

# **Zechariah 8**

## **Zechariah 8.1-8**

**V1** – Zechariah is continuing his answer to the delegation from Bethel

**V2** – **What was God’s attitude toward Jerusalem?** Love and jealousy (didn’t want the people to fall back into idolatry)

**V3** – **What was God going to do?** Return to Jerusalem

-**What would the city be known as?** The city of Truth, the Holy Mountain

**V4** –**What would Jerusalem be like?** Many old people (a good sign)

**V5** – **What else would take place in Jerusalem?** Many children playing in the streets

-Remember that the city was still in ruins and the temple work had not even been finished

-So there wasn’t much hope of seeing the scene in v 4-5

**V6** – Some people must have doubted Zechariah’s prophecy

-**What was God’s attitude toward the prophecy?** Nothing is too difficult for me

**V7** – God would bring his people from the east and the west

-Some were still in exile – remember that Nehemiah still had to bring his group back from Persia

**V8** – They would come back and worship God in Jerusalem

-This prophecy should have cheered up the people trying to rebuild the temple

## **Zechariah 8.9-13**

**V9** – **Advice from God to the people of Zechariah’s day?** Be strong and listen to the prophets (Haggai and Zechariah)

-**Especially?** The prophet who spoke when the foundation of the temple was laid

**V10** – **What had it been like in the days before the foundation of the temple was laid?** No wages and no peace

-But things are already better now (because the temple was being rebuilt)

**V11** – **Message from God?** God will not treat the Israelites as he did in the former days

**V12** – **What else did God prophecy?** There would be peace in the land (so that crops could be harvested)

-**Who would inherit these things?** The remnant of the people (the returned exiles)

**V13** – Once they were a curse, now they would be a blessing

-**What would they have to do?** Remain strong

## **Zechariah 8.14-17**

**V 14 – What had God decided to do to the Jews at one time?** To do harm to the Jews  
-And He carried it out

**V 15 – What has he proposed to do now?**

-Good for the Israelites (Implication? – Just as He carried out harm, now He will carry out His good will toward them)

**V 16** –Once again, God emphasizes what He wants the people to do: justice to each other

**V 17 – What else?** Don't devise evil against each other, and don't commit perjury

-**Why?** Because perjury destroys justice and order in society

## **Zechariah 8.18-23**

**V 18** – Zechariah is still answering the question from the man from Bethel

**V 19** – Mention of two more fasts

-Fourth month: *2 Kings 25.3-4*: Babylonians breached the walls and began entering the city

-Tenth month: Babylonians began their siege of Jerusalem (*2 Kings 25.1*)

-**So what is the answer to their question?** Drop these fasts and celebrate instead

**V 20 – Next prophecy?** The people from many different countries would go up to Jerusalem

**V 21 – What would the people say to each other?** Let us go to Jerusalem and get favor from the Lord

**V 22** – Many nations will go to Jerusalem and find blessings there

**V 23** – People would want to find a Jew, in order to get closer to God

-The fulfillment (*Acts 2.9-11*) that was still almost to 500 years away

-**What was the purpose of this prophecy?** To cheer up the Jews who were working on the temple

-They had a great future

-People would look to Judaism as the basis of Christianity

-Remember how Paul would always go to the Jewish synagogue first whenever he got to a new town

Revised 2012-10-20