

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
FROM MOURNING TO JOY-PART 2
WHEN THE NATIONS SEEK GOD'S FAVOR
ZECHARIAH 8:20-23

Introduction

In this message before us in *verses 18-23*, we're looking at some great changes that take place during the **MESSIANIC AGE**. Last time we saw: **WHEN THE VIEW OF HISTORY WILL BE REVISED.** (*Vs 18-19*)

We saw how Verse 19 declares that the four yearly **FASTS** that commemorated the people's grievous **DISASTERS** of the past **would be TRANSFORMED** from days of **MOURNING** into days of **REJOICING** in the future!

The **PROMISE** was that at a **FUTURE TIME** these times of **WEEPING, SORROW** and **FASTING** are to become **JOYFUL** experiences and times of great **HAPPINESS** and even **FEASTING!** "*Cheerful feasts*" will occur because the **LORD** is going to revolutionize their circumstances!

We said that one day we too will have a **NEW REALIZATION** of the **DISAPPOINTMENTS** and **TRAGEDIES** we faced in our lives!

Both our individual and mutual **CALAMITIES**, many of which, no doubt, we brought upon ourselves by our **REBELLION** and **DISOBEDIENCE**, will be made clear one day! We too will become **GRATEFUL** for them because we will see through **HIS** loving eyes **how GOD wanted to and did use them to bring us closer to HIM!**

We left off in *verse 19* as the **LORD** through the prophet **ZECHARIAH** exhorted them by these **PROMISES** to "*love truth and peace*". Which mirrors **PAUL's** exhortation in *Colossians 3:15-17*,

- 1. Let the truths of God's Word rule your heart, head and body.**
- 2. Let the peace of God's Spirit rule in your hearts.**

We said these are the terms man must meet if he would open the doors for **GOD'S PROMISES** and **BLESSINGS** in any age. All of **GOD'S PROMISES** should produce **WILLING OBEDIENCE** to **HIS PRECEPTS!**

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Now we see: **WHEN THE NATIONS SEEK GOD'S FAVOR.**(*Vs 20-23*)

In these verses, we see that in the time **ZECHARIAH** is speaking of [*that is of the future MESSIANIC KINGDOM*], the **BLESSINGS** of the **LORD** will flow out from **the NATION OF JUDAH** and **the CITY OF JERUSALEM** to encompass **ALL NATIONS!**

The days in which the PROPHETS HAGGAI and ZECHARIAH spoke had been very desolate times for the NATION OF JUDAH: Think of the great task they had of **REBUILDING** the **TEMPLE**, the **CITY**, the **CITY WALLS** and **the NATION as a whole** from such great **DESTRUCTION** and **DESOLATION** AND with great **OPPOSITION!**

(**EZRA** recorded the **OPPOSITION** to the **REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE** and **NEHEMIAH** recorded the **OPPOSITION** to the **REBUILDING OF THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM.**)

It was, no doubt, a monumental task that was **BIGGER THAN THEM**, but it was NOT **BIGGER THAN THEIR LORD!**

The days since that time have had many TROUBLESOME and TRYING times as well: (e.g. Think of the oppression they faced in **JESUS' day** from **ROMAN RULE**; Think of the **DESTRUCTION** of this very **TEMPLE** they were building in the year **A.D. 70**)

Even in more recent history, the JEWS have faced TROUBLESOME and TRYING times: (e.g. *The HOLOCAUST* in World War 2; *Even now there is the continued oppression, threats, and attacks from Israel's terroristic neighbors; there is the continued and growing worldwide oppression and lack of support of the JEWS that will ultimately culminate in a future attempt to annihilate the JEWS in the BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON!*)

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Thinking on all of this, one might wonder if GOD has forgotten the place of importance HE has given to JERUSALEM and HIS PEOPLE. But HE has not! (Romans 11:1-6; 25-27)

But in our text verses in **ZECHARIAH** here, we have the **NATURE** and the **MAGNITUDE** of the **FUTURE DELIVERANCE** appointed for **ISRAEL**:

Not only will **FASTING** become **FEASTING** and **MOURNING** will become **JOY** for the **SAVED JEWS** and **SAVED GENTILES** coming out of the **TRIBULATION**, but formerly **HEATHEN NATIONS** will go to **ZION (JERUSALEM)** the dwelling place of the **MESSIAH** to **WORSHIP HIM** and **SEEK GUIDANCE** of the **LORD OF HOSTS!**

It is at this time that the scales will fall from the eyes of the **NATIONS!** At last they will see what great things **GOD** has done for **HIS PEOPLE!** Not only that, but they will **DESIRE HIS BLESSINGS** also!

The former **UNBELIEF OF SKEPTICAL MEN** will give way to the desire to receive the benefits which **GOD** gives! People everywhere will finally recognize that **GOD'S FAVOR** is gain!

Notice the statement in *verse 20*, "*It shall yet come to pass*" or "*yet*" and the statement in *verse 23*, "*In those days it shall come to pass*" or "*in those days.*"

The **LORD's** original intent for **JERUSALEM** and for **JUDAH** and, in fact, for all of **ISRAEL** was for them to be a **LIGHT** to the **NATIONS** and they will one day fulfill the **LORD's** original intent for them no matter how impossible that may appear at this time!

