



# **ZECHARIAH**

**A Glorious Future!**

**The Glory of God's Presence!**

**Zechariah 2:1-13**

**Message #3 of 15 – S1008**

**Sermon given on August 8, 2022**



**Sunday Morning Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The Glory of God's Presence!

## ***Zechariah 2:1-13***

### Opening Comments

- Turn to **Zechariah 2**
- Today, we continue a series through the book of **Zechariah: A Glorious Future**
- Zechariah was given a series of visions and messages to encourage God's people to trust Him during difficult times
- He did that by reminding them of the promises He had made to them
- One of the more radical of those promises is the promise of God's presence with His people **Exodus 29:45-46**

**I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. <sup>46</sup> And they shall know that I *am* the LORD their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I *am* the LORD their God.**

- King Solomon marveled at the thought of this after he had built the first temple in Jerusalem **1 Kings 8:27**

**But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!**

- Solomon couldn't understand how God could do what He said
- God doesn't need us to understand – but He does expect us to believe
- God promised a glorious future to the people of Israel
- Even though it was more than 40 years ago, I still remember the day I stood on a platform like this in a rented tuxedo with my best man and a couple of groomsmen
- I stared out at a couple hundred people, most of whom I did not know
- I was there because Kelly and I believed the future would be better together than it would be apart
- The minutes that passed seemed like hours as I stood there uncomfortably
- And then the music changed and at the back of the church entered one of the bridesmaids
- She was not the future I was waiting for, but she was a sign that future I was waiting for was coming – Kelly would be coming soon
- Then more bridesmaids, flower girl, and ringbearer

- And then after another seemingly endless pause, the music changed again, and there she was
- Most of the rest of the ceremony is a blur
- I said the ‘I do’s’ when I was supposed to, and I didn’t trip down the aisle – I count that a win
- We had become engaged many months earlier
- The closer it got to the fulfilment of the promises we were making to each other, the more exciting it was
- If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, He has made promises to you - like **John 14:2-3**

**In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.**

- The presence of Kelly in my life has made my life immensely better
- But what makes heaven so heavenly is the presence of Jesus
- One of the keys to living with joy, hope, and peace is knowing and believing God’s promises
- And every day is one day closer to the fulfilment of those promises
- As we look at the promises God made to the people of Israel, we will, hopefully, also see the promises God made through Christ to His bride, the church
- Let’s pray and then look at a few verses - **Pray**

### Teaching

- **The Glory of God’s Presence!**
- Chapter 2 contains the third of eight visions Zechariah receives in a single night
- In the first two God reminded them that He would keep His promises to them and that He would deal with those nations that had scattered them and been evil in their treatment of God’s people
- **Zechariah 2:1-4**
- This is a promise to rebuild Jerusalem
- At the time Zechariah received this vision Jerusalem was still trying to recover from lying desolate for seventy years

- Many of the OT prophets were given messages that meant something to the people they were speaking to but also had a distant future fulfillment also
- That is the case here also – Jerusalem would be rebuilt
- 500 years later Jesus would walk the streets of this rebuilt Jerusalem
- But then about 37 years later it would be destroyed again
- It has been rebuilt and destroyed many times in the last 2,000 years
- The city that is being described is one that is still in the future
- ‘towns without walls’ – is a promise of peace and safety
- ‘multitude of men and livestock’ = prosperity
- Then explains what will ensure that promise
- **Zechariah 2:5**
- Jerusalem will not need walls because God will guard her
- This reminds us of what God did to protect the Israelites as they were being chased by the Egyptians at the Red Sea
- “I will be the glory in her midst” **Isaiah 60:19**  
The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; but the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory.
- And then we are told in **Revelation 21:23**  
The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.
- This is the New Jerusalem that descends out of heaven after Jesus comes back again
- One of the mysteries of faith is that God dwells in us **2 Corinthians 4:7**  
But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.
- The fullness of the glory of God resides within us
- And God’s glory shines forth as we walk in faith and obedience
- God’s presence in our lives draws us upward, but this world, like gravity draws us down to the earth
- But God would call us to make a conscious choice to resist the gravity of this world and climb up to Him through faith
- **Zechariah 2:6-7**

- Though many had returned from the exile, there were many more still in the lands they were exiled to.
  - Many had made lives for themselves in Babylon and were unwilling to leave to start over again in the Promised Land.
  - God wanted them to leave Babylon for two reasons.
  - First, He promised to bless them in the Promised Land, not in Babylon.
  - Second, God was about to judge Babylon.
  - It is never a good idea to get comfortable with the things of the world.
  - We should always consider ourselves as strangers in a foreign land
  - We do what we have to live here but our true home is elsewhere.
  - The closer we live to the world, the more likely we are to experience the consequences God sends to those in the world
  - **Zechariah 2:8-9**
  - God has a special affection for His people.
  - Anyone who messes with Israel is messing with the people God has chosen as His special possession.
  - Even though Israel regularly turns away from God, He will never abandon them to destruction
  - If through faith we have put our trust in Jesus, we have been grafted into the same love and promise of God's unchanging affection.
  - We may claim on an individual basis the promise of God spoken by David **Psalm 17:7-8**
- Show Your marvelous lovingkindness by Your right hand, O You who save those who trust in You from those who rise up against them. 8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings...**
- Even though the people of Israel are struggling, God's promise of His presence ought to stir them to an unnatural response
  - **Zechariah 2:10**
  - The Lord is calling the people of Israel to look past their current situation and to the glorious future God has promised them
  - This is where faith shows up
  - Do you believe that God's promises are true and for you?
  - If you do, sing and rejoice! If you can't sing and rejoice, regardless of your situation – might need more work on your faith

- The next verse reminds us of something we have to rejoice about
- **Zechariah 2:11**
- ‘Many nations’ = non-Jewish nations
- While the Jews have a special place in God’s heart, He is not the God of the Jews alone – He is God of all! Rejoice in that!
- God always intended to save more than just the Jews **Genesis 12:3**  
I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
- Even though most Jews have little or no relationship with God today, He is not done with them
- **Zechariah 2:12**
- God chose Jerusalem to be the capital of the Promised Land 3,000 years ago during the time of King David.
- Once Jesus comes back again, Jerusalem will be restored fully to Israel
- Notice the phrase ‘Holy Land’ – only occurrence in the Bible
- **Zechariah 2:13**
- A day is coming when God is going to be stirred from His holy habitation to deal with all the evil in this world
- And just as Jesus stilled the seas during the storm with a word, God will silence all the wicked and repay them for the wickedness
- Even believers ought to practice ‘being silent’ before the Lord.
- We ought to take time out of our busy lives to silently wait for the Lord to speak to us, either through His Word, or in prayer, or in silent meditation on God and His Word **Psalms 119:15**  
I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways.
- God is still speaking to His people, but we need to be silent long enough to hear Him.
- This week, take some time to think about a couple of things
- First – How aware are you of God’s constant presence in your life?
- Second – Are you moving upward in your faith toward God, or downward toward worldliness?
- Third – How would the people around you answer those questions?
- Don’t just answer them and move on, ask them in your heart and then be silent and let God speak to you. **Pray**