



# **ZECHARIAH**

**A Glorious Future!**

## **The Glory of God's Truth!**

**Zechariah 8:1-23**

**Message #9 of 15 – S1016**

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**Sunday Morning Service**

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# The Glory of God's Truth!

## *Zechariah 8:1-23*

### Opening Comments

- Turn to **Zechariah 8**
- Today, we continue a series through the book of **Zechariah: A Glorious Future**
- How important is truth? Very!
- Truth is how we define and interact with reality
- One of the signs of maturity is a growing understanding of reality
- Very small children cannot view the world beyond their own needs, wants, or feelings – they are the center of the universe
- What do you think might happen if your truth is not true?
- What if an adult believes they are the center of the universe?
- What if that is the truth to them?
- If that is their truth, they will expect everyone around them to act like they are the center of the universe
- And what might happen if someone comes along who has a different view – conflict
- That is the world we are living in today – not new – but seems to be getting worse
- People are trying to live their own truth and they are doing it in direct contradiction to reality
- The clearest example of that in the world today is transgenderism and other gender ideologies
- It is a rejection of truth and an attempt to pervert and corrupt reality
- Truth that is real is not subjective or relative – it conforms to reality
- Truth doesn't care about your feelings, desires, wants, or identity
- I might say, 'I feel like a duck' – Does that make me a duck? No!
- I can say that I identify as 5-foot man in his early 20's – is it true?
- Truth that is true must conform to reality!
- And this is why this is important – only truth that is true leads to that which is good

- Many in our culture are trying to live truths that are not true, and the result is conflict, despair, brokenness, hate, division, and great pain and suffering
- In our text for today, the Lord lays out the truth for His people
- His desire is that they would arrange their lives in conformity to His truth – the only true truth
- This should be an encouragement to each of us to examine our truth
- Let's pray and see what the Spirit might say to us - **Pray**

### Teaching

- **The Glory of God's Truth!**
- In chapter seven, the Lord called His people to true worship
- At that time, they were actively rebuilding the temple
- And when it came time to resume worshipping God there, He wanted it to be right
- Chapters 7 and 8 are a response to a question about fasting and weeping as an act of worship – God challenged their truth **Zechariah 7:5**

**Say to all the people of the land, and to the priests: 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months during those seventy years, did you really fast for Me—for Me?'**

- I love God's Word because it is true **Psalm 119:160**  
**The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.**
- God's Word is His revelation of Himself to His creation
- Not only do we get to know God through His Word, but we also get to know ourselves
- I want to live the good life God created me for – the pathway is truth
- When we open God's Word it ought to be to know God better and better but also to see His truth more clearly and then compare that truth to our truth
- **Zechariah 8:1-2**
- 'Zion' = Jerusalem or Israel
- God is zealous with great zeal and fervor
- God is intensely passionate about Israel and her people – truth/reality!
- We should examine our heart toward Israel and the Jews

- It is good to say we stand with and pray for Israel, but is there any passion for them? God cares about how we care about Israel **Genesis 12:3**

**I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you...**

- God cares deeply for Israel and so should we, even if they are lost
- **Zechariah 8:3**
- The first advent of Christ was preview of this.
- The ultimate fulfillment will be at the Second Coming.
- God's promises are not nullified by our rebellion or disobedience.
- The Jews had failed to live up to their part of the covenant God made with them.
- The seventy-year exile was the consequence for their disobedience, but it didn't mean God stopped being their God or that He would go back on His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- **Zechariah 8:4-5**
- This is speaking of peace and security
- That wasn't the reality the Jews were living at the time Zechariah was given this message
- God knew what they were thinking and feeling
- **Zechariah 8:6**
- 'marvelous' – might be better rendered as 'difficult'.
- This word is translated as 'too hard' in **Genesis 18:13-14** when the Lord questioned Abraham about Sarah's disbelief that she could get pregnant in her old age.  
**And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?' 14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."**
- This word is also used to describe the Messiah **Isaiah 9:6** where the word gives the idea of 'one who does wondrous or difficult things'.  
**For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- God is able to do what He says whether you believe it or not
- **Zechariah 8:7-8**
- This is God's promise to the Jews to restore them back into the Land

- While the Jews have started to return – this looking ahead to a time when, not only will the Jews return to the Land, but they will also return to God
- The Bible tells us that when Jesus comes back again He will present Himself to the Jews and they will receive Him as their Messiah

**Zechariah 12:10**

**And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.**

- And in Romans 11:26 – ‘all Israel will be saved’
  - Only then will they live in truth and righteousness with the Lord as their God
  - That being true, the Lord exhorts them
  - **Zechariah 8:9-15**
  - The relatively small number of people who returned were struggling to build the temple and the city of Jerusalem
  - Back in chapter one God had called them to repent and here He calls them to obey – result would be prosperity
  - Much of what the Lord has said has dealt with how they were to relate to God
  - Now the Lord speaks about how they should relate to each other
  - **Zechariah 8:16-17**
  - Why would the Lord have to say this to God’s people
  - Everyone that Zechariah is speaking to grew up in the wicked, corrupt, pagan culture of Babylon
  - We have all grown up in a culture that says things like, ‘Be true to yourself!’ or ‘Love yourself so you can love others!’ or ‘Just be you!’
  - All of those are false – Be true to God, not to yourself
  - Love God and then He will love others through you
  - And don’t be you – be like Christ! **John 13:34**
- A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.**
- It is a commandment because the culture we live in says something different
  - Notice it says that God hates the things listed in verses 16 and 17

- If God hates something so should we **Proverbs 6:16-19**

These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.

- Even a cursory glance at our culture will find examples of all of these things – some of them are even celebrated by the culture – abominations
- Then the Lord answers the question that prompted these two chapters

- **Zechariah 8:18-19**

- This is looking ahead to a time when fasting and mourning will be over **Psalm 30:11**

**You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness...**

- After Christ returns, all the struggles and tribulations and holocausts the Jews have endured for the last two thousand years will be replaced with celebration, rejoicing, and feasting

- ‘Therefore love truth and peace (Shalom)’

- In this world it is hard to find truth or peace, and if you are looking to the world for either one, you will always be disappointed **John 14:27**  
**Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

- Our peace is in Christ, and it is appropriated through faith in God’s Word

- At this time in history, the Jews are an insignificant collection of former exiles living in a land that is trying to recover from being desolate for seventy years

- God’s plan for them was bigger than that

- **Zechariah 8:20-23**

- The Jews will someday return to the Lord by faith in Jesus Christ

- These verses point to the time of the Millennial reign of Christ on the earth

- It was God’s will that the humble Jewish remnant take these things to heart as absolute truth

- Their pathetic current reality didn’t define their future – God had done that and the future He planned was glorious

- No matter how small you might think you are in this world, no matter how hard life is, God has a grand, glorious future planned for you

- His desire is that you would accept the truth of His promises and live as if that future is reality
- You may not be able to see it today, but it is out there
- You might be able to reach it now, but it is coming
- And our responsibility is to believe and obey
- And as you wait for that future, you make God's truth your truth more every day
- And as God's truth becomes your truth, you will be moving toward the good life God created you for
- God's truth is the only true truth – know it, believe it, love it, do it!
- **Pray**