

Jesus Measuring to Fit*

Zechariah 2:1-13

Sermon 3: ~~Long form~~ short paper

Third Vision

Nutshell: Jesus, the Messenger of the covenant, communicates the Father's will (2:8) for His dealings with Israel, restoring His grandest blessings on them after their discipline, and avenging the nations who wronged them. Christians are "grafted into" Israel's covenant and thus into her blessings, Rom 11:17. We can read these promises with both national Israel and her co-inheritors (us) in mind.

Review:

- A. 1:1-6, God reminded the people of their captivity, telling them to turn to Him. They owned it and turned to Him. Now they're ready to receive a turning-point prophecy.
- B. 1:7-17, Vision 1. God's angelic assistants report on the earth's complacency. God determines to discomfort them, returning His mercies to His people.
- C. 1:8-21, Vision 2. "4 horns." "4" = widespread or worldwide, as in 2:6. Worldwide Gentile powers oppressing God's people.
 - 1. The "4" carpenters would be worldwide Christianity (the nations joining God's people, Esth 8:17) being rebuilt by *worship* being rebuilt, undoing Gentile oppression.
 - 2. The carpenters at hand were political (Zerubbabel), priestly (Joshua), prophetic (Haggai, Zechariah), Scribal (Ezra), the people, etc.
 - ★ 3. Whenever God's people rebuild true worship, we are preparing for these same blessings of prosperity and peace, Zech 1:17; 3 Jn 1:2.

Kid-speak: What book are we studying? Last time, we learned about the *first* and *second* visions God showed Zechariah, so what do you think we're going to learn about today? Right, the *third* vision God showed him.

I. Why is Jesus Measuring? v 1-5

- A. "I looked/ saw," The Third Vision, as in 1:8 (First Vision) and 1:18 (Second Vision). 5 to go, through 6:8.
- B. Jesus, the Man with the measuring cord, v 1
 - 1. "The Man" from chapter 1 was "the Angel of Yahweh" - the second person of the Trinity, 1:12.
 - a. 1:8 & 11; one of the "men" of Gen 18:2, who was "Yahweh," (LORD, all caps) Gen 18:22.
 - b. As in Judges 13:3, 6, 22; comp. Gen 22:15-16.
 - 2. Zech is more involved in the measurements than Ezek;[□] John will be more than Zech, Rev 11:1
 - a. God progressively involves His prophets more.
 - b. When Jesus came, our bonding to God was cemented. Now we are 'legally' integrated into all that God does, Eph 1:23.

Kid-speak: Where was Jesus before He became a person? He was already God before we were here forever and ever. One place He came was right here, talking to Zechariah.

C. His mission, v 2

1. Question: Where are you heading? Answer: To measure Jerusalem (as promised in 1:16b)
 - a. When God measures, He's evaluating. God is a measuring God, Eccl 12:13-14. His measurements involve repentance on our part, Zech 1:3; Ezek 43:10; Rev 22:22, 27.
 - b. God's measurements are also preparations for His upcoming works. He has big plans for His people.
 - c. In Ezek, Zech, and Revelation, God's measurements of the Temple and Jerusalem involve judgments against nations, Ezek 39-40; Zech 2:9; Rev 11:5.
 - d. God wants to take our *personal* measurement when He searches our souls, such as when we ask Him not to lead us into temptation. We should invite His searchlight into us. What He'll show us are sins that would have trapped us, Ps 141:4, or sins that have distracted us, Ps 66:18.

Kid-speak: If I put a ruler on something, what am I probably doing? *Measuring.* What is Jesus doing here? *Measuring!* Can Jesus measure our souls? Yes. Should we *want* Jesus to measure our souls/hearts? Yes. Even if He finds sin? Yes, so He can get rid of it.

2. The same Man measuring in [□]Ezek 40:3; comp. Ezek 1:27; Dan 10:5-6; Rev 1:14-15

D. Its explanation, v 3-5

1. The guide angel (from chap 1) goes forth, v 3, perhaps to assist Jesus
2. An 'explaining' angel interrupts him, v 3
 - a. Run! An urgent message! *And 'hot off the presses'.* God is revealing this *right now.*
 - b. Tell Zechariah 3 things: First, that Jerusalem's measure will be 'oversized', v 4 (as promised in 1:17)
 - c. Second, Yahweh will be her 'fire wall'. 'You have to go through Me to get to them' (Similar to the wall between the Egyptians and Israelites, Exod 14:19-20).
 - d. Third, He will also be her co-inhabiting splendor, v 5 (*Eph 3:16-17). That splendor brightens us when we worship.

Kid-speak: What was Jesus measuring here? The city of Jerusalem, God's main city. How big would it be? Too big for regular walls to go around it! Instead, God would become a wall of fire around it! Can we see that wall? No, but is God still guarding us, just like a wall of fire? Yes!

