

ZECHARIAH

The Apocalypse of the Old Testament

Chapter 8, Part 2

Zechariah 8

- Continuation of chapter 7. Elohim's message is for EVERYONE, not just the delegation from Beth-El.
- Answer in 4 parts, each headed by the phrase:
“Then the word of the LORD came to Zechariah...”
- The **first message** 7:4-7. God challenged them to see if their hearts were right.
- **2nd message**: 7:8-14. God commands them to repent from their self-serving ways, and change how they live and respond to Him. Fathers made same mistakes, experienced Elohim's wrath.

Zechariah 8

- 3rd message, chapter 8, verses 1-17. Amazing news!...
- 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.
- People need to understand their rituals have no effect on His plans. His purposes are unchanged by any ritual, no matter how “right” it is.

Zechariah 8

- The TRUTH, whether some like it or not...**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- *Those who believe that God is through with Israel, that she has been replaced by the “Gentile church” cannot understand or even tolerate the book of Zechariah, or any of the prophets who foretold of Israel’s restoration.*
- **That’s because they believe a lie!**

Zechariah 8

And, once again, in case you didn't catch it before...

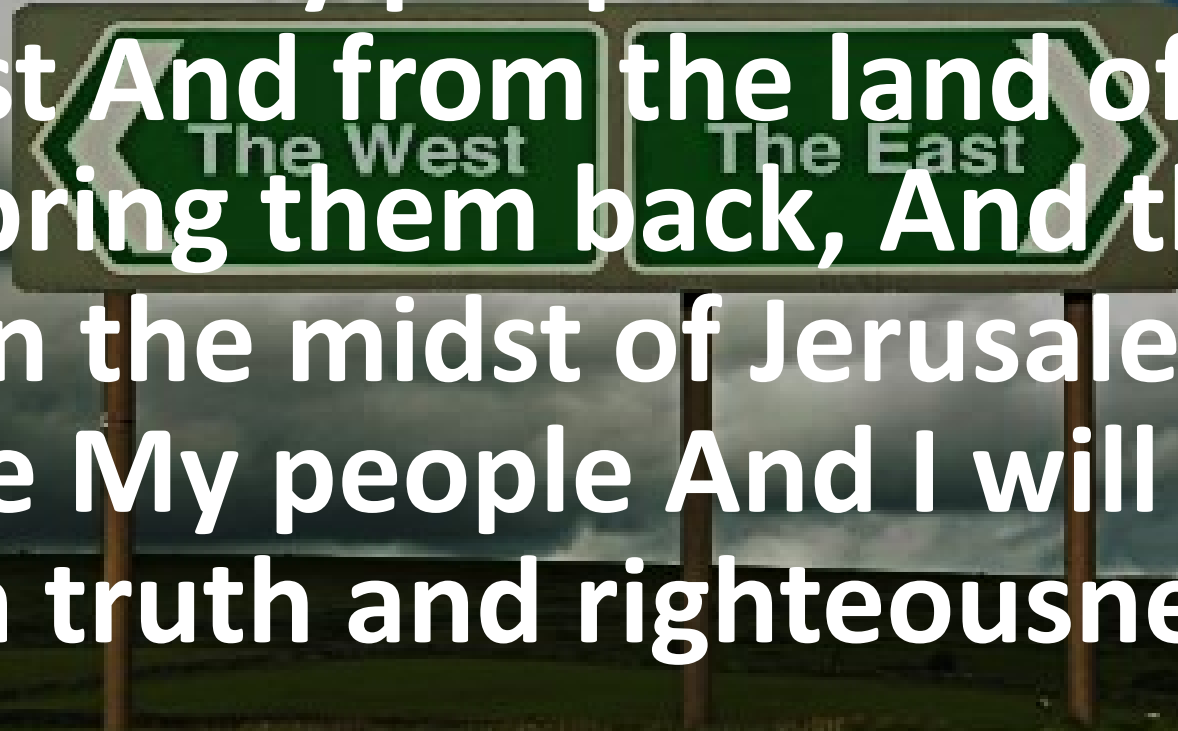
REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY IS A LIE!!

Replacement Theology:
The New Supersessionism



Zechariah 8

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.’



Zechariah 8

- This is yet one more prophetic word that underscores and affirms all the others in scripture about **God's promises to bring the people back to the land**, from all the places they have been (and will be) scattered.
- The northern kingdom (*Israel*) was scattered to the Gentile nations in 722 BC. Judah (*southern kingdom*) was scattered to Babylon, fragmented, and only a remnant returned.

Zechariah 8

- But the greatest scattering was yet to take place in 70 AD when **Rome destroyed the Temple again**, destroyed Jerusalem and took the survivors into slavery, selling them to the ends of the earth.
- Almost every OT prophet included some statement about the return of Israel to her land. It is a consistent and prevalent theme throughout.
- But here YHVH Tsava'ot goes further. They will not only return to the land, **they will return to Elohim**, and He will return to them.

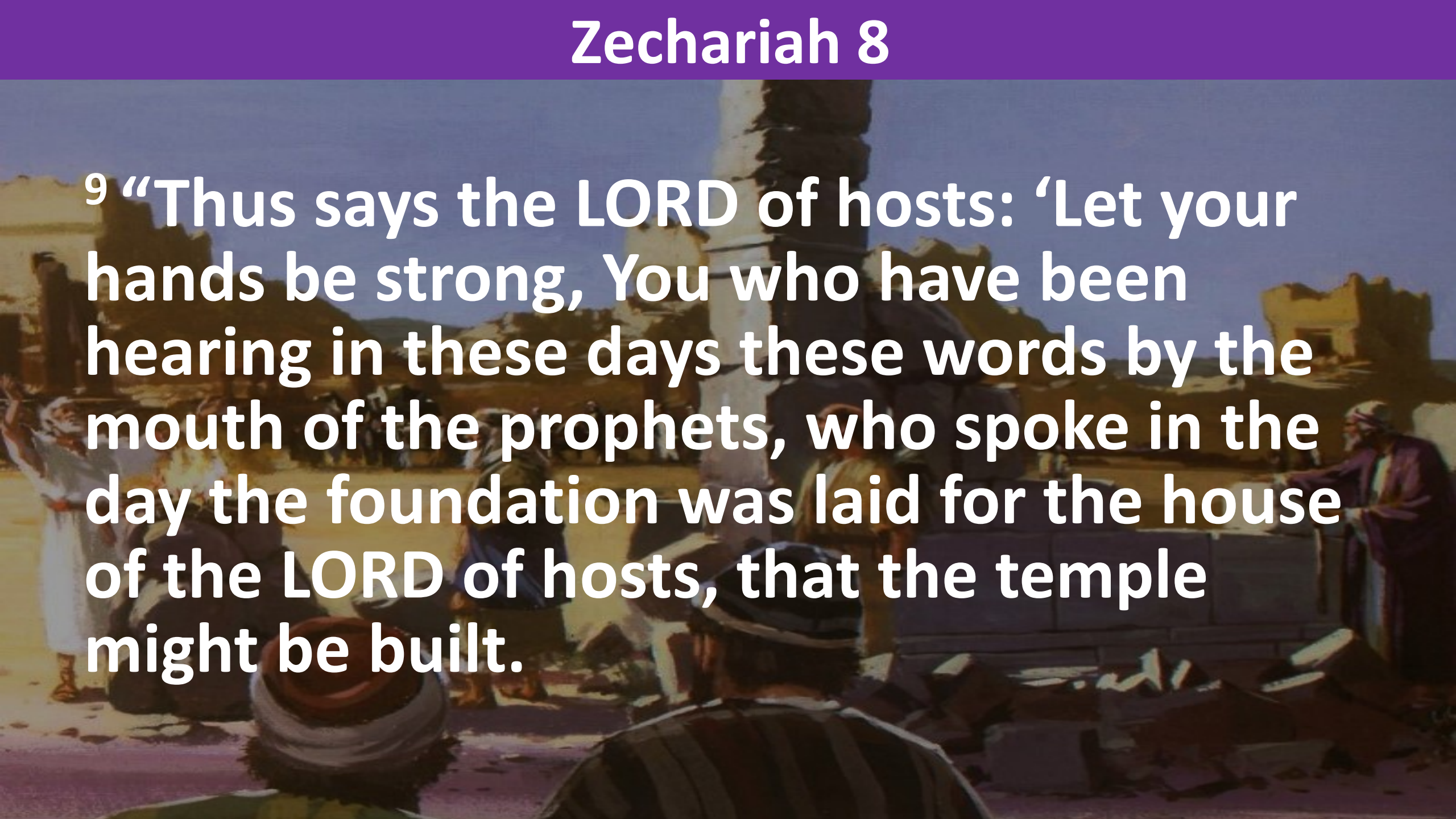
Zechariah 8

- They will recognize Him as not only their God, but also their Savior and Messiah. They will see Yeshua!

COMMENTARY: *“And I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.” They are not back there in truth today. They still deny the Lord Jesus Yeshua as their Messiah; they do not accept Him. I am amazed how little reference there is to God in that land today; in fact, there is practically nil. The leaders of Israel say less about God than anybody else... However, in the Kingdom Age God “will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.” And “righteousness” means that things are going to be made right. (McGee)*

Zechariah 8

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.



Zechariah 8

- The prophets spoken of here are **Haggai and Zechariah**, *that we know of*. YHVH is speaking of those who were charged to bring His message to the people as they regathered in the land, and sought the long and arduous projects of rebuilding the city, the temple, and their lives. It has not been easy... God affirms that and indicates He understands.
- ***“Let your hands be strong...that the temple might be built”*** is an exhortation to continue in these efforts, especially in getting the temple rebuilt.

