

**BOOK OF ZECHARIAH**  
**THE LAST WORD ON JERUSALEM**  
**ZECHARIAH 2:1-13**

**Introduction**

The most important of all political questions today is this: **To whom does the city of Jerusalem belong? The Jews? The Arabs? Or both?**

I say “*political question*” because theologically there is no question!

East Jerusalem was under Jordanian rule until 1967. Jordan had simply annexed that part of the city. Then East Jerusalem was conquered by the Israelis during what we know as the Six-Day War in 1967. Then 15 years later in 1982, Jerusalem was declared as the indivisible capital of Israel by the Israeli parliament. But not everyone recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel (including our own country). Tel Aviv is the recognized capital.

There have been MANY political discussions that have taken place among the rulers of this world about Jerusalem! Also, there is a continuing battle of the so-called Palestinians that is clearly aimed at dividing Jerusalem into two capitals. The United Nations has also been in favor of a division. But the Muslims want Israel OUT! They claim that all of Jerusalem should belong to the Arab world!

**So, Who will have the last word concerning Jerusalem?** The answer is clear from the Bible text (*vs 12-13*). God's words are vitally significant concerning a solution to the Middle East question! **It is absolutely clear that the Lord will have the last word on Jerusalem and the nations will be silenced!** It matters not how many nations join in the discussion against Israel and it matters not how loud or how long they may rant and rave!

**The fact remains: Jerusalem is God's concern!** The Lord's words in this chapter put an end to all speculation concerning the final disposition of Israel and Jerusalem!

**I. NOTICE THE MAN WITH THE MEASURING LINE. (2:1)**

The first thing the Lord showed Zechariah was a man with a measuring line with which to measure Jerusalem. This measuring line was previously mentioned in chapter **1:16**.

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**So, Who is this man with the measuring line and what does this prophetic act say to us?** It seems that Jesus Himself is portrayed here. Ezekiel mentions a similar person in *Ezekiel 40:2-3*.

Just as Jesus is the One Who is the full measure of OUR REDEMPTION and Who has clothed US WITH HIS SALVATION, so also, **He is the salvation of Jerusalem, Judah, and Israel!**

It was part of God's plan that the Lord Jesus grew up as the son of a carpenter; we can safely assume that He worked in this trade with his earthly Father. *Matthew 13:55*—“*Is not this the carpenter's son?*”

The Greek word for “*carpenter*” is *tektoon*, which means “*builder who works with wood and stone.*”

Part of the work of such a craftsman includes **measuring an object** to make calculations before construction: *Isaiah 44:13*—“*The carpenter stretcheth out his rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with a compass.*”

**The LORD Jesus Christ already had experience in such things before His birth!** Remember, the LORD's questioning of Job in:

*Job 38:4-6*—“*Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. 5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? 6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;*”

I want you to understand that Jesus Christ, the Heavenly Carpenter, is the **ONLY ONE** capable of recognizing and portraying the exact contours of God's counsel concerning Israel and the Church!

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**II. NOTICE THE MEASURING LINE ITSELF. (2:1)**  
**The measuring line is a symbol of rebuilding!**

In *Ezekiel 40:2-3* that we read and the verse after those, the measuring line is used for the preparation of rebuilding Jerusalem and the Temple, and therewith, for the age of the kingdom!

This appears to be what Zechariah 2 is speaking of also!

It's not about **destruction**, but rather about **rebuilding**!

It is not about **division**, but rather about **uniting**!

**By measuring it, the Lord stakes His claim to Jerusalem!**

In fact, He is making it visible to all of Israel's enemies!

**A. The Measuring Line Is A Symbol Of Indivisibility!**

**1. The Measuring Line Is A Picture Of The Jews  
Eternal Claim To The Land Of Israel!**

*Isaiah 34:17—"And he hath cast the lot for them, and his hand hath divided it unto them by line: they shall possess it for ever, from generation to generation shall they dwell therein"*

**The Jews will ultimately control ALL the land that God gave to Abraham! (Genesis 15:18)**

**2. The Measuring Line Is According To His Promises!**

*Isaiah 28:17—"Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet"*

**The LORD does not base His actions on the opinion of politicians, the media, or the masses!**

**The LORD is not swayed by the teachings of a religion, or of the writings in the *Koran*.** The LORD's measuring line is His Word! (i.e. His promise to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David!)

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The LORD will not forget nor renege on His promises!

**3. The Measuring Line Is True, Fast, And Will Not Change!**

The Lord has measured Jerusalem and measured the walls around her and they are continually before Him!  
*Isaiah 49:16—"Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me"*

*The Measuring Line Is A Symbol Of Indivisibility!*

**B. The Measuring Line Is A Symbol Of Protection!**

What is clear from **Zechariah 2:4-5** is that it is dealing with the LORD's protection of Jerusalem and His right to Jerusalem! The Lord protects the city both inside and out!

**Jesus is coming again one day in power and great glory and He will set up His kingdom and make Jerusalem its center!**

Today, the battle is over Jerusalem. The Gentile nations want the city is to be divided with the Arabs or to be taken from the Jews entirely and given to the Arabs.

However, God's answer is the exact opposite: The city is measured in order to be rebuilt. She exists because of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, Who, at His Incarnation, came from the house of a carpenter!

As far as the LORD is concerned, Jerusalem is indivisible!

Understand that our lives as believers are also **"measured"** and **we are protected by the LORD!**

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It matters not however much the enemy rages and tries to stake his claim to our lives! *Romans 8:31*—“...*If God be for us, who can be against us?*”

We as believers are included in God's building! The enemy has no claim to us if we have received Jesus into our lives! *Ephesians 2:20-22*—“*Jesus Christ...In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the LORD: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit*”.

