

October 3, 2010
"Measuring the Immeasurable"
Zechariah 2

There are times measurements can be discouraging. Measuring Jerusalem in Zechariah's day was probably one of them.

According to the Book of Nehemiah, written about 100 years after Zechariah –

that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.³ And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire." (Nehemiah 1:2-3 NKJ)

Measuring Jerusalem in such a day might have been a discouraging task, especially considering even 90-100 years later the mere description of Jerusalem's situation caused Nehemiah to weep –

So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. (Nehemiah 1:4 NKJ)

I. Yet, God tells them, through Zechariah's vision, your measuring is all wrong –

1. The man in Zechariah's vision seems denied the opportunity to measure, he seems ready, but he does not do it, he is interrupted ...

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."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. (Zechariah 2:1-4 NKJ)

2. Why the interruption? The angels were seeing a different Jerusalem, one I believe God was showing them, one they would see by faith, not physical sight –

For we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJ)

II. What is this different Jerusalem like?

1. It is "without wall" because of the greatness of its population and wealth –

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. (Zechariah 2:4 NKJ)

A. This is practically opposite of what these people who had returned to Jerusalem SAW, they were a remnant, a very small number. They were poor and Jerusalem was broken down.

B. The Gentiles, who were now there rivals, would be joined to them –

"Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. (Zechariah 2:11a NKJ)

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh-- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (Ephesians 2:11-12 NKJ)

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*,²¹ in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, (Ephesians 2:19-21 NKJ)

These verses (including Zechariah 2:11) are obviously talking about the church, Gentiles were not "My people" - they became such after Christ's resurrection. We are part of this new un-walled Jerusalem.

2. This Jerusalem is protected by God –

`For I,' says the LORD, `will be a wall of fire all around her,...'" (Zechariah 2:5 NKJ)

A. Who are these protected people?

B. How are they protected? See Romans 8:31-39

This includes vengeance –

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.⁹ "For surely I will shake My hand against them, and they shall

become spoil for their servants. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me. (Zechariah 2:8-9 NKJ)

3. *This Jerusalem, God's people, are indwelt by God –*

A. *Notice this truth is REPEATED 3 times in this passage –*

'For I,' says the LORD, 'will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.' (Zechariah 2:5 NKJ)

"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. (Zechariah 2:10-11 NKJ)

B. *Notice this is spoken of as a future event (to them) "I am coming" "I will dwell"*

C. *This is speaking about Christ –see the last part of 2:11.*

D. *This is fulfilled both in Christ and in our being the Temple of the Holy Spirit –*

in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, (Ephesians 2:21 NKJ)

to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, (Ephesians 3:19-20 NKJ)

4. *This Jerusalem, God's people are OWNED by God –*

"And the LORD will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem. (Zechariah 2:12 NKJ)

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJ)

III. How should we respond to these great truths about Jerusalem / Christ's Church?

1. *Up, up flee –*

"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.⁷ **"Up, Zion! Escape, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon."** (Zechariah 2:6-7 NKJ)

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world.¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (1 John 2:15-17 NKJ)

2. *Sing and rejoice –*

"Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the LORD. (Zechariah 2:10 NKJ)

3. *Be silent –*

"Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!" (Zechariah 2:13 NKJ)

This "silence" is not a silence of ease, this is very different from the resting quietly of chapter 1 –

So they answered the Angel of the LORD, who stood among the myrtle trees, and said, "We have walked to and fro throughout the earth, and behold, all the earth is resting quietly." (Zechariah 1:11 NKJ)

This is a silence of Holy awe / fear –

The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*. His praise endures forever. (Psalm 111:10 NKJ)

4. *To view our church rightly, we must look BEYOND our four walls, beyond our North Port boundaries, even beyond this day into the future, even beyond Earth and Heaven to God –*

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height--¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,²¹ to Him *be glory* in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:14-21 NKJ)