

Zechariah 1:18-2:5 – The Road To Recovery

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Sometimes when a loved one falls into a serious addiction 成癮 or gets himself into serious trouble, like having to spend the rest of his life in prison, there is nothing you can do to get him get out. You rightly feel helpless and frustrated. But there was no such frustration with God. Judah sold herself to her own addictions, pursuing pleasure and profit at the expense of worshipping God, and ended up as slaves, but Yahweh, Covenant God, was gracious and he promised to rescue and return them to safety and prosperity again. And he had the desire and ability to do what he wanted. You will hear about this today.

Our headings are:

God would Rescue Jerusalem

God would Rebuild Jerusalem

God would Restore Jerusalem

Our goals are: **That you will learn that God rescues his children when they stray – no matter how far they stray, returns them to the fold, and continues to rebuild his kingdom.**

God would rescue Jerusalem

18 Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were **four horns**. 19 And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these?" So he answered me, "These are the horns that have **scattered打散 Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.**"

1. This was Zechariah's 2nd vision, and it was a sad vision.

2. In this vision Zechariah saw 4 horns. Horns are used commonly in the Bible to speak of **strength or dignity or dominion, and could be applied to various entities.**

A national example: Rome. In Revelation 17, Rome, **the city on 7 hills – had 10 horns** –10 provinces in its empire and was characterized by strength and dominion.

A figurative example:

Psalms 75:4 'I said to the boastful, 'Do not deal boastfully,' And to the wicked, 'Do not lift up the horn. 5 **Do not lift up your horn on high;** Do not speak with a stiff neck.'"

But the picture was taken from a real bull with long and sharp **horns which would easily dash around a person.**

3. Why are there 4 horns and what did they do? The 4 horns teach that God scattered Israel (Judah and Israel) over the 4 corners of the earth...Israel by the Assyrians in 722BC and Judah by the Babylonians in 586BC. There are pockets of Jews in southern Africa, China, India, Russia, and all over Europe which confirm this spreading.

20 Then the LORD showed me **four craftsmen**. 21 And I said, "What are these coming to do?" So he said, "These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one could lift up his head; but the craftsmen are coming **to terrify them**, to **cast out the horns** of the nations that lifted up their horn against the land of Judah to scatter it."

4. Zechariah then saw 4 craftsmen匠人 and wondered what they would do, in light of the scattering of Judah and Israel to the 4 corners of the earth.

5. Who were these 4 craftsmen? Crafts men were **skilled metal workers**. They would melt metal and beat them into shape to make weapons. So these craftsmen were protectors of Israel. They would destroy the horns that took Israel captive and protect Israel. But God's horns are usually his angels...so they would destroy and terrify enemies of God's children.

Psalms 75:10 'All the **horns of the wicked I will also cut off**, But the horns of the righteous shall be exalted."

2 Kings 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And **and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire火車火馬 all around Elisha.**

6. Lessons:

a. No matter how far you stray from the Lord, he will bring you back because you are his child. But this passage is **primarily talking about the covenant people as a whole.** So we better apply to the church. **The church may stray迷失 from the Lord, but because of his covenant faithfulness, God will never totally abandon his church.**

b. The Lord uses crafts men to protect his church...men who are skilled in the Word to expose and destroy foolish arguments. They then must train the people! But the crafts men must be well-trained to work effectively. It is of no use to

talk about the technical nature of a weapon and not put the weapon into the hands of the warriors. Just so, it might sound impressive when a minister uses great theological terms, but unless it is transferred to usable weapons, it is useless.

c. Woe to those craftsmen who use their strength and position to abuse the sheep of God instead of equipping them.
Ezekiel 34:21 "Because you have pushed with side and shoulder, butted all the weak ones with your horns, and scattered them abroad,

God would rebuild Jerusalem

1 Then I raised my eyes and looked, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand. 2 So 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."

1. Zechariah then saw an angel with a measuring line in his hand. (This raised Zechariah's curiosity. So he enquired.

2. The angel's response was clear: He was going to measure Jerusalem to show its width and length.

3. But why measure Jerusalem? After all, Jerusalem was a city with broken down walls. Animals came in and out. Thieves had no impediment 障碍 to robbing the inhabitants. Warrior nations would have no trouble taking the city.

4. There were 2 reasons to measure Jerusalem.

a. In a literal sense, measuring showed that the city was going to be carefully – and with measurement – be rebuilt. It was not going to be a squatter 木屋's city...but a great city of God. **God would recover Jerusalem.** Jesus is the builder.

b. In a spiritual sense, measuring was done to show inclusion and exclusion in the kingdom of God and the exclusion of Babylon, their persecutors. Here the Jews were being brought back into relationship with God so their territory was marked. (Later, in Revelation 11, you see the exclusion of the Jews for becoming like Babylon, their present persecutors.)

