

## THE RESULT OF FUTURE PROMISES

--ZECHARIAH 8:9-17--

### INTRODUCTION:

The study of Bible prophecy should stir us to seek to live holy and pure lives as we continue to serve the Lord faithfully until He returns. Those who heard Zechariah's prophecies on the future kingdom may have thought, what does this have to do with our present situation? The Lord had given those promises of a future kingdom as an encouragement to the people and in this morning's passage He tells the people of Israel how to take those promises and turn them into incentive to continue the work God has entrusted to them. God's Word clearly teaches that hope for the future is essential for endurance and effectiveness in the present. Within this passage we will see four essentials that are results of hope for the future.

- I. BE STRONG IN GOD'S WORK (Zechariah 8:9)
  - a. In the first part of this chapter, Yahweh of hosts declared many \_\_\_\_\_ about the Messiah's future kingdom.
  - b. In this exhortation to be strong, Yahweh of hosts was focusing on those who were seeking to \_\_\_\_\_ His word.
  - c. The time when the \_\_\_\_\_ of the temple was laid, this is when the reconstruction process began, and once it was completed this was a huge milestone in Israel's history.
  - d. This faithful \_\_\_\_\_ facing difficulty and repeated challenges and opposition needed to be reminded about both the future hope God promised and the present work He had called them to complete.
- II. BE CONFIDENT IN GOD'S GOODNESS (Zechariah 8:10-12)
  - a. By beginning verse ten with the word "\_\_\_\_\_" God introduces the reason why the people should continue to strengthen their hands and persevere in the work of rebuilding the temple.
  - b. God explains to the people of Zechariah's day that "*before those days there was no \_\_\_\_\_ for man or any wage for animal.*" (Zechariah 8:10a, NASB95) (Haggai 1:9-11)

- c. Not only was this scarcity of food for themselves and their animals, but at the same time there was \_\_\_\_\_ from society within and without.
- d. Yahweh of hosts reveals through Zechariah that He was about to change the \_\_\_\_\_ since through the ministry of these two prophets the work on the temple had resumed and was about half done and the work was going on.
- e. The difference between God's former judgment and His coming \_\_\_\_\_ would be an immediate relief for His people.
- f. That Israel would \_\_\_\_\_ all these things was to be a reminder to them that the abundance they received was a gift from the Lord.

### CONCLUSION:

In these verses, after God had given the people of the land His declarations concerning the future kingdom of the Messiah, He then gives them some practical application as they wait for that future. First, He told them to strengthen their hands in the work that He had called them to do, and He commended them for listening to the prophets and obeying God's Word. God also said that He would remove His judgment from them, the severe drought would end, and the land would again begin to produce abundantly, and God would cause His remnant to inherit all His abundant blessings for them in the present. This was just a glimpse of the blessings they would enjoy in the future as they joined the redeemed in God's future kingdom and experienced the fullness of His grace in the end. For this reason, they could strengthen their hands and persevere in the work of rebuilding the temple and they could be confident in the Lord that He would empower them, provide for them, and protect them.

These promises of a future kingdom should also give us reason to strengthen our hands in the work that God has given us to do. His task for us is to make disciples of all nations. Are we actively doing what God has called us to do. Are you still praying for five people? Are you looking for opportunities to serve them or be a witness to them, are you praying for those opportunities? And we can be confident that the Lord will empower, provide, and take care of us.