

Zechariah 8

Scriptures

Notes

Chapters 7 & 8 are a response to the questions brought by a delegation from Bethel (house of God).

Chapter 7 has a negative tone – ending in the scattering of the people. Chapter 8 has a positive tone with the nations clinging to the robe of the Jews.

Chapter 7 was an exhortation to true worship of God. The created thing does not determine how the Creator is to be worshipped.

Two primary questions are addressed in chapter eight. First, are we believing a lie or the truth? Second, Are we ready for the future?

Title ideas:
The Glory of God's Truth!

Zechariah 8:1-23 – The Glory of God's Truth!

Scriptures

¹ Again the word of the LORD of hosts came,

saying,

Notes

Chapter seven was a call out of false worship and chapter eight is a glimpse of the future for those who worship God in Spirit and in truth.

Zechariah refers to the Lord speaking more than a dozen times in this chapter.

Scriptures

Joel 2:18 -

Then the LORD will be
zealous for His land,
And pity His people.

² "Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am zealous

H7065 - jealous

for Zion with great zeal; with great fervor

H7068 -
jealousy

H2534 – fury,
wrath

I am zealous for her.'

H7065 -

Notes

'zealous' = jealous – God has a deep connection to the Promised Land and to the Chosen People (Joel 2:18). The closest human equivalent is marriage. God will not tolerate His People sharing their affections with anything that is less than God – which is everything.

'great fervor' – God is passionate in His relationship with His people.

"'Zeal' is an aspect of God's internal intensity and the passion that He brings to everything that he does and says." (Kaiser, 1992) page 370

God made covenantal promises to Israel – He will keep those promises with great zeal.

Scriptures
Zechariah 1:16 -
‘Therefore thus says the
LORD:

“I am returning to
Jerusalem with mercy;
My house shall be built
in it,” says the LORD of
hosts,
“And a surveyor’s line
shall be stretched out
over Jerusalem.” ’

Zechariah 2:10-11 - Sing
and rejoice, O daughter of
Zion! For behold, I am
coming and I will dwell in
your midst,” says the
LORD. 11 “Many nations
shall be joined to the
LORD in that day, and they
shall become My people.
And I will dwell in your
midst. Then you will know
that the LORD of hosts has
sent Me to you.

Jeremiah 31:23 - Thus says
the LORD of hosts, the
God of Israel: “They shall
again use this speech in
the land of Judah and in
its cities, when I bring
back their captivity: ‘The
LORD bless you, O home
of justice, and mountain
of holiness!’

Zephaniah 3:13a - The
remnant of Israel shall do
no unrighteousness
And speak no lies,
Nor shall a deceitful
tongue be found in their
mouth...

³ “Thus says the LORD: I will return to Zion,

H7725 -

and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem.

H7931 -

Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth,

H571 – verity,
faithfulness

the Mountain of the LORD of hosts, the

Holy Mountain.’

H6944 - sacred

Notes
Presently, things are a
struggle, God has a
glorious future in store for
them. This was to give
them hope.

I will return...’ also ([Zech.
1:16](#)). The first advent of
Christ was preview of this.
The ultimate fulfillment
will be at the Second
Coming.

...’and dwell...’ also ([Zech.
2:10-11](#)).

‘City of Truth’ – only
occurrence.

‘holy mountain’ – ([Jer.
31:23](#)).

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. God
did what He said He would
do and exiled them out of
the Promised Land. 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.

Wherever God dwells will
feature truth and holiness
([Zeph. 3:13](#)). The ‘Holy
Mountain’ will be holy
because God is dwelling
there.

Scriptures

⁴ “Thus says the LORD[△] of hosts: ‘Old men[→]

and old women[♀] shall again sit in the streets

of Jerusalem, each one with his staff in his

hand because of great age.[⌚]

H7230+H3117
– many+days

Notes
'Old men and old women...' suggests peace and security.

Scriptures

Jeremiah 30:19-20 -

Then out of them shall
proceed thanksgiving

And the voice of those
who make merry;

I will multiply them, and
they shall not diminish;

I will also glorify them,
and they shall not be
small.

20 Their children also
shall be as before,

And their congregation
shall be established
before Me;

And I will punish all who
oppress them.

⁵ The streets of the ^{3. Jerusalem} city shall be full of ^{boys}

and ^{girls} playing in its streets.'

