

Zechariah 8

Previously, on Zechariah . . .

- 1:1-6, “Return to me and I will return to you”
- 1:7-17, The Man among the Myrtle Trees
- 2:1-13, “a city without walls” and God will be “its glory within”
- 3:1-10, “a burning stick snatched from the fire”
- 4:1-14, “not by might . . .but by my Spirit, says the LORD”
- 7:1-14, “Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.”

Zechariah 1-8 and 9-14

- Chapters 1-8 primarily concerned with historical situation of 520-516 B.C.
- Hints of wider view of salvation history/eschatology (last things)
- Chapter 9-14 not clearly attached to one historical situation
- Hints of historical moments but focus is eschatology

Zechariah 8

- “The word of the LORD Almighty came to me” vv. 1 & 18
- “This is what the LORD almighty says . . . ” vv. 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 14, 19, 20, 23
- Vv. 1-8, Faith
- Vv. 9-17, Love
- Vv. 18-23, Hope

Faith (Zech 8:1-8)

- ⁶ This is what the LORD Almighty says: “It may seem marvellous to the remnant of this people at that time, but will it seem marvellous to me?” declares the LORD Almighty.
- “We hence see that nothing is more preposterous than to seek to measure God’s power by our own understanding.” – John Calvin
- Not just belief in God’s power but also in God’s love for his people (v2 & 7)

Love (Zech 8:9-17)

- “Now hear these words, ‘Let your hands be strong so that the temple may be built.’ (v.9)
- “Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong.” (v.13)
- “Do not be afraid. These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts; do not plot evil against each other, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this,” declares the LORD. (vv.15-17)
- 1 John 4:18, “There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”
- 1 John 3:16 “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

Hope (Zech 8:18-23)

- V. 19 joyful, glad and happy
- V. 20-23 peoples and nations coming to God *via* his people
- Fulfilment of God's faithfulness to all people (Gen 12)
- Vision – of temple . . . City . . . World
- **1 Thessalonians 2** "We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. ³ We remember before our God and Father your **work produced by faith**, your **labour prompted by love**, and your **endurance inspired by hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ."