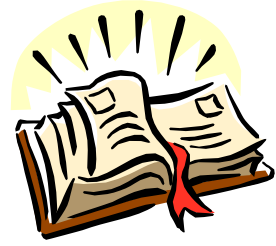


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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Zechariah 2.

(2014)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

Zechariah 2.

Topics.

- A man with a measuring line.
- God will be a wall of fire around Jerusalem and be the glory in her midst.
- Whoever touches Israel touches the apple of God's eye.
- God will inherit Judah in the holy land, and choose Jerusalem.
- The glory of the spiritual temple God is building in Christ.

INTRODUCTION: the following introduction is quiet long, but it does help understand the the background of Zechariah, to skip the introduction scroll down to Zechariah chapter two. As Haggai encouraged the returned Jewish exiles to rebuild the Temple, Zechariah encouraged them to repent and renew their covenant with God. Such spiritual renewal would be necessary for the people to be ready to worship God once the Temple was rebuilt (about 515 B.C.). Zechariah accused them of doing the very things their ancestors had done before the exile. He was concerned about social justice for widows, orphans, and foreigners. As the people endured opposition from the non-Jewish inhabitants of Judea, Zechariah reassured them of God's abiding comfort and care and that He would continue his covenant with Israel.

The Messianic hope was rekindled during Zechariah's ministry by the ordination of Joshua as priest and Zerubbabel as governor. From Zechariah chapter one through to the end there is a beautiful message of comfort and encouragement for the people of Israel during the era of Zechariah and for those who are rebuilding the temporal Temple of God, but as the visions progress through the chapters the focus slowly shifts from the era of Zechariah and transcends time to a future age where God is building an eternal Temple in the Lord Jesus Christ. The visions then progress to Jesus returning in glory and climax's in the final chapter with Christ reigning from Jerusalem as King over the entire earth and ends with the promise that the Lord would establish his rule over all the earth (Zechariah 14:9).

The historical background: twenty years after untied Israel returned from their seventy years in captivity to Babylon, the Temple was still a blackened ruin and the discouraged people did not see how it could be restored. At this critical moment God raised up the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the Jews to rebuild the Temple. The prophecies of the two men were delivered almost at the same time. Zechariah gives a series of eight symbolic night-visions, to encourage the Israelites to complete the Temple.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

A Man with a Measuring Line.

Zechariah 2:1-4 ----- ¹And I (Zechariah) lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand! ²Then I said, "Where are you going?" And he said to me, "To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length." ³And behold, the angel who talked with me came forward, and another angel came forward to meet him ⁴and said to him, "Run, say to that young man, 'Jerusalem shall be inhabited as villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and livestock in it.

The city of Jerusalem is sparse the moment, the Temple is in ruins and many of her inhabitants are still scattered throughout the surrounding nations. Zechariah sees in his vision a man going to measure Jerusalem, but another angels tells the

angel Zechariah has been talking to run and tell the man that the city will not have walls, because it will be so abundantly inhabited with people and livestock and the population will multiply and overflow that the LORD'S people will not be able to be contained within a city with walls.

This obviously refers to the flood of Jews in the time of Zechariah who do return to Jerusalem to rebuild the ruined Temple and the city of Jerusalem, but there is also a faint echo contained within the vision of a new spiritual Jerusalem being built in Christ called in the New Testament a new nation, a new creation and the body of Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles worldwide, who will eventually become the literal and physical government of God when the Lord Jesus Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, prosperity, joy and peace for all on earth. Certainly this is a very faint echo of the Lord Jesus Christ, but as the chapters progress these echoes become louder and louder, especially in chapter eleven, twelve, thirteen and fourteen.

God will be a Wall of Fire around Jerusalem and be the Glory in Her Midst.

Zechariah 2:5-6 ----- ⁵And I (the LORD) will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the LORD, and I will be the glory in her midst." ⁶Up! Up! Flee from the land of the north, declares the LORD. For I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heavens, declares the LORD.

Judah is told to rise up and escape from the lands and nations they have been scattered into and return to Jerusalem and the LORD will protect them and be the glory in their midst.

Whoever Touches Israel Touches the Apple of God's Eye.

Zechariah 2:7-10 ----- ⁷Up! Escape to Zion, you (Judah and Israel) who dwell with the daughter of Babylon. ⁸For thus said the LORD of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye: ⁹"Behold, I will shake my hand over them, and they shall become plunder for those who served them. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me. ¹⁰Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD.

When Israel was scattered and in captivity for seventy years many of the people of the surrounding nations took possession of their homes, their farms and their land and because of this some Israelites were probably afraid to return to Jerusalem while others had probably married and established homes and families in foreign lands while in captivity.

Under Cyrus king of Persia the land of Babylon was in peace so a considerable number of Jews probably remained, but now through Zechariah the LORD is telling the people God is going to bring to ruin the nations that plundered Jerusalem, their homes, farms and land so the LORD is calling them to return to Jerusalem, rebuild the Temple and renew their faith and He will dwell in the midst of them and be their wall of protection.

