

## THE FUTURE KINGDOM

--ZECHARIAH 8:1-8--

### INTRODUCTION:

Often in prophecy after a warning or declaration of judgment, God then announces hope for Messiah's the future kingdom for those who have heard the warning and have repented and turned to God in faith. The unimaginable blessings of Messiah's future kingdom will last for one thousand years; this will be the climatic conclusion to human history before the beginning of the eternal state. The visions of Zechariah already introduced the subject of the millennial kingdom, but the direct revelation from Yahweh of hosts in this passage expands upon this subject with greater detail. Our passage from this morning gives an in-depth look at the time that Christ will reign over the whole earth. Within this direct revelation are five powerful declarations about the future millennial kingdom.

#### I. GOD'S JEALOUSY FOR HIS PEOPLE (Zechariah 8:1-2)

- a. The prophet announces that the word of Yahweh of \_\_\_\_\_ came to him again.
- b. As you may have noticed when we read this morning's passage, it is set up around a series of statements that are introduced with the phrase "Thus says the \_\_\_\_\_ (Yahweh) of hosts."
- c. Yahweh of hosts first declaration to His people reveals His \_\_\_\_\_ for Israel. (Zechariah 1:14)
- d. This declaration did not end here, but Yahweh of hosts continued by stating, "...yes, with great wrath I am \_\_\_\_\_ for her." (Zechariah 8:2c, NASB95) (Zechariah 1:15; Genesis 12)
- e. These words were not only a warning to Israel's enemies, but they were also a powerful reminder to God's people of His jealous \_\_\_\_\_ for them.

#### II. GOD DWELLING WITH HIS PEOPLE (Zechariah 8:3)

- a. Yahweh speaks again, making the second of His five \_\_\_\_\_ in this passage.

- b. Yahweh not only said He would return but that He would \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of Jerusalem.
- c. Yahweh has more to say in this declaration about His return, when He dwells in the midst of Jerusalem He says, "*Then Jerusalem will be called the City of \_\_\_\_\_.*" (Zechariah 8:3b, NASB95) (Isaiah 1:21; Revelation 11:8; Jeremiah 5:1)
- d. This transformation of Jerusalem will not stop there, Yahweh says, "*The Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts will be called the \_\_\_\_\_ Mountain.*" (Zechariah 8:3b, NASB95)
- e. As impressive as that future city will be, the main point of this statement is that the \_\_\_\_\_ of Yahweh of hosts will be called the Holy Mountain. (Psalm 2:6; Ezekiel 20:40; Isaiah 11:9-6-9)

#### III. GOD'S PEACE FOR HIS PEOPLE (Zechariah 8:4-5)

- a. For the third time in this passage the phrase "*Thus says the LORD of hosts...*" (Zechariah 8:4a, NASB95) is \_\_\_\_\_. (Lamentations 4:18)
- b. This peace is like no other \_\_\_\_\_ that has ever existed on this earth. (Isaiah 65:20)
- c. Yahweh continued speaking of the peace by saying, "*And the streets of the city will be filled with \_\_\_\_\_ and girls playing in its streets.*" (Zechariah 8:5, NASB95) (Lamentations 2:11-12)
- d. The \_\_\_\_\_ that will characterize Christ's future reign will embrace nations and individuals, old and young, men and women, parents and children.

#### IV. GOD'S INFINITE POWER FOR HIS PEOPLE (Zechariah 8:6)

- a. Again, for a \_\_\_\_\_ time we have the statement "*Thus says the LORD of hosts...*" (Zechariah 8:6a, NASB95)
- b. This rhetorical question provided Zechariah's audience with the absolute \_\_\_\_\_ that God possesses the power to carry out what He has promised.
- c. But what seems impossible from a human perspective is by no means \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

- d. To emphasize the divine source behind these \_\_\_\_\_, the text repeats that these declarations come from Yahweh of hosts.

V. GOD'S FUTURE FOR HIS PEOPLE (Zechariah 8:7-8)

- a. For the \_\_\_\_\_ time we come upon this phrase, "*Thus says the LORD of hosts...*" (Zechariah 8:7a, NASB95)
- b. Not only will He deliver them, but He says, "*and I will bring them back and they will \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of Jerusalem.*" (Zechariah 8:8a, NASB95)
- c. The result of this will be, as stated by God, "*and they shall be My people, and I will be their God in \_\_\_\_\_ and righteousness.*" (Zechariah 8:8b, NASB95)

CONCLUSION:

There is a future kingdom coming when God's glory will return, Jerusalem will be transformed, peace will cover the earth like a blanket, and God's people gathered from all over the world will love Him in truth and righteousness. All this has been declared by Yahweh of hosts; this is what He has in store for His people Israel. For Zechariah's audience, the promises made by God in this passage were needed to help them change their ways and not go the same way their ancestors had gone. Going through the motions was not what God desired. Zechariah reminded them that their starting point should never be their works, merit, or efforts. Instead, they needed to begin by looking to the Lord and His promises, fixing their hope on Him, and resting in His grace.

This is also the same for us; we cannot hope to earn our way into God's house because we can never do enough. Good works will never outweigh sin. The sin must be dealt with, and we are helpless to deal with it, only God can deal with sin through the death and resurrection of His Son. When we turn to Him in repentance and believe in the finished work of Jesus Christ then we too will be cleansed, forgiven, justified, sanctified, and redeemed. Then we are to hope in the promise of God for Israel because as the bride of Christ we will enjoy those blessings as well.