

ZECHARIAH

The Apocalypse of the Old Testament

Chapter 8, Part 1

Zechariah 8

¹ Again the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying,
² “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; With great fervor I am zealous for her.’ ³ “Thus says the LORD: ‘I will return to Zion, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the LORD of hosts, The Holy Mountain.’ ⁴ “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Old men and old women shall again sit In the streets of Jerusalem, Each one with his staff in his hand Because of great age.

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⁵ The streets of the city Shall be full of boys and girls
Playing in its streets.’ ⁶ “Thus says the LORD of
hosts:

‘If it is marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this
people in these days, Will it also be marvelous in
My eyes?’ Says the LORD of hosts. ⁷ “Thus says the
LORD of hosts: ‘Behold, I will save My people from
the land of the east And from the land of the west;
⁸ I will bring them *back*, And they shall dwell in the
midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My people And I
will be their God, In truth and righteousness.’

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⁹ “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Let your hands be strong, You who have been hearing in these days These words by the mouth of the prophets, Who *spoke* in the day the foundation was laid For the house of the LORD of hosts, That the temple might be built. ¹⁰ For before these days There were no wages for man nor any hire for beast; *There was* no peace from the enemy for whoever went out or came in; For I set all men, everyone, against his neighbor. ¹¹ But now I *will not treat* the remnant of this people as in the former days,’ says the LORD of hosts.

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¹² ‘For the seed *shall be* prosperous, The vine shall give its fruit, The ground shall give her increase, And the heavens shall give their dew—I will cause the remnant of this people To possess all these.

¹³ And it shall come to pass *That* just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah house of Israel, So I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. Do not fear, Let your hands be strong.’

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¹⁴ “For thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Just as I determined to punish you When your fathers provoked Me to wrath,’ Says the LORD of hosts, ‘And I would not relent,
¹⁵ So again in these days I am determined to do good To Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Do not fear.
¹⁶ These *are* the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor; Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace; ¹⁷ Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; And do not love a false oath. For all these *are things* that I hate,’ Says the LORD.”

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- This chapter is a continuation of chapter 7, where the delegation from Bethel inquired about observing the fasts associated with the fall of Judah and Jerusalem.
- Keep in mind that Elohim told Zechariah to provide His answers not only to the delegation from Bethel, but to **EVERYONE.**
- In chapter 7 God never really answered the question, but posed one to them. **Were they really doing these things for Him?** *Or for their own vanity?* Where were their hearts when they did these things?

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- The bottom line here is that if the heart is wrong, the ritual is wrong. **If the heart is right, the ritual is right**. The continued answer to their question, and more, is contained here in chapter 8.
- God's answer is divided into two parts. The first part, a negative answer (*their hearts are wrong*), is in chapter 7. The second, here in chapter 8 is definitely positive (God will keep His word regarding Israel *[no matter their rituals or anything they do or don't do]* and amaze and bless them!).

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- And each of these two parts *also has two parts*. These four parts are each headed by the phrase: ***“Then the word of the LORD came to Zechariah...”***
- The **first message** is chapter 7, verses 4-7. These fasts were only token observances of their own making, with no meaning. God challenged them to see if their hearts were right.
- **2nd message**: chapter 7, verses 8-14. Here God commands them to repent from their self-serving ways, and change how they live and respond to Him.

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- **2nd message (continued)** In addition, they are to (1) “administer true justice,” (2) “show mercy and compassion,” (3) “not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor,” and (4) “not think evil of each other.”
- Elohim reminds them that their “fathers” made the same mistakes and did not repent, thus bringing down His wrath and destruction of their land.
- **3rd message**, chapter 8, verses 1-17. Amazing news!...

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- **3rd message (continued)** God declared that **Israel would one day be restored**, and the people brought back to their land both spiritually and physically. One day Jerusalem would be known as the “City of Truth.” God promised to dwell among them (Immanuel!). People living in this time and place will live long lives to old age, the land will flourish, children and others will play safely and the whole world will seek them and want to be associated with them. **That seems impossible to them but God says it's not too hard for Him.**

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- **4th message**: chapter 8, verses 18-23. Elohim promised a time when the Israelites celebrate the appointed times with such joy that Gentile nations will send delegations to Jerusalem to join them in worship. The world will know Elohim is with them.
- It is interesting to note that just in chapters 7 and 8, the phrase “***Thus says YHVH...***” appears multiple times! And often it is YHVH Tsava’ot – This should be a clue as to how important these messages are to Israel, and to the rest of us!) God says it = ***God means it!!***

