

VISION #3 – FLEEING THE WORLD – PART TWO

--ZECHARIAH 2:6-9--

INTRODUCTION:

Following the third night vision of the Man with the measuring line, Zechariah receives two oracles from the LORD where again He warns His people to avoid contamination from the world. The LORD revealed to Zechariah that He remembered the promises He had made to His people and about His city. In this first oracle, God continued to charge His people to respond properly to these wonderful truths. In our passage today, God, first, exhorts His people to leave the world behind and to live wholly for Him. Second, God explained the motivation for doing this; because His promises are far better than what the world can offer; and those promises are certain in the Messiah.

I. GOD EXHORTS HIS PEOPLE (Zechariah 2:6-7)

- a. This oracle starts out with a strange expression, “____ there!”
- b. The LORD exhorts, “_____ from the land of the north!” (Zechariah 2:6a, NASB95) (Isaiah 48:20)
- c. The term “_____” used here is a word that means to get away or escape from danger deliberately and as quickly as possible. (Genesis 39:12)
- d. The people of Judah needed to remember that they were not guests of the Babylonian nation but had been _____ there under the divine judgment of God.
- e. Again, God calls out, “Ho, _____!”
- f. God pressed His point by saying, “*Escape, you who are _____ with the daughter of Babylon.*” (Zechariah 2:7b, NASB95) (2nd Corinthians 6:14-16)
- g. In warning Israel about living with the daughter of Babylon, the LORD not only personified the Babylonian nation but also emphasized her _____. (Isaiah 47:1; Jeremiah 50:42)
- h. This exhortation to come out of the _____ and live in God’s promises goes beyond Israel’s past and extends to the end times. (Revelation 18:4)

II. GOD EXPLAINS HIS PURPOSE (Zechariah 2:8-9)

- a. The LORD _____ His purpose for exhorting His people to flee from Babylon.
- b. The speaker of verse 8 is identified as the _____ or Yahweh of hosts.
- c. This is not the first time in the Old Testament that such an interaction within the _____ is revealed. (Genesis 19:24; Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18)
- d. In working to restore His people, the Messiah states, “*After glory He has sent Me against the nations which plunder you, for he who touches you, touches the _____ of His eye.*” (Zechariah 2:8b, NASB95)
- e. God goes onto say that one day the _____ will take dramatic steps to deal with the nations that plundered Israel. (Isaiah 19:16)
- f. There is on outcome from this that the Lord explains, “*Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent _____.*” (Zechariah 2:9c, NASB95)

CONCLUSION:

The reality of the revelation of the blessing of Israel and the judgment of the nations should have made Israel even more eager to flee from the wickedness of Babylon. The Israelites needed to remember that God had made promises to His people, promises personally guaranteed by His Son. By hoping in the Lord, focusing on the future glory that God guaranteed, His people would be motivated to flee this world and cling to Him in love and obedience.

We too have wonderful promises that God has made to us through Jesus Christ. These promises of a future with Him should cause us also to be motivated to flee this world and cling to our Lord in love and obedience. We need to separate ourselves from this world “...*for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever. Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God!*” (2nd Corinthians 6:14b-16a, NASB95)