The Book of Zechariah

Chapter 2

"The Lord Will Dwell in the Midst of You" (Zechariah 2)

Main Theme:

God remembers His covenant and will dwell again among His people through the coming Messiah.

Introduction to Zechariah

Who Was Zechariah?

- Zechariah ("The Lord remembers") was both a priest and a prophet (Neh. 12:4,16). He ministered alongside Haggai around 520 BC, shortly after the Jewish exiles returned from Babylon.

- Unlike Haggai, who emphasized rebuilding the Temple, Zechariah focused on rebuilding the people's **hope, faith, and vision**.

His book contains:

- Eight night visions (Chapters 1–6)
- Messages about true worship (Chapters 7–8)
- Messianic prophecies (Chapters 9–14)
- No Old Testament prophet, except Isaiah, contains more direct prophecies about Christ.

Christ Throughout the Book of Zechariah

Some remarkable prophecies include:

- The Branch (3:8; 6:12)
- The King riding on a donkey (9:9)
- Thirty pieces of silver (11:12-13)
- The pierced One (12:10)
- The Shepherd struck (13:7)
- The Lord reigning over all the earth (14)

Background to Chapter 2

- In Chapter 1 Zechariah saw four visions assuring Israel that God had not forgotten them.
- Chapter 2 contains the third vision; A man with a measuring line.
- This vision speaks about Jerusalem's future restoration and points beyond earthly Jerusalem to the Kingdom of God and finally the Church.

Part One: The Measuring Line (vv.1–5)

Zechariah 2:2 *"I am going to measure Jerusalem..."*

Why measure a city?

Usually measuring means:

Ownership

Protection

Preparation for construction

Future blessing

God was not measuring ruins. He was measuring His future.

Question; Why do you think God measures before He builds?

Possible answers:

- Planning
- Purpose
- Nothing is accidental
- God sees what we cannot

Verse 4: *"Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls..."*

Normally cities needed walls. Here, God promises a city too large for walls.

This speaks of:

- Great growth
- Security
- God's blessing

Verse 5: *"For I," says the LORD, "will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst."*

Two Great promises

1. God protects

- Not stone walls, His own presence.

2. God dwells

- His glory returns. This recalls the pillar of fire (Exodus)
- Ultimately Christ among us.

Christ in this passage

The gospel of John says: *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." (John 1:14)*

Christ became the true dwelling of God. Today, the Church is God's Temple. Each Christian is also God's temple.

> **St. Cyril of Alexandria:**
>
> Christ Himself became our wall of protection, surrounding His Church with divine power.

> **St. John Chrysostom:**
>
> Where Christ is present, no enemy can truly prevail

Question: What "walls" do we usually trust more than God's presence?

Possible answers:

- Money
- Reputation
- Career
- Security
- Health
- Relationships

Part Two: Come Out of Babylon (vv.6–9)

Verses 6 & 7: God calls: *"Up, up! Flee from the land of the north..."*

Many Jews had become comfortable in Babylon so they did not return to Jerusalem.

Spiritually, Babylon always represents:

- World comfort
- Sin
- False security

God calls His people out. *"Up, up! Flee from the land of the north..."*

New Testament Connection

Revelation 18:4 *"Come out of her (Babylon), My people….."*

God continually calls believers to separate themselves from worldly values while remaining the light and the salt within the world.

Verse 8: One of the most comforting verses: *"He who touches you touches the apple of His eye."*

The "apple" refers to the pupil, the most sensitive part of the eye.

God is saying: *"My people are precious to Me."*

> **St. Augustine:**
> "The saints are so united to Christ that what is done to them is counted as done to Him."

Compare Acts 9: Jesus asked Saul, *"Why are you persecuting Me?"* Not merely *"My people."*

Verse 9: *"For surly I will shake My hand against them"*

God Himself will judge the oppressors. The people need not seek revenge.

Practical Reflection

When others hurt us:

Do we trust God to defend us? Or do we insist on defending ourselves and seek revenge?

Part Three: The Lord Dwells with His People (vv.10–13)

Perhaps the greatest promise in the chapter: *"Sing and rejoice... For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst."*

This prophecy has multiple fulfillments

First; God returned His blessing to Jerusalem.

Second; Christ's Incarnation. God literally dwelt among us.

Third; The Church. God dwells in believers through Baptism, Chrismation and Communion

Fourth; The New Jerusalem as described in Revelation 21: *"The tabernacle of God is with men."*

Verse 11: *"Many nations shall be joined to the LORD..."*

This was astonishing.

God's salvation extends beyond Israel.

Gentiles become God's people.

Christ Fulfilled This

Jesus commissioned: *"Make disciples of all nations."*. The Church fulfills Zechariah's prophecy.

> **St. Irenaeus**
>
> "The nations became fellow heirs because Christ united all into one people."

Verse 13: *"Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD."*

Why silence?

Because God aroused.

Sometimes worship begins not with speaking, but with silence and admiration.

> **St. Gregory of Nyssa:**
>
> "Silence before God is often the language of deepest worship."

Christ in Zechariah 2

The Builder *"I will build My Church."*

The Wall of Fire; Our Protector.

The Glory; God's presence among His people.

The One Who Dwells; Emmanuel, God with us.

The Savior of the Nations; Many nations join the Lord.

The Coming King; Preparing the eternal Jerusalem.

Practical Applications

1. Trust God's Presence More Than Human Security

What **"walls"** am I relying upon more than God?

Application:

Spend time daily remembering that God's presence is your greatest security.

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2. Leave Spiritual Babylon

Babylon today may be:

- Pride
- Materialism
- Entertainment that dulls our hearts
- Bitterness
- Sinful habits

What is God calling me to leave behind?

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3. Become a Place Where God Dwells

The Church is God's Temple.

Our hearts should also be His dwelling.

Daily prayer:

"Lord, make my heart Your home."

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4. Welcome All People

God invites many nations.

Our churches should reflect Christ's welcoming love.

Practical exercise:

Intentionally welcome someone new at church, visit a newcomer, or pray for a nation where the Gospel is persecuted.

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5. Practice Holy Silence

Set aside five minutes each day simply to sit quietly before God without speaking, allowing your heart to rest in His presence and listening for His guidance through Scripture.

Key Verse to Memorize

"For I," says the LORD, "will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst."
— Zechariah 2:5 (NKJV)

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You because You have not left us without hope. You promised to dwell among Your people, and You fulfilled that promise in our Lord Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. Make us living temples of Your Holy Spirit. Be our wall of fire when we are afraid, our glory when we are weak, and our guide as we seek to follow You. Help us leave behind every spiritual Babylon and live as citizens of Your heavenly Jerusalem. May our church become a place where Your presence is evident, where all people are welcomed, and where Your love is proclaimed to the nations. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be glory forever. Amen.