

Zechariah 8:1-13

Setting: Zechariah was born in Babylonia captivity under Nebuchadnezzar. He's now back in Jerusalem and they are in the process of rebuilding Jerusalem and the temple. They are very discouraged with all the devastation. God gives Zechariah a word of encouragement for the land of Israel, with restrictions. Two years had passed since the visions of encouragement have occurred. Chapter 8 is split between our time and our future.

Vs1: Again, we see the phrase "LORD OF HOSTS". The term is used 18 times in the 8th chapter alone. This has a special meaning – the Lord of Armies. It means God is sovereign and He does what He wants when He wants and He doesn't have to ask anybody if He can or if they like it. This is God in His power and might.

Vs2: again, LORD OF HOSTS: God says He's jealous over Zion, in other words, that's My special spot, and I'm jealous with great fury. That means if anyone touched it or harms it, He'll deal with them with great fury. He wants to protect it. Anytime anybody attacks Jerusalem and His people they're going to get nailed sooner or later.

Vs3: sometime in the future God will dwell in Jerusalem and speak his word from there and it will be called the holy mountain.

Vs4-6: LORD OF HOSTS three times again...Jerusalem is in ruins when this message comes to Zechariah, but in the future old men, old women, boys and girls will be happy in the streets. Jerusalem will be restored to full glory and it will be a happy and peaceful place to live.

Vs7: LORD OF HOSTS again...He will save His people and bring them together. It doesn't matter who comes against His people, He will save them and have the great battle of Armageddon.

Vs8: this is for the future, because when Jesus came the first time, they crucified Him.

Vs9: LORD OF HOSTS again...hear Me, take courage and be strong. God, over and over again throughout history, Israelites disobey God, God chastises them, and then He brings them back to the same land.

Vs10: before God brought them back to Jerusalem, there were no jobs. But God makes a time of prosperity. God says He allowed the wars because of their disobedience. It is His way of chastising people. If you want to know how God responds to you, look at how God chastises Israel. He will do the same to you, eventually. Israel is God's old ancient people, and He gets mad if you pick on them.

Vs11: God says, ok in spite of all this, I will not treat this remnant of people like I treated the old people.

Vs12: God is making these people prosperous.

Vs13: notice how God brings the two houses of Judah and Israel all together again and wants them to get along and be strong. Notice that every blessing God has promised to the Jewish people is earthly, not heavenly. The Church is another group of people; believers who are not necessarily Jewish, but who put their faith in Him, their blessings are heavenly. Confusion reigns in replacement theology: this means some think the church has taken Israel's place, but this is not what the bible teaches. God is going to bring His Jewish people back to Jerusalem for their earthly blessings one day.