

“Jerusalem And The Millennium”

Zechariah 2:1-13

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Teaching Aim: To explore the circumstances surrounding God’s promise to rebuild the city of Jerusalem following its destruction and the 70-year Babylonian Captivity. To understand the importance of coming out of the world system (as represented by Babylon) and living our lives for Christ. To realize many nations will be joined to the LORD and a new world order that honors God will bring peace and prosperity to Jerusalem during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: A man with a measuring line looking to the expansion of Jerusalem (Zech. 2:1-5)

1. Why do some people call the Book of Zechariah “*The Book of Revelation*” of the Old Testament? What does the phrase “*apocalyptic literature*” mean? How do we see apocalyptic literature being used in the Book of Zechariah? Do you see any examples of this kind of literature in **verse 1**?
2. What is the difference between “*a dream*” and “*a vision*?” Which of the two did Zechariah experience in this book? Do you think the man mentioned in **verse 1** was an angel or a human being? (See **verse 3**) (See Commentaries) Did Zechariah immediately understand what the man was about to do (**vs. 2**)? Why was this night-vision important to the entire Jewish remnant? Have you ever needed encouragement at times when you were discouraged? How did that encouragement come?
3. What kind of creatures did Zechariah indicate were talking to him in **verse 3**? As one man walked away, another came over to meet him with a message. What message did he bring (**vs. 4**)? How do we know that this message was urgent? Did the communicating angel bring good news or bad news to Zechariah and the Jewish remnant? How do you think Zechariah felt as he received this message in the ruins of what had been Jerusalem?
4. In 586 B.C., Judah fell to the Babylonian Empire and went into captivity for 70-years. As Zechariah received these eight night-visions, a remnant of the Jews was now back in the land. The date the visions took place on was Feb. 15, 519 B.C. What similar prophecy did the prophet Isaiah share some 700 years before Christ and 200 years before Zechariah’s visions? (See **Isa. 49:19-20**)

5. The message of the angel appears to describe two different events: 1) The rebuilding of Jerusalem in Zechariah's day; and 2) The ultimate glory of Jerusalem that will be experienced during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. How can a picture of parallel railroad tracks illustrate the multiple meanings of Bible prophecy?

6. Who promised to protect "*Jerusalem*" during the millennium (**vs. 5**)? Who also promised to dwell in the city of Jerusalem during that same age? Where else in the Bible do we find a wall of fire being described as protecting God's people? What was the purpose of this fire according to **Exod. 13:21-22 & 40:34-38**? What was the function of the cloud by day? What is the purpose of the fire described in **Isa. 4:3-6**? Are **Zech. 2:5** and **Isa. 4:3-6** describing the same period in history? When will this take place?

7. Michael Rydelnik writes, "*It is best, then, to see the future restoration of Jerusalem in the literal messianic kingdom. At that time, the LORD will protect Jerusalem, like a wall of fire around the city and will restore the glory of Jerusalem by being in her midst.*" What great news does Michael Rydelnik share? It is important to note the Shekinah glory cloud of God left the temple before the Babylonian Captivity in **Ezek. 11:22-23**. What will happen once again at the temple during the millennium according to **Ezek. 43:1-7**?

8. How is the departure and return of the glory of God from the Mount of Olives in **Ezek. 11:22-23** similar to the departure and return of Jesus Christ? (See **Acts 1:9-11; Zech. 14:4-5**) What can we learn about the eternal state from **Isa. 60:19** and **Rev. 21:23**?

Part II: Those who mess with the apple of God's eye will face His fierce wrath (Zech. 2:6-9)

1. As we come to **verse 6**, God turns from speaking about the distant future to speaking about the time of Zechariah. The pagan nations that had been so brutal to the Jews would be judged by God and He would do it soon. What warning did God give to the Jews still living in Babylon (**vs. 6a**)? Why? (See Commentaries) Had they become overly comfortable living in the ways of the world? Have you ever been guilty of this?

