

# Zechariah 2-6-13 – How To Respond to Your Freedom

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Poole, Clarke, Calvin, JFB, Barnes, INT, Phillips, Delitzsch, Eclectic, Henry

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: How would you expect a slave to respond to someone who loved him enough and who was rich enough to pay for his freedom? You would expect that he would want to leave behind the thing that caused his enslavement, he would want to praise the one who rescued him, and he would want to learn how to show thankfulness to the one who rescued him.

Today you will learn of something similar, though on a grander scale. You will hear how Judah was called to respond to his Redeemer after he was rescued from slavery.

Our headings are:

Call to Separation from the Wicked

Call for Singing in Zion

Call to be Silent before the Lord.

Our goals are: That seeing the wondrous work of Jesus to secure your freedom, you will love and serve him better.

## Call to Separation from the Wicked

6 "Up, up! Flee from the land of the north," says the LORD; "for I have spread you abroad like the four winds of heaven," says the LORD.

**1. God did not plead with the nations who held Judah captive. Judah did not pay the nations for his freedom!** God declared it!

**a. God told Cyrus and Darius to send his people back.** The kings of the earth feared the God of heaven...like when God rebuked Nebuchadnezzar. Darius even encouraged the Jews to return.

**b. God told his people get up and go back to Jerusalem.** And he had to tell them to go. Some did not go back earlier when they had the opportunity, preferring to stay in Babylon. They probably built houses there and had security and stability, while in Jerusalem they did not have homes, security, or stability. They treated God's favor with contempt. (Calvin) They had become comfortable with 70 years in slavery...especially with the Babylonian Empire being conquered.

7 "Up, Zion! Escape, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon."

**2. The repetition to leave is for confirmation that Judah must** leave the daughter of Babylon...the nation after Babylon– the Medo-Persian Empire. God did not want his people to be buried in Babylon...like Joseph did not want his body to be buried in Egypt. They should desire to be buried with God's people, not because the land itself was special, but because of the hope of the resurrection that was proclaimed in Zion. The temple in Jerusalem was a pledge of Christ's salvation.

Psalms 132:14 "This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

**What an assurance this was Jews!** They did not have to fear the nations around. God was in charge, not Darius(大流士) !

8 For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye ( 眼中的瞳仁 ).

**3. Then the Lord of Armies told Jesus what he would do to the nations that harmed his people who were going back to worship him in Jerusalem.** In this, Jesus was declaring judgment on the wicked-those who touched the people of God. The Jews were the apple of his eye. No one wants his neighbor to discipline ( 管教 ) his children! This was like looking at a tree full of apples, but having a special eye for a particular one...one he protects.

Psalms 17:8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me under the shadow of Your wings,

Deuteronomy 32:10 "He found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye."

What makes a man madder than if he sees someone attacking his wife or his daughter? The Lord protects his property!

Psalms 105:15 Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones ( 受膏者 ), And do My prophets no harm."

**4. As a result of God's people returning to Jerusalem, his glory would return as well.** In Ezekiel 10-11, you heard to the glory of the Lord leaving. Now it is returning. But the glory was not just the glory cloud, it was also honor and praises of God.

9 "For surely I will shake My hand against them, and they shall become spoil ( 掠物 ) for their servants. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me.

**5. How would God free the Jews?** He would free the Jews by shaking his hand at their enemies...so that they became as plunder! It was like grabbing someone by the scruff( 颈背 ) of the neck and asking: "Do you know who you are talking to?"

Isaiah 19:16 In that day Egypt will be like women, and will be afraid and fear because of the waving of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which He waves over it.

Often, in the midst of a historical drama, the Lord includes a prophetic statement...like Isaiah 7 when he told Ahaz he would give him a sign about a virgin giving birth. Here is picture of God conquering the nations through the Gospel of Jesus and bringing the nations under his feet. He would make the nations nursing fathers to his people. The master becomes the servant. Isaiah 49:23 And **kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers:** they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD...

#### **6. Lessons:**

**a. The Lord owns you, not the Devil.** The Devil cannot stop him from doing his work.

**b. When the Lord says, "Move," move.** You might be uncomfortable with it, but do what he says, because whatever he says is better for you. You might be afraid, but do what he says. Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world.

2 Corinthians 6:17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

**c. See how precious you and the church are to the Lord.** You are the apple that he desires. Even sinful man likes to preserve that which he cherishes...from his computers to his children! How much more won't God cherish you?

**d. And what a wonderful picture of salvation through the Gospel** -Jesus' death -the price of freedom for you.

Isaiah 61:1 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach

good tidings ( 消息 ) to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, **To proclaim liberty to the captives,** And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

**e. You too must continue to proclaim this message to the world to God's elect people.** Not of works...so don't boast.

#### **Call for Singing in Zion**

**10 "Sing and rejoice,** O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I **will dwell in your midst,**" says the LORD. **11 "Many nations shall be joined to the LORD** in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will **dwell in your midst.** Then you will know that the **LORD of hosts** has sent Me to you.