H7832 -

Notes

God made this promise of
children playing in the
streets of Jerusalem while
the Jews were exiled to
Babylon ([Jer. 30:19-20](#)).

As someone who grew up
playing in the streets, it
makes me sad to think
about all the children who
must be protected from
the pervasive evil of our
day.

Scriptures

Genesis 18:13-14 - 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."

Isaiah 9:6 -

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.

Luke 1:37 - For with God nothing will be impossible.

⁶ "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'If

it is marvelous in the eyes of

H6381 -
difficult

the remnant of this people in these days,

H7611 -
(surviving,
final) portion

will it also be marvelous in My eyes?' says

H6381 -
difficult

the LORD of hosts.

Notes

'marvelous' – might be better rendered as 'difficult'. This word is translated as 'too hard' in (Gen. 18:13-14) when the Lord questioned Abraham about Sarah's disbelief that she could get pregnant in her old age. This word is also used to describe the Messiah (Isa. 9:6) where the word gives the idea of 'one who does wondrous or difficult things'.

'If it is marvelous...' – suggests that some may have struggled to believe that God could do what He said He would do. Just because something is hard for someone to believe that God is able doesn't make Him less able to do it (Luke 1:37).

The human mind cannot conceive of something that God can't do. If you can think it, God can do it. That doesn't mean He will do, but He can. God is only obligated to do what He said He would do.

Scriptures
Isaiah 11:11 -

It shall come to pass in
that day

That the LORD shall set
His hand again the second
time

To recover the remnant
of His people who are left,
From Assyria and Egypt,
From Pathros and Cush,
From Elam and Shinar,
From Hamath and the
islands of the sea.

7 “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Behold, I

will  save  My  people from the land of the

H3467 -
deliver

east and from the land of the west;

Notes

‘save’ – or deliver. God is
able to save or deliver His
people. He has already
done it repeatedly. Most
notably was the
deliverance of the
Israelites from Egypt and
then from Babylon.

God can deliver His people
from any circumstance.
Speaking of the end times
([Isa. 11:11](#)).

‘east...west’ – ends of the
earth.

Scriptures
Zephaniah 3:20 - At that time I will bring you back, Even at the time I gather you; For I will give you fame and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I return your captives before your eyes," Says the LORD.

Hosea 2:19-10 - I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me In righteousness and justice, In lovingkindness and mercy; 20 I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, And you shall know the LORD.

Jeremiah 32:36-41 - "Now therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, 'It shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: 37 Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in My fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely. 38 They shall be My people, and I will be their God; 39 then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children

⁸ I will bring them ~~back~~, and they shall dwell

in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My

people and I will be their God, in truth and

righteousness.'

H6666 – rightness –
'righteousness n. — adherence to what is required according to a standard; for example, a moral standard, though not always.'

after them. 40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. 41 Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul.'

H571 -
faithfulness

Notes
No matter how many times has to exile His people from the Land, He will bring them back (Zeph. 3:20). Even though Jews are scattered all over the world, He is bringing them back to Israel.

This also reminds us that God has promised the land of Israel to the Jews as a permanent homeland.

'They shall be My people...' – The Jews will walk in faith and obedience to God. This was a call to relationship of intimacy (Hos. 2:19-20). It was the fulfillment of the covenant God made with Abraham and the Jews (Jer. 32:36-41).

Scriptures
Haggai 1:7-8 - Thus says
the LORD of hosts:
“Consider your ways! 8 Go
up to the mountains and
bring wood and build the
temple, that I may take
pleasure in it and be
glorified,” says the LORD.

⁹ “Thus says the LORD[△] of hosts:

‘Let your hands be strong, you who have

H2388 -
physically

been hearing in these days[⌚] these words[⌚] by

Notes
The prophet Haggai had
given them the word of
the Lord to rebuild the
temple ([Hag. 1:7-8](#)). Be
diligent to finish the work
of building the temple.

the mouth of the prophets, who spoke in

the day[⌚] the foundation was laid for the

house of the LORD of hosts, that the temple

might be built.

Scriptures

Haggai 1:6; 9 -

You have sown much,
and bring in little;

You eat, but do not
have enough;

You drink, but you are
not filled with drink;

You clothe yourselves,
but no one is warm;

And he who earns
wages,

Earns wages to put into
a bag with holes." ...

