

Return, Rebuild, Restore
Study Guide
Zechariah 8

Big Idea: Future Hope Helps me Now.

God's story is a love story!

Chapter 7 challenged us to respond to the love of God by worshipping Him as an offering. Once we do this, we find in Chapter 8, that the presence, and peace and prosperity of God begin to bless us again. Israel was not "feeling" all these things yet, but the future promises of God acted as a current encouragement.

1. Read Zechariah 8:1-2. What does it mean to you that God is "jealous" for you? How does that change the way you make choices? Would you say you are more in a "love story" with God, or more in a contractual relationship? Discuss.
2. Read Zechariah 8:3-13. Discuss the various references in the text to the presence of God, and to peace and prosperity. How do you think these promises from God affected Israel in their current condition? How do God's promises encourage you?
3. Read Zechariah 8:14-23. Discuss the fact that God works in our lives with purpose, and that He wants to use us for His purposes- to point others to Him. How does knowing the purposes of God encourage you today?
4. Read John 14:1-3.
"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
What does it mean to "let not your heart be troubled"? ...but instead to "believe" in the goodness of God? Share with your group an area of your life that you are "waiting" on God for. Ask the group to pray for endurance and faith as you wait on Him.

Message Slides

Zechariah 8

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I. The Love Story (v.1-2)

“And the word of the Lord of hosts came, saying, ²Thus says the Lord of hosts: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath.”

II. Presence, Peace and Prosperity (v. 3)

³Thus says the Lord: I have returned to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts, the holy mountain.

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Isaiah 43:1- “Do not be afraid- I will save you. I have called you by name, you are mine!”

II. Presence, Peace and Prosperity (*continued*- v. 4-8)

⁴Thus says the Lord of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of great age. ⁵And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. ⁶Thus says the Lord of hosts: If it is marvelous in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, should it also be marvelous in my sight, declares the Lord of hosts? ⁷Thus says the Lord of hosts: Behold, I will save my people from the east country and from the west country, ⁸and I will bring them to dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.”

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II. Presence, Peace and Prosperity (*continued*- v. 9-13)

⁹Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Let your hands be strong, you who in these days have been hearing these words from the mouth of the prophets who were present on the day that the foundation of the house of the Lord of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built. ¹⁰For before those days there was no wage for man or any wage for beast, neither was there any safety from the foe for him who went out or came in, for I set every man against his neighbor. ¹¹But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as in the former days, declares the Lord of hosts. ¹²For there shall be a sowing of peace. The vine shall give its fruit, and the ground shall give its produce, and the heavens shall give their dew. And I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things. ¹³And as you have been a byword of cursing among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so will I save you, and you shall be a blessing. Fear not, but let your hands be strong.”

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III. Purpose (v. 14-17)

¹⁴For thus says the Lord of hosts: “As I purposed to bring disaster to you when your fathers provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the Lord of hosts, ¹⁵so again have I purposed in these days to bring good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear not. ¹⁶These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; ¹⁷do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the Lord.”

III. Purpose (*continued*- v. 18-19)

¹⁸And the word of the Lord of hosts came to me, saying, ¹⁹“Thus says the Lord of hosts: The fast of the fourth month and the fast of the fifth and the fast of the seventh and the fast of the tenth shall be to the house of Judah seasons of joy and gladness and cheerful feasts. Therefore love truth and peace.

III. Purpose (*continued*- v. 20-23)

²⁰“Thus says the Lord of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, even the inhabitants of many cities. ²¹The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, ‘Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the Lord and to seek the Lord of hosts; I myself am going.’ ²²Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the Lord. ²³Thus says the Lord of hosts: In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’”

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John 14:1-3

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.