Psalms 107:2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, 3 And gathered out of the lands, From the **east and from the west, From the north and from the south.**

5. Lessons:

a. The church will be built and hell can't stop it! Those who threaten God's work will be crushed. Psalm 2.

Psalms 72:8 He shall **have dominion also from sea to sea**, And from the River to the ends of the earth.

9 Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him, And His enemies will lick 舔土 the dust. 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles Will bring presents; The kings of Sheba and Seba Will offer gifts. 11 Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him.

b. The builder of the church is God. Don't take the credit!

God would restore Jerusalem

3 And there was the angel who talked with me, going out; and another angel was coming out to meet him, 4 who said to him, "**Run, speak to this young man**, saying: '**Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls**, because of the **multitude of men and livestock** in it. 5 'For I,' says the LORD, 'will be a **wall of fire all around her**, and I will be the **glory in her midst**.'"

1. An angel who spoke to Zechariah was met by another angel coming in Jerusalem, and was told to run and take a message to Zechariah.

2. Why did the angel run and take the message? This showed the urgency of the matter. Jerusalem was in a hole and needed assurance that God would bring them out. **The addict to pleasure and profit would get help.** God would intervene.

3. What was the message?

a. God would make Jerusalem be inhabited and expanded again. Jerusalem would expand so much that wall would seem irrelevant 无关联. (Toronto is a city, but you wouldn't exactly know without signs, when you are leaving Toronto.) So with Judah!

Psalms 78:55 He also drove out the nations before them, Allotted them an inheritance by survey, And **made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents.**

Isaiah 54:1 "Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman." says the LORD. 2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes.

Romans 9:26 "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' **There they shall be called sons of the living God.**"

The certainty was so great, that **God wanted Jerusalem to sing about it**. And what a joy this must have been to the small number of people who had returned from captivity to Jerusalem. Recovering was on the horizon.

b. God would make Jerusalem rich again...with many, many people and many, many animals. Expansion is great, but you need to be rich to feed the increase number of people. And they would have it.

c. God would protect Jerusalem...like a wall of fire around her...though she had no walls. This was probably an allusion 影射 to when the shepherds would build a fire at nights to keep out the wild animals from attacking the sheep. Remember, Israel was protected with a wall of fire from Pharaoh. If you have many people and great wealth, they need to be protected.

d. God's glory will be in her...meaning that worship would be restored. (Judah is called the "Glorious Land." His glory draws our minds back to the glory cloud during the days of Moses and Solomon. And isn't worship the center of a redeemed people? Ezekiel 10-11, the glory had departed, but it was returning!

Ezekiel 10:18 Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim.

The ultimate fulfillment 终极成全, however, is when Jesus, the Glory of the Father, would enter that temple.

4. Lessons:

a. The promise of the church's redemption and expansion is found throughout the Scriptures. This gives you hope. The church will spread through the Word of God-the message from the Lord. People will learn of their freedom...paid for with the blood of the Lamb of God. The weak and wretched would be built up into a marvelous edifice.

Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished 廢掉 in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

Christ shall have dominion over land and sea! Wasn't he given the world for his inheritance?

Isaiah 60:4 "Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; **Your sons shall come from afar**, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side.

b. Be assured the Lord has blessed his church with all gifts necessary for the spreading of the kingdom. You were chosen by the Father, redeemed by the Son, and sealed by the Spirit. You have his Word and Sacraments. You have his Holy Spirit. You have his church. You have a large Christian family. You have assurance in your heart.

c. The Lord promised to protect his church from attacks of the gates of hell. The Lord himself is a consuming fire 烈火 of judgment on the wicked - Deut 4:24 - which results in your safety. But **spiritual safety is always at the forefront**. This is what protects you from the worst enemy of all!

Isaiah 26:1 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; **God will appoint salvation for walls** and bulwarks 外郭.

Psalms 125:2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem, **So the LORD surrounds His people** From this time forth and forever.

d. The difference between you and the world is worship. You still sin, but you have God's glory. You see the glory of God in worship!

Isaiah 60:19 "The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, **And your God your glory.**

Revelation 21:23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the **glory of God** illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

Conclusion:

Jerusalem was rescued from Babylon and Medo-Persia. Jerusalem would be rebuilt and expanded. Jerusalem was going to be restored with people and wealth. That was the Word of the Lord. Judah was on the road to recovery.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Do you see how dear you are to the Lord? He provided for your rescue, development, and prosperity 丰裕. He did this through Christ's suffering on the cross.

2. Worship him. Isaiah 59:19 So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun...

3. Work for him. Work to protect others from danger. Use your craftsman skilled in the Word to expose sin and show the solution to man's deepest problem.

Finally: Either you are with God and his people or you are against them. If you are against them, you have a sentence of death on your head. If you are for them, know that your sins are a hindrance 拦阻 to you. But if you call on God for mercy, he will count Christ's suffering on the cross as yours and rescue you forever.