Sunday Sermon Notes	

THE BIG IDEA

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?



The Promise of a Glorious Restoration

Zechariah 8:1-23

13 And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong.

14 For thus saith the Lord of hosts; As I thought to punish you, when your fathers provoked me to wrath, saith the Lord of hosts, and I repented not:

15 So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah: fear ye not.

16 These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:

- 17 And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the Lord.
- 18 And the word of the Lord of hosts came unto me, saying,
- 19 Thus saith the Lord of hosts; The fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be to the house of Judah joy and gladness, and cheerful feasts; therefore love the truth and peace.

In chapter 8 Zechariah records the continuation of God's answer to the delegates who asked about the continuation of the national fasts marking the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. Here the Lord affirms His promise that Jerusalem will one day be restored and will see far more glory than it has ever enjoyed. The people are encouraged to continue the work of rebuilding the Temple and to anticipate the Kingdom to come rather than mourn the destruction of the past inadequacies

Part 1 - Jerusalem's Bright Future

Read Zechariah 8:1-6

- 1) According to Zechariah what is the cause of Jerusalem's bright future?
- 2) Often God's promises seem too good to be true. In verse 6 this sentiment is expressed. Why do you suppose we tend to doubt God's promises?

Part 2—The Remnant Returns

Read Zechariah 8:4-8; Jeremiah 31:10-11

- 1) For what ultimate purpose does God indicate here He will bring His people back from the East and West?
- 2) According to Jeremiah 31 the return of the Jews to the promised land is an act of redemption. How is this similar to the redemption of the Christian?

Part 3—A Motive to Work

Read Zechariah 8:9-13; Philippians 2:12-13

- 1) What did God offer as a motivation to strengthen the people's hands to work?
- 2) How and why does Paul in Philippians 2 encourage you to work out your salvation?

Part 4—A Curse Turned to Blessing

Read Zechariah 8:13-15

- 1) What makes the difference between the Jews being a curse and a blessing in verse 13?
- 2) What enables you to be a blessing to others rather than a curse?

Part 4—A Different Focus

Read Zechariah 8:16-19; John 4:21-24

- 1) How does this passage encourage a shift in the focus for these Jewish worshipers?
- 2) How do Jesus' words in John 4 encourage the right focus in worship?

Part 4—A Gentile Pilgrimage

Read Zechariah 8:20-23; Hebrews 11:8-10

- 1) What will be the primary motive to visit Jerusalem in the future?
- 2) For what city did Abraham seek? How is his pilgrimage similar to what we see promised in Zechariah 8?