#### **1. As a response to Judah's liberation ( 解放 ) from Babylon, they were to sing and rejoice in their**

**Liberator.** The Bride can rejoice that she was saved from being unproductive. The Lord doesn't do anything in half-measure. If he says he will do it, be sure that he will. This is all the more reason to sing. When you sing something you start to commit it to memory and you start to believe it and live it. This was consistent language:

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.

Psalms 145:21 **My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD,** And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever.

#### **2. The Lord would be with her...in her midst...to listen to her praises and comfort her.** He will strengthen her to spread all over the earth again. The nations would surrender to her. What a prophecy - given the conditions! Only a remnant was there in Jerusalem!

Ezekiel 37:27 "My **tabernacle ( 会幕 ) also shall be with them;** indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

**12 "And the LORD will take possession of Judah** as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and **will again choose Jerusalem.**

#### **3. The Lord will then again be enraptured with the bride he loved and provide everything she needed to do the work he had called her to do.** The Jews felt abandoned. They were mocked by the nations, even by their brothers from Edom. They felt ashamed. But God promised that he would love them again. **There is a prophetic aspect as well.** The old Jerusalem, being the spiritual people of God, would be renovated ( 被更新 ) and cleaned out...and the Gentiles brought into it. This is where you are today. Remember, Judah is only holy because Yahweh is there! This was how Jesus applied these passages. Luke 24:47 "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His **name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

#### **4. Lessons:**

**a. Learn to sing of and rejoice in the promises of God,** but sing with faith... faith based on prior knowledge. And sing aloud and sing with joy! There is no more danger. The church will increase!

**b. Join with the rest of the congregation to sing.** It is a family activity.

**c. Five hundred years later, Christ's presence was perfected among his people when Jesus, Immanuel, God with us, came and tabernacled among his people. The Jewish and Gentile 外邦人 nations were joined.** The temple was great...and the sacrifices precious, but they were only a type of Jesus. He would **be the temple**...and he would **be the sacrifice** that would live among the people and give them the assurance of heaven. And Jesus claimed all authority in heaven and in earth...to capture the nations.

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifested in the flesh,** Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world ... 2 Corinthians 6:16 ...For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

And the nations will come!

Philippians 2:10 that at the name of **Jesus every knee should bow**, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

### **Call to be Silent before the Lord**

**13 "Be silent,** all flesh, before the LORD, for **He is aroused from His holy habitation ( 圣地 ) !"**

**1. The Lord Jesus then gave the command for the world to be silent before him.** But why?

**2. The Jews had to be silent because it was God who rescued his people from slavery. They did not rescue themselves.** God's powerful word set them free. Before captivity God had wanted them to listen, but they didn't.

Zephaniah 1:7 **Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD;** For the day of the LORD is at hand, For **the LORD has prepared a sacrifice;** He has invited His guests.

Within 3-4 years after Zechariah's prophecy, Babylon rebelled against Medo-Persia and they were totally crushed, never to rise up again!

**3. The Jews had to be silent to listen when the Bridegroom spoke.** She had to worship, but she must also take the time to listen to him. She has to learn how not to fall into this trap anymore. (Quite like you might expect someone who has fallen into financial debt needs to learn financial accountability.) She had to learn how her Redeemer wanted to be worshipped.

Habakkuk 2:20 But the LORD is in His holy temple. **Let all the earth keep silence** before Him."

### **4. Lessons:**

**a. You did nothing to merit your salvation.** You could do nothing to earn your comfort.

**b. You gather together to ask the Lord's blessings.** You gather for worship to listen to him speak. Worship is a dialog. You don't know everything.

**c. What a privilege you have as New Horizon...to be representative of those many nations!**

### **Conclusion:**

God called the Jews out of the nations where they were captives for 70 years to leave. He put his words in the heart of the leaders over whom he had sovereign ( 主权 ) control and the people were then free to leave. Does this sound familiar? It should. Jesus demanded that the Devil release you. And he then commanded that you leave: Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord...I will receive you."

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus: Remember your response to the one who paid for your freedom:

**1. Sing. Sing of the mercies of the Lord.** Sing of his love. Sing so he would be exalted and sing that others might hear the message of Jesus Christ. Tweet a verse of *Amazing Grace*. Send a YouTube link of beautiful rendition of Psalm 72 to your friends so they learn to sing.

**2. Listen. Listen to your Savior's speaking to you through his Word and Spirit.** Learn how he works in this world. See how he brings the wicked low.

Finally: If you are not a Christian, brought peace between God and joy to man. He calls you out from your spiritual captivity and gives you hope for the future – the best gift of all. He paid the price of your freedom: the blood of Jesus on the cross. I pray you will hear his voice and open your heart to his gift.