NOTICE: the LORD calls His people the apple of his eye (v8) this is the highest expression of love it carries the idea of a person being the supreme love in the heart of another. This is the love God has in His heart toward all those who are devoted and faithful to Him.

Behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst: refers to the time of Zechariah, but Zechariah's prophetic words only remain there for a moment and then the Angel of the LORD carries the vision through time and history until he brings it to an elderly and godly man named John dwelling on an island called Patmos (in the book of Revelation). John tells us at the end of the millennial age when Christ rules as King of kings and Lord of lords God Himself descends to earth and all the dead from the sea and the grave are raised and judged by the LORD Himself according to what they had done (Rev. 20:11-15).

After this judgment the following events take place the Holy city, New Jerusalem, will come down from heaven to earth from God. God Himself and His people will dwell together in the heavenly city.

God will wipe away every tear, there will be no death, sorrow, crying, pain, because all these things will have passed away (Rev. 21:2-4) (Rev. 21:10-11). There will be no Temple in the city, because its Temple will be the LORD God the Almighty and the Lord Jesus Christ. The city will have no need of the sun or moon to shine on it because the glory of God and Christ will be its light and the nations counted worthy will walk in the ways of God's and of Christ (Rev. 21:22-24).

For further information see the title: -

- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.
- In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

God will inherit Judah in the Holy Land, and Choose Jerusalem.

Zechariah 2:11-13 ---- ¹¹And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you (inhabitants of Jerusalem) shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. ¹²And the LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem." ¹³Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

Many nations shall join themselves to the LORD refers to the era of Zechariah and the scattered Jews returning to rebuild the city and the House of the LORD, but the words, "many nations shall join themselves to the LORD," also echo a totally new age in which we find the apostle Paul in the New Testament proclaiming the same message as Zechariah. God through the Lord Jesus Christ is joining multitudes of Gentile nations to Himself. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew)

Hundreds of years later we find the apostle Paul saying the same as Zechariah.

The Apostle Paul said: -

- Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit (Ephes. 2:11-22).

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in

status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world. The practical application of what this means to those who belong to Christ is that all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to them. The book of Revelation states: -

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

The Glory of the Spiritual Temple God is Building in Christ.

Jews and Gentiles are being united together as one body in Christ to be a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Believing Jews and Gentiles are being prepared by the prophets and apostles teachings and by the influence of Christ and the Holy Spirit to become a majestic and glorious sacred temple in which God dwells for all eternity.

When this majestic building is completed there will be nothing so worthy of reverence since God dwells in it; so ancient since the patriarchs and prophets laboured in building it; so solid since love cements it together; so closely united and indivisible since Christ is the corner stone; so exalted since it reaches as high as heaven and to God himself; so full of wisdom since its specifications are the word of God; so full of light since the Holy Spirit dispels every dark corner; so spacious since it is spread over the whole earth; so invincible and indestructible since it is being built by God, by Christ, by the Holy Spirit and by the influence of God's eternal word; so divine since it is a living, vibrant, dynamic temple inhabited by the Holy Spirit, and so universal since all its unique stones though spread throughout the world are compacted together in Christ.

God is the master builder of this majestic and glorious temple; Christ is the corner stone; faithful believers are the proper materials; the prophets and apostles are its foundation and the Gospel and love its pillars. Christ is the door and faith is the entrance into it. It is a spiritual building and through, faith and grace this living building is growing into an eternal house fit for the most Holy God to dwell in. It's beauty and radiance will surpass all temples that have ever gone before it since it will be adorned with a vast variety of rich colour made up of Jews and Gentiles of every age, country, sex, and condition: the mightiest of kings, the most renowned lawgivers, the most profound philosophers, the most eminent scholars and all those of whom the world was not worthy have formed this building. Peter wrote: -

- Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame (1 Pet. 2:6).

Every faithful brother and sister in Christ are represented as living stones that God is using to build this spiritual, majestic temple of eternal glory which will be manifested in splendour for all to see when: -

- The Lord himself descends from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ are raised then we who are alive are caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess. 4:15-18).

It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises and many of the prophecies to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only, but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ.

VISIONS: a vision can relate to a spectacle gazed at by the eyes or a movie played out in the mind. Sometimes the same biblical event or experience is spoken of as an actual and real event, while at other times the same event maybe recorded as a vision (an image or mental experience within the mind). A biblical vision communicates the God's will or future events and is always under God's control.

It can appear as a movie played out on the screen of the imagination of the mind (similar to a dream) or it may appear as a hologram appearing in the air that is actually seen by the eyes of whoever God chooses to give the vision to. Those who have had such a vision tell the vision to the people, sometimes in their own words and at other times in the exact words that God has spoken to them in the vision.

For further information see the title: -

- Visions and Prophecy.
- In Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End.