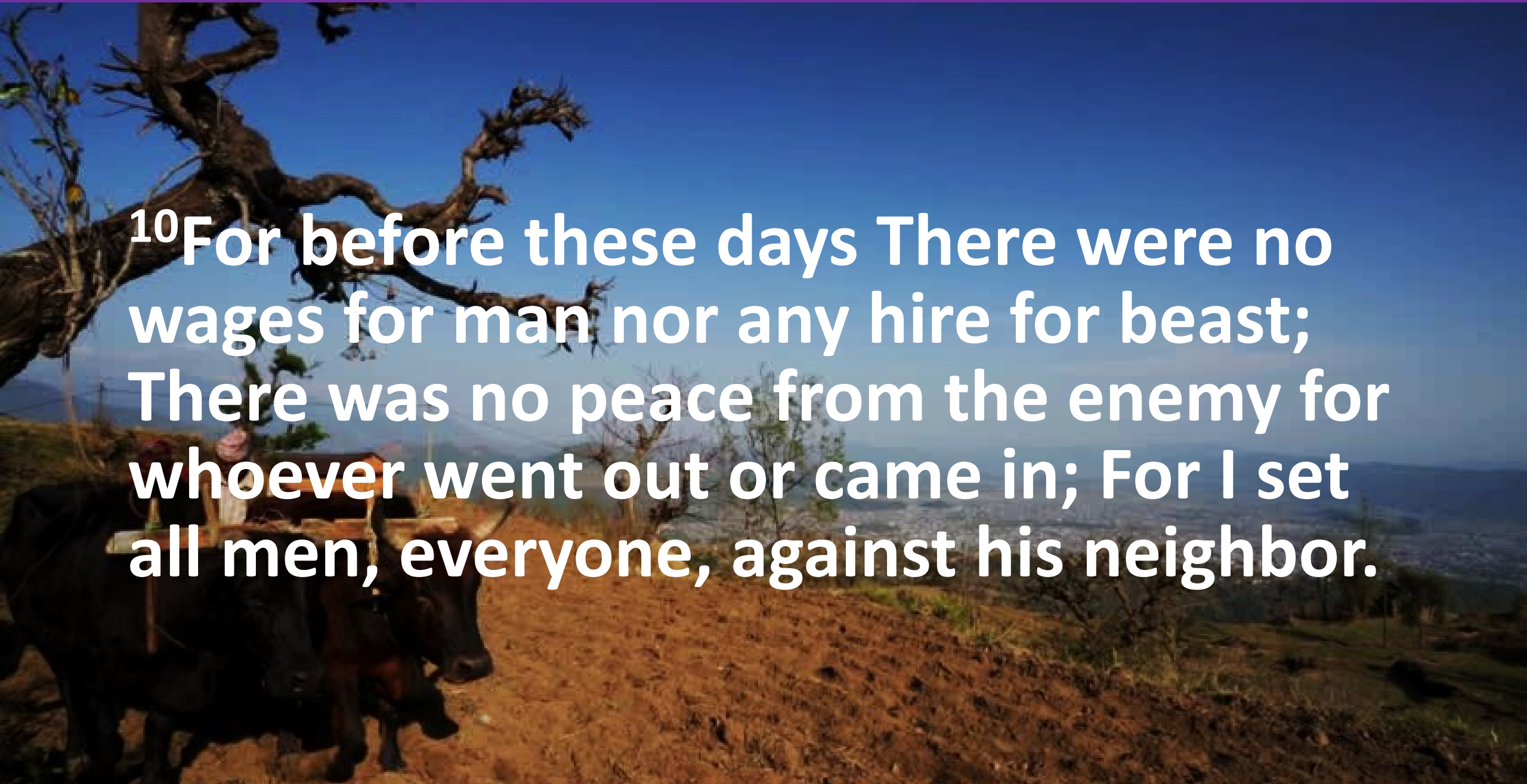
Zechariah 8

- But it isn't so much about building a building. It is more about rebuilding their lives around God and the Temple represents His presence among them. It is a visual reminder.



Zechariah 8

¹⁰For 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.



Zechariah 8

- As the people trickled back into the land, and while they were in captivity and before, unemployment was a serious issue. There were no jobs, no income, no place to live, and no peace from their enemies.
- Without city walls, they could not live in safety, and the Word tells us that their **enemies harassed them mercilessly**. It was a daily challenge to stay focused on rebuilding the temple.
- But God says these things described how it WAS. **He understood how hard it was for them.**

Zechariah 8

- But now things were changing. The rebuilding was well underway. Jobs were available and even the beasts were put to work. He tells them to **look at these things and take heart.**
- The last statement here, ***“For I set all men, everyone, against his neighbor”*** is interesting. Elohim seems to be taking responsibility for this lack of peace among people, at a particular time (*“back then” before and during captivity, initial return, etc.*).

Zechariah 8

- When their forefathers were rebellious, God set the people against each other, in order to bring judgment on both Israel and Judah.
- And over the intervening years He continued this *perhaps for another reason.*
- Many speculate that this was God's way of **preserving the land and this city in particular for His people.** Many tried to come in and take over the land, even rogue Jews. But God would not allow it.

Zechariah 8

- This has also been seen at other times in history as the land of Israel lay desolate, and other empires, powers and peoples have tried to tame it and make it their own. But they have not been able to.
- Droughts, sandstorms, and other seemingly “natural” events and situations have caused this land to remain empty...then, and even 100 years ago, when He brought His people back to stay. **He was the one who kept this area as a place of unrest, until HIS people moved back.** **He is Sovereign!**

Zechariah 8

- But even then, their enemies harassed them, as they still do. But they were able to persevere, rebuild the temple and the city and remain strong with God's help.
- The history of the Jews is miraculous. The mere existence of the Jews today is beyond all odds.
The Jews, and especially today the nation of Israel, are clear evidence there is a God!

