



“When the Fasts Become Joyful Feasts”
Zechariah 8:1-23

Introduction:

Psalm 78:5-8

I. THE FUTURE FULL RESTORATION (8:1-8)

A. The Return of the Redeemer (vs. 1-3)

Zechariah 1:5,16; 2:10; 14:20-21

“I am exceedingly jealous for Zion, yes, with great wrath I am jealous for her.... I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts will be called the Holy Mountain.”

B. The Resultant Peace (vs. 4-6)

Isaiah 11:6-9

“Old men and old women will again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each man with his staff in his hand because of age. And the streets of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing in its streets.... If it is too difficult in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, will it also be too difficult in My sight?”

C. The Regathering of Israel (vs. 7-8)

Isaiah 11:11-12

“Behold, I am going to save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west and I will bring them back and they will live in the midst of Jerusalem and they shall be My people, and I will be their God in truth and righteousness.”

II. THE PRESENT PARTIAL RESTORATION (8:9-17)

A. The Restoration of Prosperity to the Land (vs. 9-13)

Ezra 5:1-2; Haggai 1:6; 2:19; Jeremiah 24:9

“Let your hands be strong, you who are listening in these days to these words from the mouth of the prophets, those who spoke in the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, to the end that the temple might be built. For before those days there was no wage for man or any wage for animal and for him who went out or came in there was no peace because of his enemies, and I set all men one against another.”

“But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days.... For there will be peace for the seed: the vine will yield its fruit, the land will yield its produce and the heavens will give their dew and I will cause the remnant of this people to inherit all these things. It will come about that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you that you may become a blessing. Do not fear; let your hands be strong.”

B. The Renewal of Covenant Loyalty (vs. 14-17)

Proverbs 6:16-19

“Just as I purposed to do harm to you when your fathers provoked Me to wrath...and I have not relented, so I have again purposed in these days to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Do not fear!”

“These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another, judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates. Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate.”

III. THE FINAL MILLENNIAL RESTORATION (8:18-23)

A. The fasts will give way to feasts. (vs. 18-19)

“Then the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying...’The fast of the fourth, the fast of the fifth, the fast of the seventh and the fast of the tenth months will become joy, gladness, and cheerful feasts for the house of Judah; so love truth and peace.”

B. The Gentiles will entreat the favor of the LORD. (vs. 20-22)

Isaiah 2:2-4; Micah 4:1-5

“It will yet be that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities. The inhabitants of one will go to another, saying, ‘Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go.’ So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.”

C. The nations will recognize that God is with the Jewish people. (vs. 23)

“In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’ ”

Conclusion:

“When the people of God, in any age, are going on in happy fellowship with their Lord and Savior, the unsaved will be attracted to Him, and will be found seeking out His disciples, saying, ‘We would see Jesus.’ ”

– Harry Ironside

Food for Thought:

- 1) How do you explain the “jealousy” of God?
- 2) Why did Zechariah continually hold future promises before the people?
- 3) In what sense was/is Israel “a curse among the nations” (vs. 13)?
- 4) How will Israel become a channel of blessing to all nations?