

Sermon Discussion Guide

Zechariah 8:1–17 | "A Promise to Bless"

Opening Prayer

Guided Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to the hope, challenge, and calling found in God's promises. Pray for renewed strength to trust and obey.

Recap

Zechariah 8 presents a dramatic shift from the rebuke of chapter 7 to the reassurance of chapter 8. God declares His zealous love for Zion and promises to return to dwell in Jerusalem. The result? Restoration, peace, and joyful community life. But these promises also come with a call: to believe God's Word, to serve with strong hands, and to live in truth and righteousness. This vision isn't limited to a historical moment—it finds fulfillment in Christ and the church, and points forward to God's eternal kingdom. We're called to live now in light of those future blessings.

Understanding the Text

1. What does God's jealousy in verses 1–2 reveal about His relationship with His people?
2. Why is God's promise to return (v. 3) the foundation of all the other blessings?
3. Verses 4–5 describe a city where the old and young flourish. How does this reflect God's idea of peace (John 16:33)?
4. Verse 6 addresses doubts about God's promises. Why do you think it's hard to believe when blessings seem "too marvelous"?
5. In verses 7–8, God speaks of gathering His people from "east and west." How does this language point beyond Zechariah's day?
6. What does it mean that God will be our God "in truth and righteousness"? How does that connect to the gospel?

Practical Application

1. When have you found it hard to believe one of God's promises? How do you respond in those moments?

2. “Let your hands be strong” is repeated throughout the passage. Where do you need renewed strength to keep going in obedience?
3. Are there areas in your life where you’ve grown passive instead of active in light of God’s promises?
4. God’s promises are meant to stir obedience (vv. 16–17). How is your faith currently being expressed in the fruits of the Spirit?

God Has More to Say

These scriptures deepen the themes of divine presence, covenant blessing, and faithful obedience:

God’s Presence & Covenant Faithfulness

- • Exodus 34:14
- • 2 Corinthians 6:16
- • Jeremiah 32:38–41

Faith That Believes God's Promises

- • Genesis 18:14
- • Jeremiah 32:17, 27
- • Hebrews 11:6

God’s Blessing Leading to Obedience

- • Haggai 1:4–11
- • Romans 12:1–2
- • James 1:22–25

The Global Gathering of God’s People

- • Isaiah 49:6
- • Matthew 8:11
- • Revelation 7:9–10