Zechariah 8

¹¹‘But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days,’ says the LORD of hosts. 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. ¹³And it shall come to pass That just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, So I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. Do not fear, Let your hands be strong.’

Zechariah 8

- “But now” Elohim says, He will treat them differently. He will cause their crops to grow and He will send the rains needed for prosperity. He speaks directly to the “remnant” – those who have returned to the land.
- **Haggai also promised** these things with a word from God, but Haggai’s message also promised a glorious future that is reserved for the reign of Messiah:

Zechariah 8

⁶ “For thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; ⁷ and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,’ says the LORD of hosts. ⁸ ‘The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,’ says the LORD of hosts. ⁹ ‘The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘And in this place I will give peace,’ says the LORD of hosts.” (Haggai 2:6-9)

Zechariah 8

- The “latter temple” as Haggai spoke is in fact the second temple, *the one they were rebuilding*. And even though Herod undertook a massive renovation of this temple, it was still the one to whom the Messiah came. **HE is what made that temple of “greater glory” than Solomon’s temple.**
- And while Israel has had moments of peace, lasting peace has been elusive. That is because real peace, just like real truth, cannot come until the **Prince of Peace (*Sar Shalom*)** reigns there.

Zechariah 8

- These things have not yet happened, *but will during the Millennium.*
- Note here in Zechariah's word from Elohim that it is addressed to **BOTH Judah and the "house of Israel."** This word applies not only to the remnant of Judah, but the remnant of ALL Israel.
- Israel has not yet been the blessing promised here to all nations. At least not the blessing God has in mind. *But Israel IS a blessing in many ways.*

Zechariah 8

- This promise also refers to the fact that the Messiah will come to Jerusalem in the flesh, and offer up Himself as the acceptable sacrifice that will indeed be a blessing to all nation
- The final *salvation* of Israel will not come until “***they look upon Me (aleph-tav!) whom they have pierced...***” (*prophesied in Zechariah 12:10-14*)
- The final *fulfillment* of these words will not come until the **Messiah returns in glory and takes His throne**, bringing His shalom and making Jerusalem the City of Truth again.

Zechariah 8

COMMENTARY: *Anti-Semitism is growing again throughout the world. God says, "When I save them and bring them back to that land, they are going to be a blessing to the world." I believe that the nation of Israel will be the priests for the gentile nations of the earth. They will stand between God and the gentile nations during the Millennium. (McGee)*