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- YHVH is making sure the people understand that their rituals have no effect on His plans. His purposes are unchanged by any ritual, no matter how “right” it is.
- His plan is to restore Israel to her former glory, to be exalted among the nations. *Those who believe that God is through with Israel, that she has been replaced by the “Gentile church” cannot (and do not) understand or even tolerate the book of Zechariah, or any of the prophets who foretold of Israel’s restoration.*

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- You can get an idea of the importance of this chapter just by *keeping track how many times certain phrases or words are used*. It's like God using a big fat marking pen to underline, circle and decorate with big exclamation points the **serious and set-in-stone nature of His plan**.
- **“LORD of hosts”** – 52 times in this book, 18 of which are right here in this chapter! YHVH Tsava'ot – literally YHVH of the armies of heaven, or the big boss of the heavenly host.

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- **“Jerusalem”** – 6 times (*this is the literal place, not some allegorical symbolic “Jerusalem” as some try to explain.*) When the Word says Jerusalem, it means Jerusalem (unless the scriptures explain it differently). ***Mankind needs to stop “playing” with God’s Word!***
- **“Zion,”** twice. Zion can refer to the hill our “mount” called Zion in Jerusalem, near which is built the Temple, or it can mean the entire city both literal and symbolic, and it can also refer to all Israel. *It is also used to describe the heavenly city of Jerusalem.*

Mount Zion today...



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- “**jealous**” occurs 3 times. This is the Hebrew word qânâ'- which means to be zealous (*“in a bad sense”*), jealous, envious, provoked to jealousy.
- “**remnant**” is seen twice. We remember that a mere 50-60,000 people returned to Israel from Babylon. There were literally millions there after 70 years in captivity. The remnant is the small group who returned. Literally meaning *“those who survived.”*

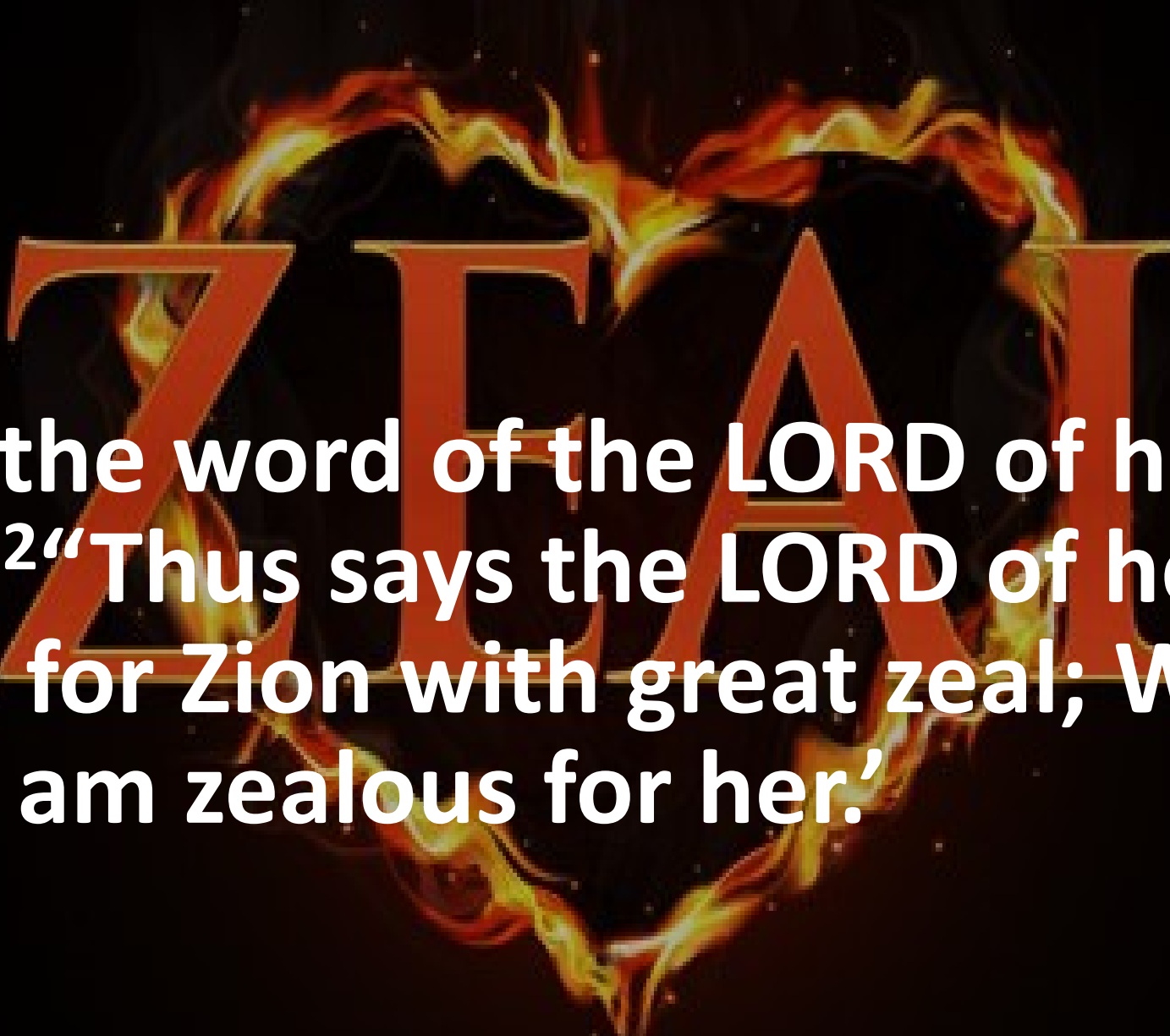
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COMMENTARY: *Some commentators feel that chapter 8 puts the Ten Commandments [the Law] down on the people of Israel even more than chapter 7 did. I do not feel that that is accurate. My feeling is that the last part of chapter 7 put the {Law} down on them, and they were weighed in the balances and were found wanting—they did not measure up to God's standard at all. Then in chapter 8, especially in the first eight verses, we find that God's ultimate purpose is not changed concerning His people—the nation Israel, the land, and Jerusalem. (McGee)*