9 "You looked for much,
but indeed it came to
little; and when you
brought it home, I blew it
away. Why?" says the
LORD of hosts. "Because
of My house that is in
ruins, while every one of
you runs to his own
house.

¹⁰ For before these days [Ⓛ]there were no

wages for man [→]nor any hire for beast; there

was [Ⓟ]no peace from the enemy for whoever

went out or came in; for I ^Δset [→]all men,

everyone, against [→]his neighbor.

Notes

God had prevented them prospering because they weren't being faithful to what He was telling them to do through the prophets (Hag. 1:6; 9). God had called them to repent and get back to work and promised that if they did they would be blessed.

Scriptures

¹¹ But now I [△]will not treat the remnant of

this people [☆]as in the former [△]days,' says the

H7223 – old,
prior

[△]LORD of hosts.

Notes

"God's promises of future blessing should always encourage His people in what is presently before them." (Hocking, 2000) page 89


Scriptures

¹² 'For the seed *shall be* prosperous, the vine

Notes
God intends to bless them. Repentance and obedience can lead to prosperity.

shall give its fruit, the ground shall give her

increase, and the heavens shall give their

dew—I will cause the remnant of this

people  to possess all these.

Scriptures

Jeremiah 32:42 - For thus says the LORD: 'Just as I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will bring on them all the good that I have promised them.'

Genesis 12:2-3 - I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great;

And you shall be a blessing.

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.

¹³ And it shall come to pass ~~that~~ just as you ~~are~~

were a curse among the nations, O house

H7065 -
vilification

of Judah ~~and~~ house of Israel, so I ~~will~~ ~~save~~

H3467 -
deliver

~~you~~, and ~~you~~ shall be a blessing.

H1293 -

Do not fear, let ~~your~~ hands be strong.'

H3372 - be
afraid

H2388 -

Notes

The Lord uses a contrast to express how He intends to bless them. The exile had been a terrible experience. The blessing God was planning for them would be good to the same degree that the exile was bad ([Jer. 32:42](#)).

God wanted to bless Israel so that they could be a blessing to others ([Gen. 12:2-3](#)).

'Judah' and 'Israel' points to a reunion of the divided kingdom.

Scriptures

Jeremiah 31:28 - And it shall come to pass, that as I have watched over them to pluck up, to break down, to throw down, to destroy, and to afflict, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD.

¹⁴ “For thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Just as

I determined to punish you when your

H2161 – plan,
purpose

H7489 - afflict

fathers provoked Me to wrath,’ says the

H7107 -

LORD of hosts, ‘And I would not relent,

H5162 – to
sigh – ‘to
relent v. — to
cease a
particular
activity, often
with the
implication
that the
relenting is a
gracious act.’

Notes

‘punish’ – bring calamity on

Jeremiah said something similar ([Jer. 31:28](#)).

‘I would not relent’ – God is amazingly patient, but His patience is not eternal. There is a point in time, which only He knows, when His patience runs out and sin and rebellion must be punished. It is possible to cross a line where grace is no longer possible.

Scriptures

15 So again in these days [Ⓢ] [△] I am determined to

H2161 – plan,
purpose

Notes

do good to Jerusalem and to the house of

H3190 -

Judah. Do not fear.

H3372 - dread

Scriptures

Exodus 34:6b - The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth...

Ephesians 4:25 -

Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

Ephesians 4:15a -

...speaking the truth in love...

¹⁶ These *are* the things *you* shall do: Speak

each man *to* the truth *to* his neighbor;

H571 -

give judgment in your gates for truth,

H8199 – to
pronounce
judgment

H571 -

justice, and peace;

H4941 –
'justice
(quality) n. —
the quality of
being free
from
favoritism,
self-interest,
bias, or
deception;
especially
conforming to
established
standards or
rules.'

H7965 –
"shalom"

Notes

God is truth ([Exo. 34:6](#)) and so God's people should speak truth. The truth may not always be easy to speak out, but it is always right to do it ([Eph. 4:25](#)). Truth must be spoken the right way, with love ([Eph. 4:15a](#)).

'give judgment...' – judgment is discerning right from wrong, evil from righteousness, good from evil. Right judgments must include truth, justice, and peace.