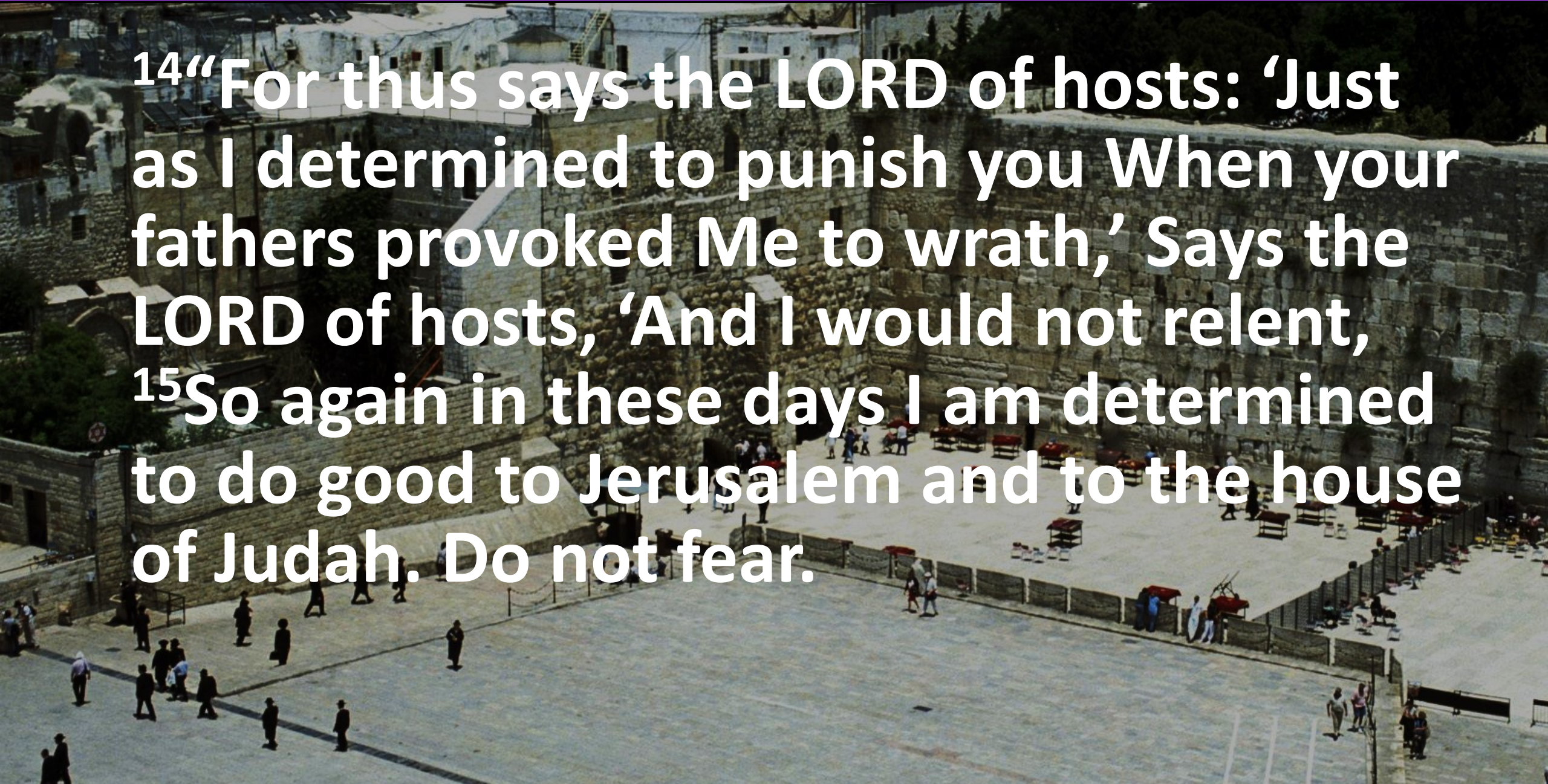
Zechariah 8

- So once again the people must be strong, and continue their work rebuilding the temple, because what God plans to do there will indeed bless all nations.
- He provided the sacrifice that would save all people, not just Israel. **That part is done.** But the completion of these prophecies is still in the future.



Zechariah 8

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,
15So again in these days I am determined to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Do not fear.



Zechariah 8

- **God's promises are not empty.** They are "bankable." And even though it didn't happen in their time, *it will.* (*What does that say to us??*)
- He says that He "determined" to punish them (*their fathers*)...the word for *determined* is *zamam*, which means to plan or plot, especially evil. **It was all part of His plan.** These were *not random* accidents or calamities. Just as He planned evil for them when they provoked Him, He plans good for them ultimately.

Zechariah 8

- Both the bad and the good He will bring, and has brought, on Israel are part of his perfect purpose, and will be done. **He does not relent or change.**
- Even though complete fulfillment has not happened yet, and certainly did not happen in the lives of the people who received this Word from Elohim, **this encouragement served to motivate the people to continue working hard, for their futures and for future generations.**

Zechariah 8

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; ¹⁷Let 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.”

TRUTH

Zechariah 8

- These people needed to hear the words of James when he said *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* (James 1:22). Even here, back from the captivity, their hard hearts were focused on their own rituals, not God’s Word.
- Once again God **provides guidelines for good behavior, acceptable behavior to Him**. He expects us to live in a certain way that pleases Him. Again, He tells them things they already knew, or should have known.