There is coming a day when the **LIGHT OF THE WORLD** (the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**) will shine forth from **JERUSALEM** and from **HIS PEOPLE!** (See *Psalms 67*)

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In *verse 20* of our text, the term "*people*" is a collective term and "*the inhabitants of many cities,*" emphasizes the great numbers.

Delegates will no doubt come from **Washington, London, Berlin, Moscow, Paris, Peking** and from all the cities of great importance that remain. The **PEOPLE** will come to **JERUSALEM** to seek the **LORD** and the **BLESSING** of **HIS ADMINISTRATION.**

Verse 21 indicates that finding the **FAVOR OF THE LORD** will be a matter of shared importance and urgency!

The inhabitants of one city will go to another city and then both will go to the **LORD** to find solutions! The **LORD's** rule will be worldwide rule, not just a regional rule. At this time, they will realize that no one but the **LORD** alone has **ALL** the answers!

So these **NATIONS** go to the **LORD** desiring the **FAVOR** and **BLESSING OF GOD** which **ISRAEL** has received so that they may know what's going on and what to do!

Right now it seems the rulers of this world know **ONLY** how to work **EVIL** in an **EVIL WORLD** to accomplish **THEIR OWN WILLS.** But in that day they will realize that they cannot do that without severe repercussions!

Look at *Isaiah 2:2-4.*

The people are going to **JERUSALEM** for the dispensing of the **WAYS OF GOD** because the old ways of earth have passed away and the **WAYS OF GOD'S KINGDOM** have come!

"I will go also" will be the wise response. *"Let us go speedily"* is as strong an expression as is possible in Hebrew to indicate both **INTENSITY** and **URGENCY!**

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We can see that the ways of the world will decidedly change during the **MESSIAH'S ADMINISTRATION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE!** So much so that there is an **INTENSITY** and **URGENCY** to **PRAY BEFORE THE LORD** and **SEEK HIS FAVOR** and **INSTRUCTION!**

Verse 22 indicates that the **LORD** will truly be recognized as the **LORD of ALL the Earth** in that day.

In the **MILLENNIAL AGE**, **JERUSALEM**, will be the center of **ADMINISTRATION** and will receive **DELEGATIONS** like the one which came to **JERUSALEM** in **ZECHARIAH'S** day!

Isaiah 11:9-10—“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. 10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.”

JERUSALEM will no longer be regarded simply as the **SEAT OF JUDAISM** but as the **CENTER OF THE ONE TRUE GOD'S DEALINGS WITH ALL NATIONS!**

Verse 23 shows the entreating of **GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE** by other **NATIONS**. This verse brings out two additional features of this international turning to the **LORD**:

1. It will be accompanied by a **RECOGNITION** of the **RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES** of the **JEW**!
2. It will be motivated by reports about how the **LORD** has **BLESSED THEM** and how **HE IS TO BE FOUND IN THEIR MIDST**.

With the **DAVIDIC KINGDOM** established, **ISRAEL** will be a **MEDIUM OF BLESSING** to the entire globe!

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Isaiah 55:5—“Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.”

Not only will the formerly heathen **NATIONS** pour into **JERUSALEM** to seek the **GOD OF ISRAEL**, they will also seek those that personally know **HIM!**

TRUE SPIRITUALITY will be an attraction to people instead of the deterrent it so often is today. The **JEWISH REMNANT** will be endowed with **DIVINE FAVOR**. Their previous state of **SCORN** and **DERISION** will be a thing of the past!

Has this **SEEKING** and **HONORING** of **JEW**s ever happened in history? Not yet, because the phrase “*In those days*” points to the **MESSIANIC KINGDOM** when those **JEW**s who have **BELIEVED** on the **MESSIAH** during the **TRIBULATION PERIOD** are going to be honored by the **FULFILLMENT OF THIS PROPHECY**.

Ten is the **number of WHOLENESS**. Our number system is a base 10 system as all numbers meet it and start from it again. We have 10 fingers, 10 toes. The number is **representative of COMPLETENESS**.

Why are the people here in these verses zealously reaching out to the **JEW**? Because **GOD** is with the **JEW**! What better reason could there be? When this earth finally becomes the place **WHERE GOD IS SOUGHT**, those who **KNOW GOD** will be seen as the prize that they are.

Conclusion

By-and-large, people today are disinterested in the **LORD** and **HIS WAYS**. People seem to distance themselves from those that **WALK WITH THE LORD** and are **ZEALOUS FOR HIM**. And people generally do not desire to be taught by someone whom the **LORD HAS HIS HAND UPON**.

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But one day that will all change. People will become **DESPERATELY** and **ZEALOUSLY** interested in **KNOWING THE LORD'S WAYS!** And those that **KNOW HIM**, those that are **IN HIS FAVOR**, those who **HE HAS HIS HAND UPON**, will be sought out!

GOD has a future for **HIS JEWISH PEOPLE** on this earth! And in the concluding age of human history **GOD** will make all things **AS HE WILLS THEM** and **HIS PEOPLE** will be **BLESSED** and be a **GREAT BLESSING!**

But the **MILLENNIUM** is just a prelude for **ETERNITY!** It is a foreshadowing of what **GREAT BLESSINGS GOD** has in store for those who are **ZEALOUS FOR HIM!**

1 Corinthians 2:9-10—“*But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*”