



Structure

As we have seen, chapters 1 through 6 form a single unit of thought within the book of Zechariah. These chapters contain an introductory oracle (1:1-6) where the prophet challenges the people not to repeat the disobedience of their forefathers. This is followed by 8 visions Zechariah receives in a single evening that look to their present situation and a future glory for Israel tied to the coming Messiah, while also encouraging obedience in their daily lives as the children of God. The critical concern of the moment is completing the Temple, a project God promises in these visions to bring to completion. Chapters 7 and 8 form a hinge unit between the night visions of the first six chapters and the end times focus of the last six chapters. The hinge in the middle looks back and looks forward, by (1) addressing proper heart motivations in worship (ch. 7) and (2) relating 10 blessings associated with the promised future kingdom paired with exhortations that God's people should live in the present with the firm conviction of God's promised future blessings.

1. **First Promise (8:1-2):** His is "jealous" for Zion — God will bless His people and protect them from their enemies.
2. **Second Promise (8:3):** Zion was a mountain in Jerusalem but it used here to refer to the city. God has returned with blessings AND His holy presence will dwell in the midst of His people. For context, see Ezekiel 10:18—19 and 11:22-23. The "mountain of the Lord" is where the temple will be located in the kingdom. Jerusalem will be a "city of truth"; the word "truth" carries the idea of faithfulness, so that the city will be known for its faithfulness to God.
3. **Third Promise (8:4-5):** In contrast to their recent history, Israel's future will be characterized by security, joy, and longevity. It will be an era of prosperity.
4. **Fourth Promise (8:6):** This promise anticipates their doubts and is phrased as a rhetorical question that speaks with assurance to those tempted to walk by sight instead of faith.
5. **Fifth Promise (8:7-8):** God will regather His dispersed people. Note that it is from the east to the west — from the rising sun to the setting sun — emphasizing a global regathering. This will not only be a time of physical restoration but of spiritual revival — "they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and righteousness."
6. **Be Courageous (8:9):** Note the *inclusion* using the phrase "let your hands be strong" as the bookends. They are minded of the words of the prophets before the reconstruction on the temple began, and how looking back their words came true.
7. **Sixth Promise (8:10-12):** Peace and prosperity.
8. **Seventh Promise (8:13):** The united country (Israel and Judah) will no longer be a "curse" and a "byword". Consider Deut. 28:37; Jeremiah 24:9, 25:18. Instead of a cursed people among the Gentiles they will be blessed in their land.
9. **Eighth Promise (8:14-15):** Divine favor.
10. **Exhortation (8:16-17):** Speak the truth, do justice, and don't plot evil against your neighbor.
11. **Ninth Promise (8:18-19):** Their fasts of mourning will be turned to feasts of joy and gladness. They are exhorted to love truth and peace.
12. **Tenth Promise (8:20-23):** The rampant anti-semitism we see today will be replaced with a recognition of God's blessings among them. The nations — not just Bethel — will send envoys to Jerusalem to seek God's face there.