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- Although some of these prophecies are partially completed at this time (*prosperity, successful and abundant crops, blessing others through their technology and giving*), it is very clear that YHVH is describing a time that has not yet happened fully, and will not happen, *until the Millennial Kingdom begins*.
- God's fulfillment of the covenant promises made with Israel will be completely fulfilled at this time, not before, and this is what is described in this chapter.
Make NO mistake, though. His promises WILL be fulfilled!

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A large, stylized, red word "ZELAI" is centered in the background. The letters are thick and blocky. Behind the word, there are bright, orange and yellow flames that appear to be rising from the bottom and spreading outwards, creating a dramatic, fiery effect against the dark background.

¹ Again the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying, ²“Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; With great fervor I am zealous for her.’

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- ***“Again, the Word of YHVH Tsava’ot came saying...”***
Remember that this phrase effectively divides chapters 7 and 8 into 4 distinct messages from Elohim, and each message begins with this phrase.
- A very strong statement about God’s zeal for Israel. She belongs to Him, and anyone who messes with Israel pokes their fingers in the *“apple of His eye.”*
- **“great fervor”** = KJV: *“great fury”* – *chêmâh* = literally heat, figuratively *anger (feverish anger)*, poison, hot displeasure, furious, rage, wrath.

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- This word meant literally ***“to become intensely hot.”*** It describes someone who is very emotional about something. This describes how Elohim feels about anyone who thinks they can harm or hurt Israel.
- **WARNING, WARNING, WARNING!!!!** Those who don't share God's intense love for Israel are on very dangerous ground! He is intensely emotional about His people and His land.
- God is jealous of Israel. He loves her and will not share her with anyone or anything.

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- He has already stated His displeasure with the nations in chapter 1, when He said that He meant to discipline Israel through having other nations dominate her, but those nations meant to destroy her – *their intent to destroy was beyond His will.*
- **So He is indeed filled with great zeal for Israel.** And that zeal is *accompanied by righteous anger* when those nations take things too far and curse rather than bless Israel.

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COMMENTARY: *“...God’s jealous anger and hot displeasure against the nations, because of their oppression and cruelty to Israel, is to be greatly dreaded. “Where... are the great nations of antiquity who have lifted up their hands against the Jewish people?” And in modern times the ancient word which God spake to Abraham is still verifying itself in the experience of nations as of individuals: “I will bless them that bless thee, and him that curseth thee will I curse.” (Baron)*

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³ “Thus says the LORD: ‘I will return to Zion, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the LORD of hosts, The Holy Mountain.’”



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- ***“I will return to Zion, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem...”*** This actually happened one time before the Millennial Kingdom. God did indeed return to Zion and dwelled in the midst of Jerusalem...for a very short time.
- His glory (*the Shekinah, glory in the tent*), filled **the person of His Son, Yeshua**, who visited (*not dwelled in*) Jerusalem many times.



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- But this verse and these promises are about the **Millennial Kingdom**. This return to Zion will not happen again until He comes in glory.
- ***“Jerusalem shall be called a City of Truth.”***
Jerusalem has not been a city of Truth in the past, nor the present. It will be in the future, when Jesus resides and reigns from there. He is the Truth.
- Today’s Jerusalem is just as corrupt, evil and filled with garbage and lies as any other city on this planet.

