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## GOD’S PROMISES FOR HIS PEOPLE

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*Nations more numerous, like flaming meteors, shot across the sky to be remembered no more. The proud Assyrians, the powerful Babylonians, the inflexible Medes and Persians, and other nations to numerous to mention are gone. But the Jew, refusing to be either annihilated or assimilated, remains.* (McQuaid)  
There is only one explanation. God has miraculously preserved the Jewish people (Jer. 31:35-37; Mal. 3:6). The preservation of the people Israel is not a reward for their greatness or their goodness but rather a demonstration of God’s love and faithfulness (Dt. 7:6-8) which teaches us that God will fulfill His promises to His people.

As the remnant returned to Jerusalem from Babylon in 538, BC, they began the work of reconstructing the Temple. Sadly, all construction ceased in 530 BC and did not resume until 520 BC when God commissioned Haggai and Zechariah to convict (Haggai) and comfort (Zechariah) Israel. In order to encourage the ongoing work of God, God provides precious promises of future blessings for His people.

The promises contained in Zechariah 8 are so wonderful that the name of Jehovah (the Promise-Keeping God) is found 22 times in the chapter. For those who would question the strength of the God of Promise, He is referred to as the “Lord of Hosts” 10 times. God’s people are to rely on God’s promises. Zechariah divides his message with the phrase, “The word of the Lord came to me, saying” in both verse 1 and verse 8. By repeating this phrase, he reveals two themes:

### THE REASSURANCES OF GOD’S PROMISES

When God’s people become weary in well-doing, they find strength in His Sovereign promises. Seven reassuring promises are revealed through Zechariah by the God of the impossible in Zechariah 8:1-18.

A REASSURANCE OF GOD’S PASSION (v. 2). *In the warp and woof of the syntax of this verse is interwoven God’s great passion for His elect people Israel* (Unger). God’s covenant with Israel is everlasting (II Sam. 7:23-24) and His jealousy for Israel is righteous.

A REASSURANCE OF GOD’S PRESENCE (v. 3). During the times of Ezekiel, God glory (Shekinah) was taken from Jerusalem (Ez. 8:3-4; 10:4; 10:18; 11:23). “Ichabod” was written over Jerusalem. With the Messiah, the glory will return (Ez. 43:2-5; Hos. 5:15; Jn. 1:14; Matt. 23:39f).

A REASSURANCE OF GOD’S PEACE (v. 4-5). These verses provide a marvelous picture of millennial peace (Is. 65:20-22). Only God can bring peace (Is. 9:6).

A REASSURANCE OF GOD’S POWER (v. 6). There are times in which God’s promises seem beyond our comprehension. It is during those times that we must be reminded of His power (Gen. 18:14; Jer. 22:17; Ps. 78:19).

A REASSURANCE OF GOD’S PLAN (v. 7-8). God warned that disobedience would bring scattering but promised Israel that He would gather them from the ends of the earth (Is. 11:11-12; 43:5-6; Ez. 37:21; Amos 9:14-15).

A REASSURANCE OF GOD’S PROSPERITY (v. 9-13). These words would have a wonderful affect on the people in the times of Zechariah. They had known financial crisis (Hagg. 1:6,11). God promises prosperity.

A REASSURANCE OF GOD’S PROGRAM (v. 14-17). As His blessings come His people must do His will. He wants them to have active love for one another.

### THE RESULTS OF GOD’S PROMISES (v. 19-23)

Verses 19 to 23 stand as a second part of Zechariah 8. Here, God lifts the curtain and shows the children of Israel what their nation will be like during the time of the Kingdom.

JERUSALEM WILL BE A PLACE OF PLEASURE (v. 19). The fasts will be gone and feasts will take their place. Since 70 AD, the Jewish people have observed fasts in the fourth, fifth, seventh and tenth months.

JERUSALEM WILL BE A PLACE OF PRAYER (v. 21-22). It has always been God’s desire that “The place of Peace” (Jerusalem) be a place of prayer. In the Kingdom, all the nations of the earth will come to Jerusalem to pray.

JERUSALEM WILL BE A PLACE OF PROMINENCE (v. 23). Ten men laying hold of a Jew has been cause for great concern for almost 4,000 years. There is a day coming when all the world will see the Jewish people as God’s special people and will want to enjoy some of their blessings.

*“Nowhere in the prophetic word is there a more striking section on God’s future blessing for Israel. Nowhere in predictive prophecy is the reinstatement of God’s covenant people more emphatically asserted, this section (Zechariah 8) offers a grand climax!”* (Unger)