**Zechariah’s Joy:**

**Trusting God in Days of Pain # 4**

**April 2nd, 2017**

**Text: Zech. 2:1-13 (Communion)**

Keith M. Doyle, Lead Pastor – Winnetka Bible Church

**I. Setting:**

**1**. **The Night Visions (8)**

* **Illus. ‘We haven’t finished those yet!’…**How things grow…the Power of God
* Zechariah = ***‘one whom the Lord remembers’***

1. **Context:** **How are we to read the promises given to Israel? (4 ways)**

* They are for national Israel (c/f Zech.8:13)
* There is still a future for repentant ‘Israel’ (c/f Rom.11)
* Through Christ Gentiles become partners in the promises (c/f Eph.2:12; Gal.3:29)
* Many of these promises are ‘layered’…partly fulfilled
* (example: Messiah’s coming in two stages, but this is ‘veiled’ in the OT, Heb.9:26)

1. **Setting**

* **Two main sections:**
* Chap.1-8 – **God will intervene! Trust His Promises!**
* Chap. 9-14 - **Messiah (Jesus) is the center of God’s redemptive intervention!**

1. **Summary Theme:**

* ***It is an encouragement to God’s discouraged and frightened people to pursue Him, because He will keep ALL His covenant promises***

***Q. So…does God have a master plan of redemption?***

**II. The Message (1-5)**

1. **The Vision Described (1-5)**

* There is a man with a ‘measuring line’ in his hand (1)
* ***‘measuring line’*** = a simple image, an Architect is doing his job

1. **Surprising Conversation, 2 (back to the 1st vision, 1:16)**

* ***‘Where are you going?’*** (2)
* What was he measuring? What was or what ‘ought to be?’
* The comforting Angel appears again (like in the previous 2 visions)
* This ‘comforting angel’ instructs another Angel
* ***‘Run…Tell…’*** – what? Stop the measuring man…No walls? (4)
* ‘Disgrace’ becomes an honor (4)

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1. **Staggering Promise (5)**

* God will protect His people with His power (5***, ‘wall of fire…glory…’***)
* **Illus.** Persian city
* You won’t need a wall; Walls are too restraining for what I will do
* **Apply:** God will come in power to His people

**III. The Meaning (6-13)**

1. **The Oracles Given (6-13)**

* Similar to the first vision (which has 3 oracles, 1:14-17)

1. **Oracle 1:** God calls the Exiles in Babylon to return (6-10)

* But…he calls ‘all’ Exiles…**Apply:** ***‘Spread you abroad’***…
* Reason: twofold, They (the Gentiles nations) will know God, 9,11; And…

1. **Oracle 2:** God will judge the Rebellious Nations (9)

* ***‘I will shake my hand over them…’*** (9)
* God’s got the judgment…in spite of present appearances

1. **Oracle 3:** God has a global plan to save the Nations (11-13)

* ***‘And many nations will join themselves to the Lord in that day…’*** (11)
* Destroy and save – what a mystery! (c/f Ps. 2, ***‘kiss the Son…***’)

**III. The Vision Applied – Three Directives (6-13)**

1. ***‘Flee Babylon…’* (6-8) – (Directed to Exiles)**

* Declarations of the Lord (6,8,10)
* ‘Get out!’, ‘Run!’…From the place of comfort and prosperity to seeming disaster?
* Babylon – a world system opposed to God and His Christ
* V. 8 – Messiah will handle this, ***‘…He who touches you touches the apple of his eye’*** (8)
* **Apply:** 1 John 2:15

1. ***‘Sing and Rejoice!’* (9-10) – (Believing Jews hoping in God)**

* God’s judgement upon nations mixed with Messianic hope – In this rejoice
* **Illus.** Miriam’s praise, the triumph of God over injustice
* ***‘Sing…O daughter of Zion’* (10)** = Pursuing joy in God…longing for God…
* **Apply:** This is often the context of our worship; To the believer…to the unbeliever (c/f Ps.2, ***‘kiss the Son…***’)

1. ***‘Be Silent…many nations…’* – (Global Gospel…*’All the Earth…’,* 11,13)**

* Why the call to ‘silence’***…***because He has ***‘roused Himself…Holy’…***
* Isaiah 6 – the angels knew what to do
* **Apply:** Anticipating the Kingdom’s advance – this we pray for, hope for, watch…

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