

Zech. 2:1-13 “The Divine Surveyor”

For the Children: Have you ever seen surveyors on the side of the road, taking measurements with their instruments? They are making sure that roads and tunnels and buildings are in the right place, following the correct angles, with the right length, and so on. When God sends someone in a vision to survey His Temple and City, it means He will make sure it is all done right. When He builds His Church and Kingdom, He makes sure it is what He wants it to be. Though the Church is not perfect yet, God sent His Son to make sure it will be perfect in Him. We look forward to the Day when we will see the whole Church, with countless millions from every nation, gathered without any sin, to worship God and the Lamb. **Questions:** How does this vision tell us that the Church will grow very large? What does it mean to “flee the world”? Why should this chapter cause us to rejoice?

Introduction:

First Point: The Vision of the Surveyor

- 1) Uses of the Symbol: Amos 7 and Rev. 11 use the surveying symbol in the context of God judging either His people or the nations which oppress them. Rev. 21:15f and Ezk. 40-42 use it to show that God knows and controls all connected with His Church, and will surely build up His Kingdom. In Zech. 2, the emphasis is on God’s promise to rebuild the Temple and Jerusalem.
- 2) A City Without Walls: The surveyor is warned that the city will have no walls, for it will be too large. In Rev. 21 and Ezk. 40-42, the city does have walls. But here the point is the expansion, so this detail changes. The expansion of the “City of God” occurred especially when the Gospel went out to the whole world, and will be fully realized in the New Jerusalem/Creation. The church then and now should not be terrified by oppression – for God Himself is a “Wall of Fire” for us. But our expectations of God are so often too small! See Mt. 16:18.

Second Point: The Command to Flee

- 1) Fleeing Babylon: God’s people are warned to flee Babylon and other nations into which they had been dispersed. In order to rebuild, they must first flee. “Ho there” (stated twice) is a warning call. A similar warning in Rev. 14-18 calls on us all to flee the world, represented by “Babylon,” in order to build God’s Kingdom.
- 2) From Security to Judgement: God’s people should flee because Babylon – like the world-system opposed to God – was to be destroyed. Those who stay in it will be destroyed with it. The Lord simply has to “wave His hand” and their “security” vanishes. Thus He deals with all who harm His people, the “apple of His eye.” His people will then plunder the plunderers (v. 9 with Ex. 12:36, Is. 14:2, Ezk. 39:10).

Third Point: The Command to Rejoice

- 1) Due to the Presence of the Lord: The chief reason Judah should be rejoicing (stated twice) is that the Lord is coming and will dwell in her midst again (vss. 10,11). This is the heart of the covenant-promise. It is fulfilled in Christ (Jn. 1:14), Daniel’s “Coming One” (Dan. 7:13).
- 2) Due to Judah’s Expansion: Many nations would join themselves to the Lord and become “My people.” This, too, is because of Christ’s work (Gal. 3:28). It is also a covenant-promise (Gen. 12:3; Mic. 4:2). Judah is described as still having a central role, in the “Holy Land” (v. 12), though this puts the NT reality in OT terms. See, however, Rom. 1:16, 12:22. Moreover, the Holy City is still used as a “type” of the Heavenly City (Heb. 11:10, 12:22; Rev. 21-22 etc.).

Fourth Point: The Command to Be Silent

- 1) Due to Judgement: The silence of the nations is due to the coming judgement, in which their uproar must cease (Ps. 2) and they should seek the Lord.
- 2) Due to Salvation: God’s people, however, enjoy the quietness and peace of His salvation. We respond by looking to the Lord and worshipping Him with reverence and awe.

Conclusion:

