

Zechariah 10:5-12 – Power, Pleasure, Protection: 3 Promises of God

Calvin, Phillips, TSK, HebrewLexicon, Geneva, JFB, Clarke, Delitzsch, Poole, Handfuls, Clarke, Gill, Barnes, Henry, Ps44:3, 126:1
Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The Lord passionately loved his people and he showed it! He showed his deep love when he brought Judah out from Babylonian captivity and prepared them for a kingdom that would expand over the whole earth. He showed that love when he promised them rain for their crops, ruin of their enemies, and revival for their nation. You will continue to see God's passionate love for his people today in his promises of Power, Pleasure, and Protection.

Our headings are:

God will give power to his people

God will give pleasure to his people

God will give protection to his people

Our goals are: **That you will know Jesus will totally equip you, beyond what you need, to do the work he has called you to do.**

God will give Power to his people

5 They shall be like **mighty men**, Who **tread down their enemies** In the **mire of the streets** in the battle. **They shall fight** because **the LORD is with them**, And the riders on horses shall be put to shame.

1. God will make his people like mighty men-great warriors.

a. God's people will be powerful warriors, not because of their nationality, but because they have strong in faith in the coming Christ. These mighty men exist today. **They are mighty men of faith in Christ** who are willing to fight for him.

b. God's people will be so strong that they will completely tread down their enemies, grind them to powder...grind them into the ground. Of course this was not a literal crushing of the enemies, but it was a picture of total victory. In a spiritual sense, this was referring to the conquering of their hearts and the crushing of their sins so they will surrender to the Lord.

c. God people will be so strong and bold to engage in the spiritual fight because he will be with them. They will not be strong because of their arms of strength. They knew it was not by might, nor by power, but by God's Spirit that great things would be done.

d. God's people will be so strong it won't matter how powerful the weapons of the enemies are.

Psalms 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But **we will remember the name of the LORD our God.**

6 "I will strengthen the house of **Judah**, And I will save the **house of Joseph**. I will bring them back, Because **I have mercy on them**. They shall be **as though I had not cast them aside**; For I am the LORD their God, And I will **hear them**.

2. As a result of God making his people strong and accompanying them in battle, Judah and Israel (the whole kingdom) will be restored and the kingdom rebuilt. They will be so great it would be as if they had never gone into Babylon or Assyria. (Joseph represented the whole nation of Israel. He was the father of Ephraim who also represented the whole of Israel.) Did Judah and Israel return? Not in a literal sense. Only a remnant were able to return to Judah, and very few from Israel. **And yet, God's Word is true.** The real Israel and Judah were the ones who had faith, so this refers to the gathering and expansion of the spiritual Israel, the redeemed bride of Jesus. The expansion is now in Scarborough.

Hosea 1:10 "Yet the number of the **children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea**, Which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass **In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There it shall be said to them, 'You are sons of the living God.'**

Jeremiah 32:37 'Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in My fury, and in great wrath; **I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely.**

God would treat the Jews as if they had never sinned – even though they sinned so greatly. He would listen to the requests.

3. This promise of restoration and expanding of the kingdom was based on God's mercy, not Israel's good works. God repeats this because he wanted them to remember that he was the source of their success. God would not allow them to forget it!

4. Lessons:

a. God will give you the courage to fight and expand his kingdom as you fight with his Word and Spirit. To fight in anyone other way will result in fear and defeat. (Revelation 19:18)

b. Know that you will be able to completely defeat the wicked. Jesus commanded you to make disciples of all the nations and he promises (and King David & Apostle Paul) that all his enemies will become his footstool. Do you really believe this?

c. When God expands his church, don't take credit. You are only the instrument he uses. God could use a donkey!

d. God accepts you and treats you as if you had never sinned because all your sins

were borne by Jesus when he was on the cross. This is the only basis of your return to him...or anyone's return!

God will give Pleasure to his people

7 Those of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, And their heart shall **rejoice as if with wine.** Yes, their **children shall see it and be glad;** Their **heart shall rejoice in the LORD.**

1. With strength and security, God will bring joy to his people. (Joy of the Lord is a spiritual blessing – a blessing that comes from salvation.)

a. They will be like those who start to feel happy – like when wine works through the body.

b. Their children, the most vulnerable, would be assured of protection and have joy as well.

2. God's protection will bring pleasure internally –to the depths of the soul. A man who drinks too much alcohol has joy in his body and mind...but God would bring pleasure even deeper – to man's soul.

8 I **will whistle for them** and gather them, For **I will redeem them;** And they **shall increase** as they once increased.

3. God will whistle...and they will hear. Whistle is translated “hiss” when God is referring to his enemies, but here is it a good sound, so it is better to translate it as whistle. God wouldn't have to beat his people. He would call them **with an irresistible call**...and they will answer, like God called Adam and Eve after the Fall. (Reason to rejoice.)

Isaiah 5:26 He will lift up a banner to the nations from afar, And **will whistle to them** from the end of the earth; **Surely they shall come with speed, swiftly.**

John 10:16 "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and **they will hear My voice**; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

Even the sheep that were not from his original fold will hear and **respond and be redeemed.** (And the verb redeem is perfect tense, showing redemption was done in God's eyes.)

4. God will make his people increase as they increased in the past. Remember how God provided for Israel in Egypt when Joseph called them there? Seventy became 2,500,00. (This is making the same point as before.)

Ezekiel 36:11 "I will **multiply upon you man and beast**; and they shall increase and bear young; I will make you inhabited as in former times, and do better for you than at your beginnings...

Psalms 22:27 All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the LORD, **And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You.**

5. Lessons:

a. When you let yourself be overwhelmed and are drowned by troubles you rob God of the glory. When you think you are only hurting yourself, you are mistaken. **You are robbing God when you don't look to him for freedom from your burdens.** So cast your cares upon him. Let God's joy fill your heart; this will make you work better for the Lord. (Don't feel sorry for yourself.)

b. Do you sometimes feel like the church dying out? Do you lose the joy of serving the Lord when you see the awful things that are taking place today inside and outside the church...the compromises, the watered down Gospel? You will feel this way only when you forget what the Lord has promised. His kingdom will be established forever. So go back to his Word and promises.

God will give Protection to his people

9 "I will **sow them among the peoples**, And they shall remember Me in far countries; **They shall live**, together with their children, And **they shall return**.

1. It is wonderful to have power to do Christ's work, it is great to have pleasure when doing this great work, but it is essential to have protection when doing the work of conquering the nations.

Why would the church **need the protection?** God's **people will be sown everywhere**. That's what the Babylonians and Assyrians did. **While the diaspora was punishment, it was used by God for good:** To sow seeds throughout the world.

But God used the future tense, showing this was not immediately going to happen. Eventually the Jews would return into true communion with the Lord. But this reminded the Jews that God could be worshipped everywhere. They did not need the temple.

And isn't it **true that the Apostles first went to the Jews in the synagogues when they went on their missionary journeys!**

2 Chronicles 6:37 "yet **when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive**, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong, and have committed wickedness';

The people and their children will be like the Prodigal son who returned with confession (Luke 15), and who then received his father's forgiveness and restoration. (This was the first Great Reformation!) **And in fact, the spreading or sowing among the nations was part of God's plan! God's name would not have been heard in the nations otherwise!**

10 I will also **bring them back from the land of Egypt**, And gather them from Assyria. I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon, **Until no more room** is found for them.

2. God teaches the Jews of his protection by assuring them that they will return from foreign countries – a spiritual return for sure. (Zechariah prepares God's people for the NT. This is the link between the OT and NT.) (Romans 15:4)

Isaiah 49:20 The children you will have, After you have lost the others, Will say again in your ears, 'The place is too small for me; Give me a place where I may dwell.'

Isaiah 54:3 For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited.

11 He shall **pass through the sea with affliction**, And strike the waves of the sea: All the depths of the River shall dry up. Then the **pride of Assyria shall be brought down**, And the scepter of Egypt shall depart.

3. God will cause the Jews' troubles to dry up like the Red Sea dried up so his people could move in safety.

Isaiah 11:15 The LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; With His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, And strike it in the seven streams, And make men cross over dry-shod. 16 There will be a highway for the remnant of His people Who will be left from Assyria, As it was for Israel In the day that he came up from the land of Egypt.

So instead of Israel disappearing, and in spite of their sins, but because of the grace of God, they will **take over the nations where they live.**

12 "So **I will strengthen them in the LORD**, And they shall **walk up and down** in His name," Says the LORD.

4. God will protect his people by giving them faith. With faith, fear will flee. Then they will go about their business unhindered in the name of Jesus and with the Sword of God.

Hosea 1:7 **Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, Will save them** by the LORD their God, And will not save them by bow, Nor by sword or battle, By horses or horse men."

5. Lessons:

a. The dispersion was remarkably important for the protection of God's people in the future and guaranteed the spread of the Gospel. If all Christians were in a localized area, they could easily have been killed and Christianity destroyed. But God used even man's sin to preserve his church.

b. God irresistibly calls the world to himself through the preaching of Gospel. Do you share this Gospel, or is it a secret you keep? Use the Word. Share the Word. Give the Word. Speak the Word.

c. God eternally secures his children. When the great spiritual call comes, not one soul shall be left behind, but **will be eternally secured.** You are secured from spiritual affliction and bondage. You were slaves to sin. But now, what could separate you from God's love?

Conclusion:

Power, Pleasure, Protection were 3 great promises God's people dearly needed in order to accomplish the work he called them to do. All of God's people, though spread far and wide, were united as one family. And none had to be in the temple in Jerusalem, but they were built as stones, into a spiritual temple that the wicked could never destroy. They knew the joy of knowing the Savior. They could then conquer the kingdoms of the world.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Do you know the power, pleasure, and protection God has given to the church? Have you received them? Are you then working for him as you should?

2. If you find yourself retreating into obscurity you will be robbing your Savior of his glory. Instead, see how much the world needs a new Reformation...starting in the church. Use these 3 promises and be equipped to fight for the Savior.

Finally: As Christians, we know we will conquer, have joy, and be victorious. What will your future be if you are not a Christian? If you realize that your future is hopeless, apart from the temporary joys of this earth, why not ask God to give you what he has given to us – faith. Then you can receive salvation through Jesus.