Our lives are embedded in the whole measure of His love and are protected in this. This measure is described in *Ephesians 3:16-21*.

*SO, WE'VE SEEN THE MAN AND THE MEASURING LINE...*

**III. NOTICE ISRAEL'S GATHERING AND GOD'S JUDGMENT UPON THE GENTILE NATIONS! (Zechariah 2:6-9)**

**A. The Two-Fold Meaning. (Zechariah 2:6-7)**

**1. First, it refers to Zechariah's time and offered a call to the Jews who had not returned to Israel from Babylon!**

Babylon is called "*the land of the north*" because the Babylonians and all other enemies of Jerusalem most always attacked Israel from the north.

Although the Persian king, Darius, made it possible for the Jews to return to their land, many of them had not taken advantage of this opportunity!

They were to become the ones to receive the Messiah at His First Advent.

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**2. Today, the Jews are being led back from their second dispersion with the same goal!**

This time they are to be prepared to receive the returning Messiah.

The words, "*I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven, saith the Lord,*" seem to refer to this.

After the destruction of Israel and dispersion of the Jews in 70 A.D., it is interesting to note that the first people to return to Israel around 1870 came from the north. Subsequently, they came from all four directions.

The Gentile nations have reacted to the Jews' second homecoming with the continual plundering of Israel. They have constantly contested Israel's right to the land of Israel and they want to divide Jerusalem. This will bring the judgment upon them, referred to in vs 8.

Jesus prophesied of the world-wide dispersion of the Jews that happened in 70 A.D. in *Luke 21:24*: "*And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be lead away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*"

At the end of this "*times of the Gentiles,*" God will judge the nations, ending with the Great Tribulation. That is why verses 6-9 refer beyond that time to the remnant of Jews who have to flee from the anti-Christian and anti-Jewish Babylon in the Great Tribulation.

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This is written in *Revelation 18:4*: "*And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*"

God's judgment will hit the nations of anti-Christian, anti-Jewish Babylon with great severity because they have laid their hands upon Israel.

They have plundered God's people and their land and, according to **Joel 3:1-2**, they want to divide the land in their arrogant quest for power.

However, the one who holds the measuring line, the One who has declared Jerusalem as His possession, will bring them into judgment!

Whoever attacks the honor of the Jewish people also attacks God's honor, whoever touches God's people also touches the "*apple of His eye.*" The phrase "*apple of the eye*" (first mentioned in **Deuteronomy 32:8-10**) refers to the pupil, the center and most vulnerable part of our vision.

Can there be a more fitting example for God's identification with His people?

God's promises regarding Israel are so closely united with Himself that every blow against Israel hits Him.

The nations have treated Israel like a servant. Now, according to **vs 13**, they will become the spoil of this servant!

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The time will come when the relationships of power in this world are turned around:

*Isaiah 14:2*—"And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors."

Israel, who was a servant to the nations for thousands of years, will be exalted as the head of the nations in the kingdom of Christ!

It is similar with the Church: Sin once ruled over us, but now that Jesus has redeemed us, we can rule over sin (**Romans 5:21**). We were servants of sin; now we are free.

The tables will be turned in the future kingdom of Christ. The once persecuted, despised Church of Jesus Christ will rule with Jesus as kings and priests!

**IV. NOTICE THE MYSTERIOUS SPEAKER. (Zechariah 2:8-9)**  
**Who is this mysterious person who lifts up his voice?**

Let's also ask ourselves:

**1. Who will appear in the "glory of God"?**

*Matthew 24:30*—"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

**2. Who allowed Himself to be sent to the nations for the sake of God's glory?** *Luke 2:32*—"A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."

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3. **Who is made a Judge over the nations?**  
*John 5:22—"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:"*
- Matthew 25:32—"And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:"*
4. **Who should they recognize as the One God sent?**  
*Luke 10:16—"He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me. "*

**This is Jesus Christ!** And as our text points to the Messianic Age, no one but the Messiah Himself could be meant here. God knows the day in which His people will finally realize Who He sent to them!

**The Lord is also the "...LORD of hosts" (vs 8)** and speaks here many times in the first person.  
This is the Messiah's self-confession to His people!

**V. NOTICE THE LORD WILL HAVE THE LAST WORD CONCERNING JERUSALEM! (Zechariah 2:10-13)**

Jesus will return and will turn again to Jerusalem!

He calls the city "*...daughter of Zion,*" expressing His compassion for His people.

He will arise in His heavenly abode to enter into the Temple of the earthly Jerusalem. His promise, "*...lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD*" (Zechariah 2:10), will be realized in **five stages:**

1. He dwelt among His people through the tabernacle and later in the Temple.

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2. God dwelt among men at Christ's first coming! *John 1:14—And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."*
3. Through Christ's death, resurrection and ascension, and since Pentecost, the Holy Spirit lives in the hearts of all born-again believers! (*John 14:23* and *1 Corinthians 3:16*)
4. Following the Rapture, the Lord will dwell in Spirit among the remnant of His people by sealing them! (*Revelation 7*)
5. Finally, the Lord will return visibly, and in glory, to live in the midst of His people! (*Zechariah 2:5, 13*)

**Conclusion**

There is no greater joy and no more meaningful a life than the life containing the presence of Jesus Christ. The Lord will dwell beyond Israel and Jerusalem, amongst all the nations (Zechariah 2:11).

Many nations will be joined to Him. Then, *Revelation 21:3* will be fulfilled: "*And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."*

As a result, all men will become silent and not be able to say anything negative about Israel or Jerusalem. Her greatest Advocate, will take a seat and will have the last word! (*Zechariah 2:12-13*)

By the way, this is the only text in the Bible describing Israel as the "*holy land,*"! Remember what "holy" means: "*Set apart unto God for His particular purpose!*"