2. Why are the enemies of Israel so often described as coming from the north? According to **verse 6b**, who spread out the Jews like the four winds of heaven? Why did He do this? Have you ever had to pay the consequences for disobeying God? If so, how? What is the best thing that a Christian can do once he or she has realized they have sinned? (See **1 John 1:9**)

3. Can you think of another time in Scripture where the people of God are called upon to flee Babylon? (See **Rev. 18:4-6**) What were the circumstances surrounding this warning? (See Commentaries) Note: Ancient Babylon is symbolic of both *"the false world religious system"* (See **Rev. 17**) and *"the material world of greed"* (See **Rev. 18**) when we come to these chapters describing the end times. How do these **Rev. 18:4-6** along with **2 Cor. 6:18** relate to Christians today?

4. The title *"the LORD of hosts"* means *"the LORD of the heavenly armies."* According to **verse 8**, who will Yahweh send after the nations that plundered God's people? Who will destroy the enemies of God on that Day and protect God's glory? (See **Rev. 19:11-16**) What did the LORD of hosts have to say about the apple of His eye in **verse 8**? According to **Deut. 32:9-10**, who is the apple of the LORD's eye?

5. Is the LORD still watching over the Jewish people today? What strikes you the most about the current threats against the Jewish state? Why do some people say, *"The greatest proof for the existence of God is the existence of Israel?"* Note: It is important for every Christian to recognize God does keep His promises.

6. How would the LORD of hosts react against the pagan nations that had so brutally assaulted His people (**vs. 9**)? With God involved, what kind of a role reversal will take place in the millennium? What applicable truth can be learned for today from **Gen. 12:3**? How will all the families of the earth be blessed through Abraham? (See Commentaries)

Part III: The LORD of Hosts is sending the Messiah to take possession of the Holy Land and to restore Jerusalem (Zech. 2:10-13)

1. As we come to **verse 10**, God once again shifts the discussion from the present to the distant future. How were the Jewish people to respond to the amazing expansion of the city of Jerusalem during the millennium? What will cause Jerusalem to be such a big draw during the millennium? Do you look forward to the return of Jesus Christ? If not, what is holding you back? Can you honestly say, *"Come Lord Jesus, come?"*
2. What are the three major theories regarding the millennium? (Hint: Search online) Which school of thought do you ascribe to. Why do you hold to this position? Which view does your church hold to? Should differing views on eschatology (the study of the end times) be something that causes division within the body of Christ? Why is it important for us to be gracious when it comes to this topic?
3. **Verse 11** talks about *"in that day."* Which day is being referred to here? Who will be joined to the LORD in that day? What will they become? Who is the personal pronoun *"Me"* referring to in **verse 11b**? According to **Isa. 2:4**, what will the world be like during the millennium? What surprising news do we learn from **Isa. 19:23-25**? Why is this a surprise to you?
4. Who will take possession of Judah and the Holy Land during the millennium as His inheritance (**vs. 12**)? Who will once again choose Jerusalem to serve as His capital city? Michael Rydelnik wrote, *"The city will be glorified in the messianic kingdom by the presence of the LORD, in this person of the Messiah, dwelling in the midst of it (Zech 2:10). Jerusalem's divine glory will be evident in the millennium when Gentile nations will join themselves to the LORD and Israel as a whole will believe that the LORD of hosts sent the Messiah Jesus to them (2:11)."* What will make the millennium so special?
5. What will be the response be from all the people on earth when Jesus returns from His holy habitation (**vs. 13**)? Where is Jesus' holy habitation right now? Does this verse clearly teach that Jesus will leave heaven and come to earth in a very dramatic way at His Second Coming? What will cause the people to be silent?

6. What will Jesus do upon His return according to **Rom. 11:26-27**? What incredible truths can the church learn from **Romans 8:35-39**?

7. Are you going through a difficult time in your life? How can reflecting on **Rom. 8:35-39** help as you walk through this difficult season in life? Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not repent of your sins and do so in prayer right now?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Jerusalem is God's chosen city, though it hasn't experienced the full measure of God's glory yet.
- The Book of Zechariah prophesies a day when Jerusalem will greatly expand & be glorious.
- Too often Christians compromise and get comfortable living under the corruption of the world.
- As Christians, we are called to come out of the world system and live for Christ.
- The zenith of Jerusalem's glory will be when the Lord Himself reigns from there.
- The Lord Jesus will take possession of the Holy Land in the future as His inheritance.
- At the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, the sight will be so astonishing that the world will be left in silence before the holiness of the LORD.
- The cry of every Christian should be, "*Come Lord Jesus, come!*"