into the city, **Jeremiah 52:6-7. *And the***

fast of the fifth - of which on the tenth day the temple was burnt. **And the fast of the seventh** - wherein Gedaliah was killed, **Jeremiah 41:1. And the fast of the tenth**, -- on the tenth day of the tenth month the king of Babylon's army sat down before the city and besieged it. These had been very sad remembrances, indeed, but – **shall be to the house of Judah joy and gladness, and cheerful feasts; therefore love the truth and peace.** – The LORD shall turn these sad occasions to times of joy and gladness. What a blessing for the returning remnant!

Part 3 – (Verses 20-23) Jerusalem is yet to be the true worship center of the entire earth.

Zechariah 8:20-21 (KJV) Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: 21 And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also.

These verses are clear. It shall yet come to pass. Not at that present time of the remnant's return from Babylon, but yet. Many people shall say to others, "Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also." Why is that? It is because, at this future time the LORD Jesus Christ shall be king over all the earth and the law shall go forth from Jerusalem. This shall be the "headquarters" of the kingdom of the LORD.

Zechariah 8:22 (KJV) Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.

Many people and strong nation shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem – and to pray before the LORD. From all over the earth people will come.

Psalm 102:15-16 (KJV) *So the heathen shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth thy glory. 16 When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory.*

Isaiah 2:2-4 (KJV) *And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. 3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

Zechariah 8:23 (KJV) *Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.*

This is amazing! The Jews who have been hated by so many in every nation of the world shall suddenly be brought to prominence among all people. No longer will they be the target of those seeking to destroy them. No, their God shall have blessed them and given them a name of honor all over the world. In those days – when the LORD's kingdom is manifested **ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.**

In a gospel sense, this is true of the gentiles who now are quickened to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is blessedly true that Jesus of Nazareth, the only begotten son of the living God, was born a Jew – of the tribe of Judah. As He began his personal ministry in and around the land where he was born, he went first to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (to Jews). As he gathered his first disciples – naming twelve of them apostles, Jesus sent them – not in the way of the gentiles – but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. A few believed. We are told that one-hundred and twenty were gathered to wait for the promise of the father (the baptism of the Holy Ghost) after the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. All of these persons – both men and women, apostles and others were all Jews – every one of them. In them was fulfilled the saying that the gospel was to the “Jews first.” From these, the gospel was spread – even from the Jew, Saul of Tarsus who was later named Paul. He was the Jewish apostle to the gentiles. Now, that gospel that had its beginning in the land of Judaea with the preaching of John the Baptist (another Jew), it has spread to us here in the great north.

What if some do not believe? Does that do anything to undermine the plan and purpose of God according to election? **Romans 3:3 (KJV)** For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? -- Absolutely not! God’s purpose shall be fulfilled without fail. All his sheep shall hear his voice, believe, follow him, and never perish, but have everlasting life.

All that the Father gave to His only begotten son SHALL COME TO HIM. **John 6:37 (KJV)** All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Do you believe Jesus Christ is the son of the living God – that He died for your sins on the cross more than 2,000 years ago? If you believe, will you follow him in the waters of baptism and unite with his church to live for him and walk as he walked? I pray God will be pleased to open your

sin blinded eyes and bring you to faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.