

May 10, 2020



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## Promising Peace Zechariah 8:1-8, 11-17

### Lesson Background and Introduction

By one count, there are at least 30 men in the Bible by the name of Zechariah. The one who wrote the book of today's study was a prophet from a priestly family; his recorded ministry occurred after the Babylonian exile (Ezra 5:1, 2; 6:14; Nehemiah 12:12, 16). The dates in Zechariah 1:1, 7; 7:1 compute to a time between late 520 BC and late 518 BC. The setting in post-exilic Jerusalem is essential to understanding the book of Zechariah. Twenty years after the return from exile, signs of God's continued favor seemed to have disappeared (Ezra 4:24; Haggai 1:1-11). Many of those who had returned from exile undoubtedly wondered if God had forgotten them. When a relationship needs to go from bad to good, someone has to make the first move. The text for today tells of a time when God did just that. The bad relationship between God and His covenant people was wholly the fault of the people. Logically, therefore, they should have made the first move. But God in His compassion took the initiative, promising great things to His people. And so it still is: God promises great things for us when we actually deserve quite the opposite. He is determined to redeem all who are willing to acknowledge Him as sovereign Lord.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**Encouragement** - Zechariah prophesied to the Jewish remnant as they were rebuilding their temple and Jerusalem. Haggai jump-started the construction program in the city, and now Zechariah offered encouragement. The prophet reminded the people of God's steadfastness—He is faithful to His promises and not like any other god.

**Hope** - Zechariah focused the congregation on hope in God. The city had not been completed, but Zechariah said it would be rebuilt. He affirmed God's love and promised a brand new city built on honesty and righteousness, set apart for God's purposes and plans. The Father committed Himself to establish a place where children play freely and safely in the streets and the elderly are secure also.

**Unity** - While the prophecy dealt with the present situation, it also foreshadowed a coming time of reunifying the nation. Jewish people from many places will one day all meet up in His holy city. At the time of the exile, the Jews worshiped all kinds of gods. However, now people would stay true to their one and only God.

**Prosperity** - A time would come when the crops in the land would grow and flourish, and God would bring abundant dew. Once again the economy would turn for the better, and the curse the people had felt would end. Those looking on at the time would exclaim, "Look how the Lord has blessed Israel!" God told the people to speak correctly to one another, be upright in the courts, and judge fairly.

**Reflecting God** - The marks of those who reflect God's character are faithfulness, truth, and holiness. Only when our lives show those things can we find true peace, the peace that only God can give us

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Life will have its difficulties, but our Savior, who loves us more than life, is greater than them all

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Lord, help me to trust in You so that I may live in peace

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid*

(John 14:27 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Aug 03, 2017)*

**Series: Justice and the Prophets**

**UNIT: Called to God's Work of Justice**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Practice Justice (Jeremiah 21:8-14)**

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Peace Through God's Presence (Zech 8:1-3)**

#### *God's presence through His jealousy (1-2)*

- Jealousy to protect His Holy Name (Ezek 39:25)
- Jealousy that want us to obey and worship God for our own good (Ex 20:4-6)
- Jealousy that wants purity (2 Cor 11:2)
- Jealousy that comes with being in a covenant (James 4:4-5)
- Jealousy of intimate fellowship (1 Cor 10:20-22)

#### *God's presence brings truth (3)*

- God's truth makes Him faithful in all He does (Ps 33:4)
- Faith comes through the belief and obedience to the truth of God (Col 1:5)
- It is the truth of God's presence that leads a life of faith into godliness (Titus 1:1)
- Jesus says that only in Him is the truth (John 14:6)
- Through truth comes knowledge of God (Prov 9:10)
- God's word is truth (John 17:17)
- Through obedience to God's truth comes sanctification (1 Peter 1:22)
- The One who guides us in truth is the Holy Spirit (John 16:13)
- It is the Church that should be the agent of instruction and growth of the truth (1 Tim 3:15)

#### *God's presence brings holiness (3)*

- God is Holy because His glory fills the earth (Isa 6:3)
- God is majestic in His Holiness (Ex 15:11)
- The heavens declare the Holiness of God (Ps 19:1)
- God is Holy because He is Almighty and Everlasting (Rev 4:8)
- We are called to be holy because God is Holy (1 Peter 1:15-16)
- God is perfect in His Holiness (Matt 5:48)

### **Peace Through Restoration (Zech 8:4-8)**

#### *Peace to grow old (4)*

- Peace in older age is a blessing (Isa 65:16-20)
- God grants peace in old age so that the elderly can pass on to the next generation God's great power (Ps 71:18)
- Peace in older age is a reward of a righteous life (Prov 16:31)
- Peace in older age only comes from God (Ps 29:11)
- Peace in older age is the future of the blameless and upright (Ps 37:37)
- Peace in the heart gives life to the body (Prov 14:30)

#### *Peace for the children (5)*

- Fearing God can bring peace to one's children (Ps 128:3-4)
- Avoiding wicked influences can bring peace to one's children (Ps 144:11-12)
- Obedient children have a promise of long life and peace (Eph 6:1-3)
- Children walking in truth can bring and have peace (2 John 4)

#### *Peace through returning to God (6-8)*

- Returning to God will result in growth in knowing God (Jer 24:7)
- Returning to God could bring blessings from Him (Joel 2:13-14)
- Returning to God is a sign of growth in faith (Luke 17:17-19)
- Returning to God brings healing of the spiritual and physical man (2 Chron 7:14)
- Returning to God brings mercy and prosperity (Prov 28:13)

### **Blessings of Peace (Zech 8:11-13)**

#### *Blessings of renewal (11)*

- Renewal into a new creation (2 Cor 5:17)
- Renewal into a spiritual covenant (Gal 6:15)
- Renewal inwardly daily (2 Cor 4:16)
- Renewal of the old self (Col 3:10)
- Renewal by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)

#### *Blessings of prosperity (12)*

- Prosperity through well-being (Ps 35:27)
- Prosperity through righteousness (Ps 92:12-14)
- Prosperity through delighting in God's word (Ps 1:1-3)
- Prosperity through remaining in Jesus (John 15:3-5)
- Prosperity into old age (Isa 46:4)
- Prosperity through the fear of the Lord (Ps 128:1-2)

#### *Blessings God's salvation (13)*

- A common salvation that must be qualified for (Col 1:12)
- A common salvation that includes a grafting by God (Rom 11:17-21)
- A common salvation of heirship (Eph 3:6)
- A common salvation obtained by a heavenly calling (Heb 3:1)

### **Response to Peace (Zech 8:14-17)**

#### *God's forgiveness (14-15)*

- God's forgiveness means that He will not remember our sins any more (Heb 8:12)
- God's forgiveness sanctifies (Acts 26:17-18)
- God's forgiveness rescues from a dominion of darkness (Col 1:13-14)
- God's forgiveness is through Jesus' blood (Matt 26:28)
- God's forgiveness is in accordance with His grace (Eph 1:7)

#### *Respond with truthfulness (16)*

- Truth through receiving God's word (1 Thess 2:13)
- Truth through believing and being sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13)
- Truth through the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:9)
- Truth through standing firm (Eph 6:14)
- Truth through the Gospel (Col 1:5-6)

#### *Respond with loving one another (17)*

- Loving others by loving God (1 John 4:21)
- Loving others by obedience to the second great commandment (Matt 22:39-40)
- Loving others by owing nothing except love (Rom 13:8)
- Loving others as we have been taught by God (1 Thess 4:9)