

Zechariah – Oh the Visions! Oh the Messiah!
Lesson Four

Please study this chapter on your own. We'll start Wednesday with chapter nine.

[8:1-8].....Oracles

Vss.1-3 Again, this form of jealous refers more about protection, defense, provision, than anger and vengeance. This is a jealousy that moves on your behalf and for your benefit.

NOTE: Zechariah's hope is that he can communicate his visions and messages from God well enough that the remnant will be able to envision what he's seen and live appropriately under God's rule.

Vs.4 Listen to how Elizabeth Achetmeier describes this message:

"The Kingdom of God, says verses 4-5, will be like a public park, where the elderly can sit together and talk and bask in the sun, and little children can play in contentment and safety with nothing to threaten them – no pervert lurking in the shadows to lure one of them away with candy; no drug dealer waiting to peddle his poison to innocents; no child bruised or warped by abusive parents or stunted by or nutrition or inadequate education; not even a bully among the group to terrorize the younger and weaker."

(Interpretation... pg. 136)

Vs. 6 Whereas we may be surprised by what God does, God is not.

Vss.7-8 God is promising to return Jerusalem to it's former glory by blessing the remnant.

[8:9-19].....Three More Oracles

NOTE: These are called "salvation" oracles – messages from God to Zechariah to share with the remnant. These are not just about blessings and returning to glory, but how Jerusalem will be used to save the world.

Vss.9-11 **First oracle** – The results of Israel's faithlessness to God's covenants will now be replaced with blessings from God. They are being saved from former consequences.

Vss.12-13 God will save their land...literally. It will be prosperous.
As earth day approaches, our sin/disobedience has always affected the earth. Nature is not functional absent of God.

Vss.14-17 **Second oracle** – God will keep God's word and will not fail at it.
This is how we know: God used other nations to punish Judah, as God said.
Now God is saying that time is done. It's now time for them to be blessed.

Vs.16 God will make Israel a medium of blessing for all the families of the world.
Again God gives directives for community living for the remnant – things their fore-parents failed at.

NOTE: God says “Do not be afraid” in verses 13 and 15. Again, many of the Judeans only know God as wrath and punishment for they have lived in exile all these years. “Do not be afraid” is a reassurance of God’s presence and blessings.

Vss.18-19 Third oracle – God returns and answers the question raised by the Bethel delegation. “No” do not keep the fasts.

 Instead, the fasts will become festivals where the children of God will celebrate and be joyful. “Therefore love truth and peace”.

[8:20-23].....Last Oracle

Vss.20-22 The last oracle is that God’s kingdom will not be for Jews only, but for everyone.

 Jerusalem and Judah are intentional set up by God to show and provide the way by which the world will live.

 Those from all over will seek out Jerusalem to learn what the Lord wants for them.

 God’s great community will begin with Jerusalem.

Vs.23 No answer for why the oracle shows 10 followers instead of 12, but this message is about Jesus the Christ.

 We will learn more as we move into the next chapters.