II. Woe that Jesus is Avenging! v 6-9

- A. Get out of spiritual Babylon, where Yahweh dispersed you, v 6, comp. 2 Cor 6:17/ Isa 52:11
 - 1. Because God is returning His presence to His people, their enemies are put on notice.
 - 2. It's a final call for them to separate themselves from the Babylonian idolatry and sin that took them into captivity. He will only have to "shake His hand against them" to bring them down.
- B. Following God's splendor in their midst (v 5), the Father will send the Son to deal with Israel's plunderers, v 8
 - 1. Because hurting God's people is like poking God in the eye, v 8.
 - 2. Watch as He reduces them to servants of their servants! v 9
 - a. Fulfilled in Esther near term, Esth 9:1, and Rev 17-18 long term. Near-term promises give us assurance.
 - b. Fulfilled *presently* in Rome's 'feet' (our Age) being iron mixed with clay, Dan 2:43.
 - c. But it's still iron that can crush, if God wishes to test us, as He tests **many** of our brothers and sisters around the world, Heb 13:3.

Kid-speak: Are there bad people hurting Christians in other parts of the world? Yes. Does God promise to pay the bad people back? Yes, 2 Thess 1:8-9.

- 3. This plunder will be a proof of Jesus' authenticity as the Messenger of this work: "You'll know."
 - a. Though, interestingly, the Jews took no additional plunder in their vengeance, Esth9:10,15-16
 - b. Their antagonists were their only plunder.
- 4. Is this our same Jesus? Yes, Rev 19.

III. Watch as Jesus Comes into Our Midst, v 10-13

- A. Shout and rejoice, God's people! v 10
 - 1. Even though the near-term fulfillment was still decades away.
 - 2. How long until the promise of His coming for us? Yet shall we shout and rejoice, for has the Cross already assured our permanent place with Him? Yes!
 - 3. God includes additional assurance. Note the four times He says, "a declaration of Yahweh."
- B. Keep your eye on Yahweh's Messenger (Jesus) who promises to lodge with us
 - 1. This promise has already been fulfilled *permanently* in the Incarnation. "Emmanuel" = "God with us."
 - 2. And by the Spirit in us and among us, Jn 16:7.

Kid-speak: God is promising here to come be with His people. Has He done that? Yes, when Jesus came! Is He still doing it? Yes, by the Holy Spirit.

- C. Many will be added to God's people at that time, v 11 (as also Zech 8:20-23)

1. Fulfilled in Esther near term, Esth 8:17; 9:27, assuring His patient people.
2. Fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost in Acts.

Kid-speak: Sometimes God makes a lot of people Christians at one time, Acts 2:41. Should we pray for times like that? Yes! (But persecution might come first.)

3. But will the Church ever be in the majority? Not according to Matt 7:14.
 - a. But we will be universally influential, Matt 13:31-33.
 - b. All peoples and all leaders are always interfacing with Christ and His truth, Jn 16:8-11; Isa 52:15. We are the interactive component in that interface.

D. God will re-inherit Judah, His proper allotment, v 12

1. Bringing them onto “holy ground,” a phrase only here and Exod 3:5

Kid-speak: When God told Moses that he was standing on holy ground, what did that make Moses think? He was careful to listen and obey. Should we think of our worship today as holy ground? Yes, not the place, but knowing that we are talking to and singing to and listening to a holy (nobody or nothing like Him) God.

2. Choosing Jerusalem, 1:17, as before, reversing the process of 2 Kings 23:27.

E. Hush, for the decision has now been made, v 13

1. All flesh, be still.
2. Yahweh has awakened from His dwelling place.
 - a. Timewise, He didn’t intervene dramatically (Esther) for 50 years.
 - b. Meanwhile, Ezra and Nehemiah would struggle rebuilding worship/ Temple.

Wrap-up: Jesus measured Jerusalem, proving its upcoming expansion.

What expansion are we promised? Eph 3:16-17. This is a prayer, meaning that Paul didn’t assume that they were already strong enough inwardly for Christ to live in them. Paul prayed for it. Those who wanted it began praying the same thing.

Are you praying for that today? This indwelling gives us an expansive view of Christ’s love, Eph 3:17-19.* It is meant to overtake us and carry us along. But it’s not automatic. Paul didn’t thank God that they already had it, but God is well able to accomplish it, Eph 3:20-21- for those who will patiently set their hearts on it and be satisfied with nothing less.

Do you have faith for this? That faith means you will never quit asking and seeking, Eccl 10:18. If you receive a near-term fulfillment, are the hard days over? No.

* Are loving God and fearing Him in competition? No, 2 Cor 7:1. If one of them rules out the other for us, it may mean we have neither one.