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COMMENTARY: *"Jerusalem did not acquire this character in the period after the captivity, in which, though not defiled by gross idolatry, as in the times before the captivity, it was polluted by other moral abominations no less than it had been before. Jerusalem becomes a faithful city for the first time through the Messiah, and it is through Him that the temple mountain first really becomes the holy mountain. (Keil)*

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- Jerusalem can only be called the City of Truth **when the Truth reigns from there!** Yeshua said, *“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”* (John 14:6)
- Look how many times the identifier “**YHVH Tsava’ot**” is used in this chapter! This is God saying I AM the Mighty God, Most High, The Sovereign of the Universe. **What I say goes.** What I say here will happen.

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- ***“mountain of YHVH Tsavaot...”*** God’s mountain, also called the “holy” mountain. His presence makes it holy.
- Isaiah saw this as well: *“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.” (Isaiah 2:2-3)*

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- This may reference an actual **physical mountain**, such as Mt. Zion, or used as an allusion to a kingdom, an authority, or a rule, which is the *spiritual use of mountains in scriptures*.
- The “mountain of the LORD” is where He chose to place His name and His temple. It is what was referred to as **Mt. Moriah** in the Old Testament.
- **Moriah** means “*seen of Yah*” or “*take heed, or experience Yah.*” What Yah did there over 500 years later was truly remarkable.

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- Mt. Moriah is first mentioned in Genesis 22 (*binding of Isaac*). Then He said, *“Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”* (22:2)
- It is only mentioned one other time in the Old Testament: *“Now Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.”* (2 Chronicles 3:1)

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- David purchased the land, and Solomon built the first Temple in the same place Abraham was asked to sacrifice his only “begotten and son,” but God spared Isaac and provided the sacrifice Himself. The second Temple (Ezra/Zerubbabel) was also rebuilt in this same location.
- Yeshua was crucified just outside the city walls, **still on Mount Moriah**. Abraham called this place *YHVH Yireh*, or God will provide.

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- In that same spot God provided His only begotten, beloved Son as the sacrificial payment for our sins. **Another father provided the Lamb for sacrifice!**

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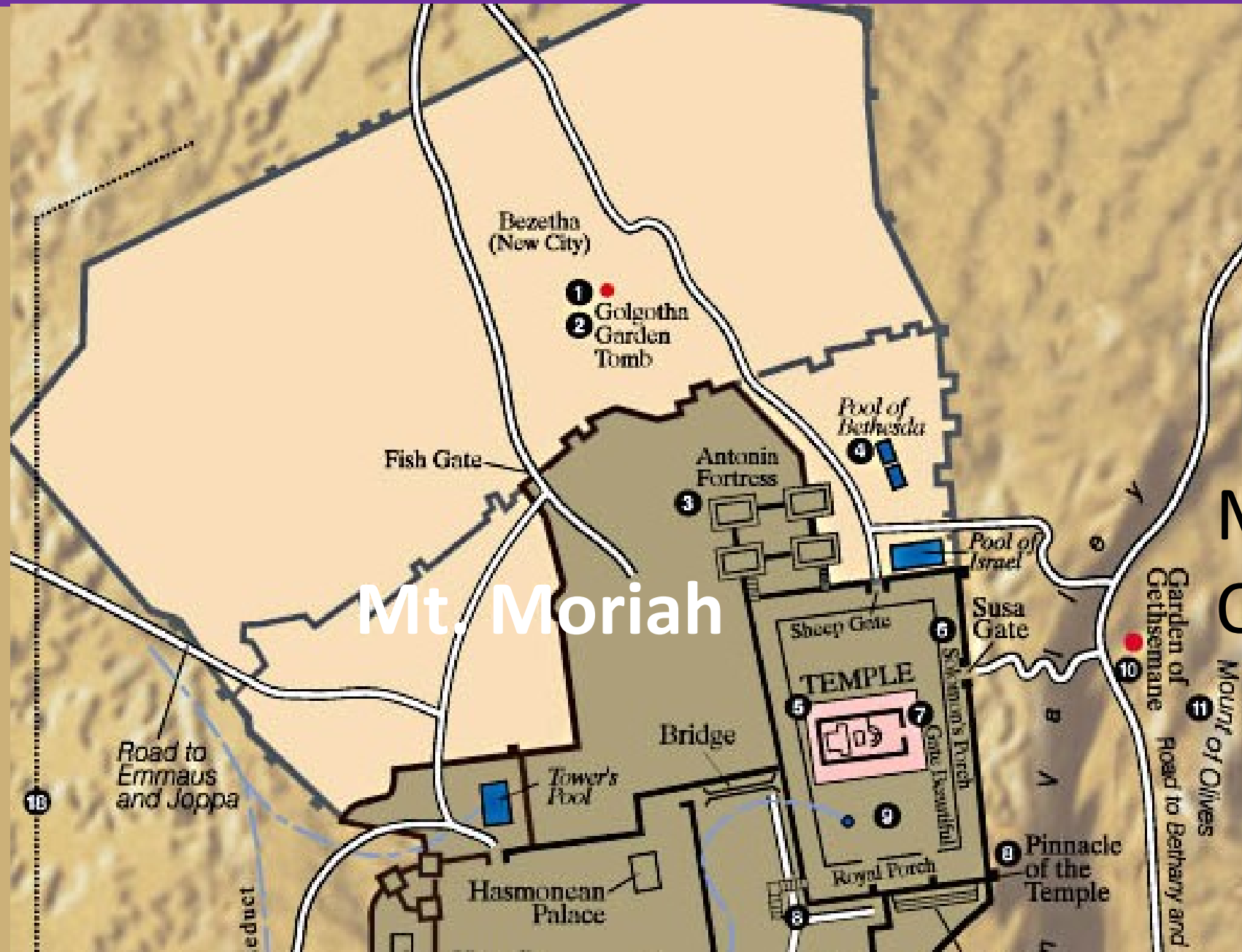


- There are three main “mountains” in Jerusalem. The mount of Olives (Olivet), Mt. Moriah, and Mt. Zion.

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- *Tsion* in Hebrew literally means a *conspicuousness, a monumental or guiding pillar*. How amazing is that!
- Although Olivet, Moriah and Zion are three distinctly different hilltops in Jerusalem, over the years Mt. **Zion** and **Mt. Moriah** have come to mean the same place, most often called “**Zion**” or “**Mt. Zion.**”
- Technically, however, Moriah is where Isaac was spared by a sacrifice God provided. It was the location of the first and second temples, and it is the place another Father offered His only Son as a “guiding pillar” to cleanse the entire world.

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Mt. Moriah

Mt. of Olives

Zechariah 8

The background of the slide features a warm, golden sunset sky with soft clouds. In the foreground, the silhouettes of three children are visible against the bright light. One child on the left is jumping with arms raised. Another child in the center is walking or running. A third child on the right is also walking. The overall mood is joyful and hopeful.

⁴ “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, Each one with his staff in his hand ⁵Because of great age. The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.’

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- **Does this sound familiar?...**(Isaiah describes the exact same conditions and time that Zechariah references here – the Millennial Kingdom. This will be a close to ideal place and time, as the King of Kings will be on His throne.
- *“No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days. For the youth will die at a hundred years, But one who misses the mark of a hundred must be accursed. They will build houses and inhabit them.” ➡*

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They will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build and another inhabit, nor plant and another eat. For like the days of a tree, so will be the days of My people, and My chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain nor bear children for calamity. For they are the offspring of those blessed by ADONAI, as well as descendants with them. And it will come to pass that before they call, I will answer, and while they are still speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together. The lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain," says ADONAI." (Isaiah 65:20-25)

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- As this message comes through to Zechariah from YHVH, He is using precision language to say exactly what He will do, and what will happen. **This is not pie in the sky wishful thinking.**
- This is the Commander of the Universe stating what **WILL happen**. There are no maybe's here. *Nothing altered by rituals or anything else.*

THIS WILL HAPPEN. Period.

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⁶ “Thus says the **YHVH Tsava’ot.** : ‘If it is marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, Will it also be marvelous in My eyes?’ Says **YHVH Tsava’ot.**

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- TLV reads like this: *“Thus says Adonai-Tzva’ot, ‘It may seem difficult in the eyes of the remnant of this people in those days, but will it also be difficult in My eyes?’—it is a declaration of Adonai-Tzva’ot....”*
- The meaning? Although something like this, so magnificent and marvelous, may seem incredible or even impossible in the eyes of those alive at that time or any time, *does that mean it is too incredible or difficult for God?* Of course not? He has ordained it. **Nothing is impossible to Him.**

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- The delegation from Bethel were probably impressed by what they saw. Even though the people struggled to get the Temple and city walls, and their own homes rebuilt, there was probably a certain level of industrial productivity, increased prosperity, etc. happening in Jerusalem as the remnant was busy putting their lives back together.
- In the capital of Israel, there was a lot of stuff going on. But here God says essentially, “***you ain’t seen nothing yet!!***” He will perform all these things.