

Exegetical Analysis — Zechariah 8:1-23

1-23 – Then the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying, [2] "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I am exceedingly jealous for Zion, yes, with great wrath I am jealous for her.' [3] Thus says the LORD, '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.' [4] Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Old men and old women will again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each man with his staff in his hand because of age. [5] And the streets of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing in its streets.' [6] Thus says the LORD of hosts, '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?' declares the LORD of hosts. [7] Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Behold, I am going to save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west; [8] 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.' [9] "Thus says the LORD of hosts, '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. [10] 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. [11] But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days,' declares the LORD of hosts. [12] '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. [13] 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.' [14] "For thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Just as I purposed to do harm to you when your fathers provoked Me to wrath,' says the LORD of hosts, 'and I have not relented, [15] so I have again purposed in these days to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Do not fear! [16] These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates. [17] Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate,' declares the LORD." [18] Then the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying, [19] "Thus says the LORD of hosts, '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.' [20] "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'It will yet be that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities. [21] 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." [22] So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.' [23] Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'In those days ten men from all the nations q will grasp r the garments of a Jew, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."

Empty Fasts to Bountiful Feasts & Coming Peace and Prosperity to Zion.

Israelites being stirred by Hosea and Zechariah to build the temple, and this is linked together by chapter 7. The God of Scripture had become a God of weariness, and we see in Malachi sins that come from not taking God seriously.

Malachi 2:8 NASB

But as for you, you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by the instruction; you have

corrupted the covenant of Levi," says the LORD of hosts.

We have a decalogue of promises "Thus Saith the Lord".

1. FUTURE RESTORATION

1) "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I am exceedingly jealous for Zion, yes, with great wrath I am jealous for her.'

Anthropomorphism. His love for them has been so demonstrable in the scripture. There is also a jealousy and fury, he is a jealous lover.

2) Thus says the LORD, '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.'

Second Coming of the Lord. The effect of the Lord Jesus coming is that Jerusalem would go from being in pieces (current state) to peace and be known as the City of Truth. His beloved City.

Revelation 20:9 NASB

And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

His dwelling would be forever in Jerusalem:

Ezekiel 37:24-28 NASB

"My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them. [25] They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever. [26] I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. [27] My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. [28] And the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.""

Ezekiel 43:7,9 NASB

He said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever. And the house of Israel will not again defile My holy name, neither they nor their kings, by their harlotry and by the corpses of their kings when they die, [9] Now let them put away their harlotry and the corpses of their kings far from Me; and I will dwell among them forever.

Ezekiel 48:10 NASB

The holy allotment shall be for these, namely for the priests, toward the north 25,000 cubits in length, toward the west 10,000 in width, toward the east 10,000 in width, and toward the south 25,000 in length; and the sanctuary of the LORD shall be in its midst.

3) Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Old men and old women will again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each man with his staff in his hand because of age. [5] And the streets of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing in its streets.'

Peace will be found once again in Jerusalem.

4) Thus says the LORD of hosts, '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?' declares the LORD of hosts.

No, nothing is too difficult for the Lord.

5) Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Behold, I am going to save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west; [8] 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.'

Zechariah could not be speaking of the captivity, but rather he is speaking about saving his people from the Dispersion into all the lands.

Zechariah 7:14 NASB

"but I scattered them with a storm wind among all the nations whom they have not known. Thus the land is desolated behind them so that no one went back and forth, for they made the pleasant land desolate."

2. EXORTATION OF FUTURE PROMISES

"Thus says the LORD of hosts, '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. [10] 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. [11] But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days,' declares the LORD of hosts. [12] '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. [13] 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.' [14] "For thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Just as I purposed to do harm to you when your fathers provoked Me to wrath,' says the LORD of hosts, 'and I have not relented, [15] so I have again purposed in these days to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Do not fear! [16] These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates. [17] Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate,' declares the LORD."

Faithfulness in the former days, but an ethical reminder and exhortation.

3. FUTURE UNIVERSAL RESTORATION

Thus says the LORD of hosts, '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.'

These practices were a triviality. They weren't what God required. He required commitment and a heart change.

"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'It will yet be that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities. [21] 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." [22] So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.'

This is salvation to Gentiles, and Jews and Gentiles will stream to Jerusalem.

Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'In those days ten men from all the nations q will grasp r the garment s of a Jew, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."'''

There will be such a desire to God to see the Lord the imagery of the grabbing garment.

"even a cursory reading of this heart warming text will persuade the reader that the happy scenes depicted therein cannot possibly speak of life in modern war-torn Israel."

— Dean Davis, The High King of Heaven: Discovering the Masters Keys to the Great End Time Debate [Enumclaw, WA: WinePress Publishing 2014], 657.

"the entire population will enjoy an atmosphere of renewal and blessing."

— Klein, Zechariah, 336; cf. Alva McClain, The Greatness of the Kingdom: An Inductive Study of the Kingdom of God (Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1959), 228.

"that is different from the present evil age but different also from the eternal state in which all negative aspects of aging and death are removed."

— Michael J. Vlach, *The Kingdom of God and the Millennium*, 238-239.

“From Zechariah's time until now there has never been a time where the conditions of Zechariah 8 have happened. On the other hand, there will be no elderly who are weak in the final eternal state for all remnants of the curse have been removed (see Revelation 21-22). What Zechariah describes here, therefore, must take place in an initial phase of God's kingdom before the eternal state begins.”

— Michael J. Vlach, *The Kingdom of God and the Millennium*, 239.