

God Remembered
Zechariah 2:1-13
Chapter 4
“The Surveyor”

I looked up and saw a man with a measuring line in his hand. I asked, “Where are you going?”

He answered me, “To measure Jerusalem to determine its width and length.”

Then the angel who was speaking with me went out, and another angel went out to meet him. He said to him, “Run and tell this young man: Jerusalem will be inhabited without walls because of the number of people and animals in it.” The declaration of the Lord: “I myself will be a wall of fire around it, and I will be the glory within it.”

Listen! Listen! Flee from the land of the north” — this is the Lord’s declaration — “for I have scattered you like the four winds of heaven” — this is the Lord’s declaration. “Listen, Zion! Escape, you who are living with Daughter Babylon.” For the Lord of Armies says this: “In pursuit of his glory, he sent me against the nations plundering you, for whoever touches you touches the pupil of my eye. For look, I am raising my hand against them, and they will become plunder for their own servants. Then you will know that the Lord of Armies has sent me.

“Daughter Zion, shout for joy and be glad, for I am coming to dwell among you” — this is the Lord’s declaration. “Many nations will join themselves to the Lord on that day and become my people. I will dwell among you, and you will know that the Lord of Armies has sent me to you. The Lord will take possession of Judah as his portion in the Holy Land, and he will once again choose Jerusalem. Let all humanity be silent before the Lord, for from his holy dwelling he has roused himself.”
Zechariah 2:1-13

The third vision of the prophet Zechariah is of a “man” with a measuring line sent to measure out the city of Jerusalem. In keeping with the symbolism of the first two visions, this “man” would be none other than The Angel of The LORD or the pre-incarnate Christ Himself. You will see in this passage that Christ has been sent by God The Father as an intermediary between God and those whom He chooses. In this case, we see Christ as the protector of Israel, God’s chosen people.

It would be remiss of us to assume that this prophecy is in regards to the Church as many *Bible* commentators have elected to promulgate. For the Church in no way replaces the nation of Israel. The two, however, will be joined indissolubly into one body in what the Apostle Paul called “the great mystery of God” (***Ephesians 3***). So, in this way, the Church will also rejoice in the wondrous restoration of Israel’s future glory in the kingdom of God. However, by and large as we have previously stated, these visions given to Zechariah primarily are concerning the nation of Israel.

So, here we see Christ Himself as a “surveyor” of Jerusalem, taking a measuring line to determine its borders. *The Bible* teaches that one day, The Messiah will re-establish the throne of David upon Mount Zion, and He shall rule the nations with a rod of Iron (***Isaiah 11***). So in every sense, The Savior has every right to go and measure the city of Jerusalem, for it is His own inheritance. It and its inhabitants belong solely to Him and Him alone.

At the time of this vision, the great city of David lay in ruins, but God is faithful and will remember His promises to not only restore the holy city, but will also elevate it to a future glory that has heretofore never been seen. A day is coming when Jerusalem will not only be the capital city of Israel, but the capital city of the world, when Christ comes in His glory to reign.

One of the other angels commanded the angel chosen to be Zechariah's interpreter to "run to the young man" and share with him the meaning of the vision (**vs. 4**). The angel is not being condescending of the prophet by referring to him as a "young man", he was merely stating the obvious. It would not have mattered if the prophet had been as old as Methuselah, he still would not have been able to interpret the meaning of the vision without the aid of heavenly guidance.

The message from God was simple. A day was coming that Jerusalem would not only be restored from her current ruinous condition, but she would ultimately grow into a sprawling metropolis, for she was not simply being measured in her current state, but rather, the great capital city was being surveyed by Christ for her future glory. Much like a married couple will purchase a piece of ground and walk around it, making plans for the home they intend to build there, Christ has a blueprint for Jerusalem. And He is making His plan to rebuild this chosen city into something glorious. What a source of encouragement this must have been for those who had returned from Babylon to find their beloved homeland in ash and ruin.

In the future glory of Israel, the beloved city of Jerusalem will no longer need walls to guard against its enemies such as the notorious king of Babylon, for God Himself would be a wall of fire about her, protecting from any who would dare encroach upon her borders with intent to cause harm or destruction. Just as God protected the children of Israel and led her through the wilderness as a pillar of fire, He will once more dwell among His chosen people and insure their protection. And The LORD Himself would be the source of both Jerusalem's glory and guardianship.

With the phrase "Listen, Listen!" (*howy, howy* pronounced ho-hee in the Hebrew) which is akin to how we would say "Oh, oh!", God warned His people to return to the city to which they belonged. Many of the Jews had grown so complacent in their captivity that when given the opportunity to return to their homeland, they had instead chosen to remain in Babylon where they had established for themselves a comfortable living and settled into the homes they had built there. To many of them, it seemed to be a choice between giving up the nice things they had acquired in Babylon only to return to a destroyed homeland to start over.

