

Title: God's Holy City

Passage: Zechariah 2:1-13

Draft Summary:

Three Coming Realities:

I. We hope in the coming restoration (v.1-5)

II. We must flee from the coming judgement (v.6-9)

III. We rejoice in the coming reunion (v.10-13)

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- Do you remember when you have had a spiritual longing thinking "There's got to be something more. This world can't be all there is."? Please share.
- Do we have spiritual Stockholm syndrome? Are we slipping away from godliness and allowing worldliness creep into our hearts?
- What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?

Passage:

Zechariah 2

And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand! Then 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." And behold, the angel who talked with me came forward, and another angel came forward to meet him and 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. And I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the LORD, and I will be the glory in her midst."

Up! 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. Up! Escape to Zion, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon. For 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: "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. Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD. And 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 shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And the LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem."

Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

EXPOSITION

Introduction

Passage: vision of a glorious city of the future

- fill us with a sense of joy
 - Hope of promise
- Fill us with a sense of urgency to help free others

Overview

Three Coming Realities:

- I. We hope in the coming restoration (v.1-5)
- II. We must flee from the coming judgement (v.6-9)
- III. We rejoice in the coming reunion (v.10-13)

Context of Passage:

God's covenant people had rebelled against Him

- nation of Israel had been conquered by Babylonians and exiled into a foreign land.
- Israel was later freed and allowed to return back to their homeland, but it was very different.
- There were losing hope as in poverty and in division.

Here, God provides special visions to encourage His people.

I. WE HOPE IN THE COMING RESTORATION

Zechariah 2:1-5

And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand! Then 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." And behold, the angel who talked with me came forward, and another angel came forward to meet him and 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. And I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the LORD, and I will be the glory in her midst."

Zechariah 2:2

Then 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."

- Jerusalem had been broken and shattered.
- But here, the land was to be surveyed for forthcoming plans for its restoration.

Zechariah 2:4

and 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 man is interrupted to abandon the futile exercise.
- "Walls" = mark of boundaries.
 - "Without walls" = Jerusalem will actually be so vast and large of a city without walls.

Zechariah 2:5

And I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the LORD, and I will be the glory in her midst."

- "Walls" = a form of protection
 - "Without walls" = God Himself will be the great protector of Jerusalem

Thought: do we try to measure what is happening - trying to understand things with our own understandings?

- Truth: God is great and powerful. He can do things far beyond and greater than we can ever imagine.

Matthew 16:18

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

- God's kingdom is here and advancing.

Jerusalem

- a picture of the future heavenly city of Jerusalem

Hebrews 11:10

For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

- in Christ, this is our city.
- We ought to look upward and forward towards this heavenly city.
- If you are tired and weary and weighed down with discouragement, we can live in light of the glorious hope of a future city that is coming.

Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Hebrews 12:22

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,

- we experience the heavenly city when we come and gather together with the local church.

Feeling of longing/desire

- "There's got to be something more. This world can't be all there is."
 - Truth: the only way to fulfill that longing and desire is found in Jesus.

Jesus

- He suffered and died outside the earthly gates of Jerusalem

- So that we might be brought inside the city of Jerusalem.

Hebrews 13:12

So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.

II. WE MUST FLEE FROM THE COMING JUDGMENT (v.6-9)

Zechariah 2:6-9

Up! 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. Up! Escape to Zion, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon. For 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: “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.

Up! Up! Flee from the land of the north...Escape to Zion, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon.

- God is calling people to flee
 - But they had become comfortable in Babylon.
- “Stockholm Syndrome”
 - Definition = feelings of trust or affection felt by those in captivity toward the captor
- Do we have spiritual “Stockholm syndrome”?
 - Here, do we lose sight of our Rescuer and instead sympathize with the Enemy?
 - Are we slipping away from godliness and allowing worldliness creep into our heart?
 - Are we prioritizing things of this world above God?
 - Are we giving into culturally-acceptable ways of doing things instead of the Word of God?
 - Are we working for the glory of man instead of the glory of God?
- We must escape Babylon and flee to Jerusalem.
 - Why? God will judge Babylon, the sinful world system.

Zechariah 2:8-9

For 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: “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.

- We must be clear on which side we stand.
- Babylon (like the world) has many attractions. But it will be destroyed.
 - “Pilgrim’s Progress” - a man named Christian who wants to leave the City of Destruction to the Heavenly City. He finally leaves plugging his ears saying “Life! Life! Eternal life!”
- Likewise, we must be clear where our loyalty and affections lie.
 - It must be Christ. He will come one day as the righteous Judge.

Flee from Babylon and come to Jesus Christ!

- For non-Christians: judgment is coming - come to Christ!
- For Christians: we must have a sense of urgency that judgment is coming and must tell others about Jesus.

III. WE REJOICE IN THE COMING REUNION

Zechariah 2:10-13

Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD. And 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 shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And the LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.”

Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people.

- “shall be my people” = God’s covenant people
- “Many nations” = God is gathering the nations to Himself to be His family and be His people.”
- God has promised that He will gather the nations to Himself.
 - Therefore, we can spread the Gospel knowing that God will work and draw people to Himself.

And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.

- Previously: God’s glory left the Temple because of the people’s sin.
- Here: God’s glory will return to His people.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

- What is to come?

Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

- picture of the new Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:15-17

And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement.

- Why is there one measuring here?
 - Special number (12,000, 144) symbolize perfection.
 - Not one of God's precious children will be missing in the new Jerusalem.
- The admission has been paid through the blood of God's own Son. Come to Christ.