

Zechariah 8:14-23

Setting:

Zechariah is good parallel book to Revelation. It fills in some of the blanks, some of the details left out of Revelation.

Zechariah was born in Babylonia captivity under Nebuchadnezzar. He's now back in Jerusalem and they are in the process of rebuilding Jerusalem and the temple. They are very discouraged with all the devastation. God gives Zechariah a word of encouragement for the land of Israel, with restrictions. Two years had passed since the visions of encouragement have occurred. Chapter 8 is split between our time and our future.

Vs14: again, the term Lord of Hosts: power, authority, warlord. God says, "You've seen the result of my wrath, you've seen what I've done to your forefathers. I have not changed my mind about things."

Vs15: God has decided to bless them now, conditionally:

Vs16: they must speak the truth, be honest with their fellow man, be honest and peaceful in your area, in your life, in your job, in your home. It's hard today to find an honest person, and honest company. Be honest with yourself and your neighbors.

Vs17: the Lord hates ... the word hate translated from Hebrew means you hate something venomously to you just don't prefer it. Here it means the first. He hates you to wish bad upon your neighbor, hates you to love a false oath, false promises. Just don't lie.

Vs18: the LORD OF HOSTS phrase again...

Vs19: Fast Days: the Lord set up some fasts for people. He set up these four fast days: 4th, 5th, 7th, 10th, but He turned it into FEAST days instead of FAST days, but it hasn't happened yet in history.

Vs20: God is talking about the future here. It hasn't happened yet. This elevates the Jews to the position of world rulership in a future day, and the gentile nations do not like this idea.

Vs21: People are going to travel from city to city, happily praying for the Lord. They will willingly and joyfully pray for the Lord all over the place. The world is attempting to this right now, in our present time, but it's not quite there yet.

Vs22: Strong nations will come to Jerusalem and pray before the Lord. This has not happened in our history yet. It is coming in the future.

Vs23: Lord of Hosts phrase again...IN the future, during the millennium reign of Christ, the bible has told us exactly where it's going to be, when it's going to be. The term "10 men" means a great many people. All the nations that go through the millennium reign of Christ will say the blessings are coming out of Jerusalem, that's where Christ is, and the gentiles will go there and want to be near it and in it to get the blessings from Christ. They will want to 'hold on to the hem of their skirt', to be near Jews who are being blessed at that time. World rulership by Jews has not happened in our world history yet, but it will happen one day as God says it will. It is His will. Jerusalem will be the capitol city of the world one day, the Jews will rule the world, and Christ will reign from there. If you want blessings from God at that time, you will have to travel physically to Jerusalem and pay homage to the Lord. That's what the bible says. America might not be around at that time. There is no direct reference to the United States of America in prophecy. We may be one of the young lions mentioned in scripture, but that's as close as it comes. How people make it through tribulation is how they treat the Jews and Israel. Treat them good, you'll be ok. Treat them bad, you will suffer.