The problem with this way of thinking was that God's people do not belong with the pagan systems of this world. And material wealth can never take the place of spiritual blessings. In other words, it is far better to be a pauper and to be firmly entrenched in the will of God, than to be a billionaire without Him! This is not only a reality for ancient Israel, but for the modern day Believer as well. For as Christ Himself has said:

For what will it benefit someone if he gains the whole world and yet loses his life? Or what will anyone give in exchange for his life? For The Son of Man is going to come with His angels in the glory of His Father, and then He will reward each according to what he has done. **Matthew 16:26-27**

There has been much debate among scholars over the phrase in **verse 8** that states, "In pursuit of His glory..." (*'ahar kabhodh* in the Hebrew text). The phrase can also be translated "after the glory". Some have argued that this means that Christ Himself will destroy all the nations that have antagonized His chosen people when He returns in His glory at the apocalypse. While this is absolutely true, it may or not be what is immediately in view here.

The second way to interpret this phrase is in context with what follows after the verse. Israel is "the apple of God's eye". The Hebrew text actually refers to the "pupil of His eye," and therefore, God will defend His chosen people with as much zeal as He would defend the most sensitive part of His own eye, as it were. In a manner of speaking, to come against God's very own is akin to poking God in the eye. Such an attack will not go unpunished. Therefore, in defense of His Own glory, God sends Christ to defend those whom He has chosen. Just as He promised to raise up "smiths" (**Zechariah 1: 20-21**) to destroy those who had antagonized Israel,

He would continue to punish those who would take their stand against those whom He has chosen.

I personally feel that both of these can actually be true at the same time. For God has indeed punished the nations that have historically brought harm to Israel, but He will ultimately do so once and for all when Christ returns in His crowning glory (**Revelation 19:11-21**). **“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of The Living God “(Hebrews 10:31 KJV).**

Verses 10-13 of this vision can hardly be interpreted in any other way than that of the messianic reign of Christ upon the earth that will take place when He returns. For Jerusalem will become the capital city of earth. All nations who would take their stand against God’s people will be destroyed. But all those from the nations of the world who refuse to take the beast’s (antichrist) cursed mark upon themselves will turn to Christ for salvation and find in Him grace and mercy. These are those who will flock to Jerusalem to worship the One Who died to redeem them. Jews and Gentiles alike will take refuge in the restored Jerusalem, with Christ as its light and glory in His millennial kingdom.

Reign of the Davidic King

**Then a shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots will bear fruit.**

**The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
a Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a Spirit of counsel and strength,
a Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.**

**His delight will be in the fear of the Lord.
He will not judge
by what he sees with his eyes,
he will not execute justice
by what he hears with his ears,**

**but he will judge the poor righteously
and execute justice for the oppressed of the land.
He will strike the land
with a scepter from his mouth,
and he will kill the wicked
with a command from his lips.**

**Righteousness will be a belt around his hips;
faithfulness will be a belt around his waist.**

**The wolf will dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the goat.
The calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf will be together,
and a child will lead them.**

**The cow and the bear will graze,
their young ones will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like cattle.**

**An infant will play beside the cobra’s pit,
and a toddler will put his hand into a snake’s den.**

**They will not harm or destroy each other
on my entire holy mountain,
for the land will be as full
of the knowledge of the Lord
as the sea is filled with water.**

Israel Regathered

**On that day the root of Jesse
will stand as a banner for the peoples.
The nations will look to him for guidance,
and his resting place will be glorious.**

**On that day the Lord will extend his hand a second time to recover the remnant of
his people who survive — from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar,
Hamath, and the coasts and islands of the west.**

**He will lift up a banner for the nations
and gather the dispersed of Israel;
he will collect the scattered of Judah
from the four corners of the earth.**

**Ephraim's envy will cease;
Judah's harassing will end.
Ephraim will no longer be envious of Judah,
and Judah will not harass Ephraim.**

**But they will swoop down
on the Philistine flank to the west.
Together they will plunder the people of the east.
They will extend their power over Edom and Moab,
and the Ammonites will be their subjects.**

**The Lord will divide the Gulf of Suez.
He will wave his hand over the Euphrates
with his mighty wind
and will split it into seven streams,
letting people walk through on foot.**

**There will be a highway for the remnant of his people
who will survive from Assyria,
as there was for Israel
when they came up from the land of Egypt.**

Isaiah 11

The land shall be called *math haqqodhesh*, meaning, “the holy land” (This is the only time this phrase is used in all of *Scripture*). For Christ Himself will come and take possession of the place that He has measured out for Himself. This will happen at the end of The Great Tribulation, known in *Scripture* as “the great and terrible day of The LORD”. And The Messiah will take up the throne of His father David and shall rule all the nations with a rod of iron (**Revelation 2 :27**). On that day, all the world shall be in awe of the mighty power of God.

**Let all humanity be silent before The LORD, for from His holy dwelling place
He has roused Himself.** **Zechariah 2:17**

Lest we ever forget, Our God remembers all that He has promised.