"Corruption in the courts corrupts God's purpose in the world." (Kaiser, 1992) page 373

Scriptures

Proverbs 4:23 - Keep
your heart with all
diligence,

For out of it spring the
issues of life.

1 John 4:7 - Beloved, let us
love one another, for love
is of God; and everyone
who loves is born of God
and knows God.

Proverbs 6:16-19 -

These six things the
LORD hates,

Yes, seven are an
abomination to Him:

17 A proud look,
A lying tongue,
Hands that shed
innocent blood,

18 A heart that
devises wicked plans,
Feet that are swift in
running to evil,

19 A false witness
who speaks lies,

And one who sows
discord among brethren.

¹⁷ Let none of you think evil in your heart

H2803
- plot

H7451 -

against your neighbor; and do not love

H157 -

a false oath. For all these *are things* that

H8267 -
sham,
deceitful

H7621 - 'oath n. — a solemn promise,
usually invoking a divine witness,
regarding your future acts or behavior;
often including penalties for failure
within the contents of the oath.'

I hate, says the LORD."

H8130 -
loathe

Notes

God knows what is in our
heart. Purging our heart of
evil is a constant need
([Prov. 4:23](#)).

The fact that God hates
some things might not be
easy to accept. After all,
God's nature is love ([1
John 4:7](#)). One of the ways
we walk with God is by
avoiding the things that
God hates ([Prov. 6:16-19](#)).
God's people should love
what God loves and hate
what God hates.

Scriptures

¹⁸ Then the word of the LORD of hosts came
to me, saying,

Notes

Scriptures

Psalm 30:11 -

You have turned for me
my mourning into
dancing;

You have put off my
sackcloth and clothed me
with gladness...

¹⁹ “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘The fast of

the fourth month, the fast of the fifth, the

fast of the seventh, and the fast of the

Notes

These were self-imposed
fasts.

Rather than times of
weeping, these fasts,
which ended with a meal
were to be times of
rejoicing. It would be
times to reflect upon
past mistakes but then
rejoice in God’s promises.

Only God has the power
to transform our weeping
and mourning and self-
denial into times of
rejoicing, celebrating, and
feasting ([Psa. 30:11](#)).

tenth, shall be joy and gladness and

H8057 -
cheerfulness

H8342 -
rejoicing

cheerful feasts for the house of Judah.

H2896 – good,
pleasing

Therefore love truth and peace.’

H157 -

H571 -

H7965 –
‘shalom’

Scriptures
Micah 4:1-2 -

Now it shall come to
pass in the latter days
That the mountain of
the LORD's house
Shall be established on
the top of the mountains,
And shall be exalted
above the hills;
And peoples shall flow
to it.

2 Many nations shall
come and say,

"Come, and let us go up
to the mountain of the
LORD,

To the house of the God
of Jacob;

He will teach us His
ways,

And we shall walk in His
paths."

For out of Zion the law
shall go forth,

And the word of the
LORD from Jerusalem.

²⁰ "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Peoples

shall yet come, inhabitants of many cities;

Notes

The Lord shows the
prophet the far future
([Mic. 4:1-2](#)). 'Latter days'
= the end times – the
times immediately
preceding the Second
Coming of the Messiah.

²¹ The inhabitants of one city shall go to

another, saying, “Let us continue to go and

H3212+H1980
— walk+walk

pray before the LORD, and seek the LORD of

H2470 -

H6440 – ‘face’ – ‘presence ⇔ face n.
— the presence or proximity of
someone understood in terms of the
face; with the implication of being
before or in front of them.

H1245 – ‘to seek
(experience) v. — to
earnestly try to encounter
the presence of a deity;
often involving requests or
petitions to the deity.

hosts. I myself will go also.

Scriptures

²² Yes, many peoples and strong nations

H6099 -
powerful

shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in

H1245 – see
v.21

Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.'

Notes

God will establish His kingdom on this earth through His Son Jesus. The impact of God keeping His promises to the nation of Israel will draw great multitudes to seek the Lord.

Scriptures

²³ “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘In those

days ten men from every language of the

nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish

Notes

There will be a sense of urgency and desire.

‘God is with you’ – Can those around you tell that God is with you?

man, saying, “Let us go with you, for we

have heard *that* God *is* with you.” ’ ” [Top of chapter](#)