Zechariah 8

- He says:
 1. **Speak truthfully**
 2. **Always judge fairly, with truth, justice and peace**
 3. **Don't think about anyone in an evil way**
 4. **Don't love lies.**
- Note there are two positive actions, and **two warnings about negative actions**. God says he hates the two negative actions: plotting evil and loving lies.

Zechariah 8

- This is something these people struggled with even with Yeshua walked the earth, among them, in the flesh. It is why they missed His first coming. *They loved their own plans and lies to achieve their lusts more than God.*
- **We** should also pay attention to these words. Not only do they provide guidelines for how to live pleasingly for Him, they tell us plainly what He loves, and what He hates.

Zechariah 8

- We are made in His image, redeemed by Him for His purposes. To serve Him right, **we must LOVE what He loves, and HATE what He hates** – in our lives and our world.
- *This should startle those who do not support Israel.* God has made it clear in many places and many ways, that even though Israel (*both houses of Israel and Judah*) disobeyed Him, He still loves them and **is still in covenant with them.**

GOD
CANNOT
LIE

TITUS 1:2

Zechariah 8

- He has made amazing promises to Israel that are being fulfilled even as we speak. That alone is reason enough to love Israel.
- We may not love everything the reborn nation does today, but we must love Israel as the chosen covenant people of God. God. **We are not on God's side if we don't.**



Zechariah 8

- **So what exactly are the things that God hates?**
WE should hate them too. The following are things scripture says “God hates...”
 1. Homosexual acts (Leviticus 18:22).
 2. Bestiality (Leviticus 18:23)
 3. Idols, and the materials used to make idols (Deuteronomy 7:25)
 4. Blemished sacrifices (Deuteronomy 17:1)
 5. Worshipping the sun, moon or stars (Deuteronomy 17:3-4)

God HATES...

Zechariah 8

6. Divination (Deuteronomy 18:10)
7. Astrology (Deuteronomy 18:10)
8. Enchanters (Deuteronomy 18:10)
9. Witches (Deuteronomy 18:10)
10. Charmers (Deuteronomy 18:11)
11. Wizards (Deuteronomy 18:11)
12. Necromancers (Deuteronomy 18:11)
13. Transvestitism (Deuteronomy 22:5)
14. The hire of a whore (Deuteronomy 23:18)

God HATES...

Zechariah 8

15. Remarriage to a former wife after she has been married to another man (Deuteronomy 24:4)
16. Dishonest scales (Deuteronomy 25:13-16)
(cheating for gain)
17. Workers of iniquity (Psalm 5:5)
18. The wicked (Psalm 11:5)
19. Those who love violence (Psalm 11:5)
20. The froward *(perverse)* (Proverbs 3:32)
21. A proud look (Proverbs 6:16-17) *(pride)*

God HATES...

Zechariah 8

- 22. A lying tongue (Proverbs 6:17)
- 23. Hands that shed innocent blood (Proverbs 6:17)
- 24. A heart that devises wicked imaginations
(Proverbs 6:18)
- 25. Feet that are swift in running to mischief
(Proverbs 6:18)
- 26. A false witness who speaks lies (Proverbs 6:19)
- 27. Anyone who sows discord among brethren
(Proverbs 6:19)
- 28. Lying lips (Proverbs 12:22)

God HATES...

Zechariah 8

- 29. The sacrifices of the wicked (Proverbs 15:8)
- 30. The ways of the wicked (Proverbs 15:9)
- 31. The thoughts of the wicked (Proverbs 15:26)
- 32. The proud in heart (Proverbs 16:5)
- 33. Those who justify the wicked (Proverbs 17:15)
- 34. Those who condemn the just (Proverbs 17:15)
- 35. Vain sacrifices (Isaiah 1:13)
- 36. Feasts as Israel celebrated them (*rituals with a wrong heart*) (Isaiah 1:14, Amos 5:22)

God HATES...

Zechariah 8

- 37. Robbery for burnt offering (Isaiah 61:8)
- 38. Idolatry (Jeremiah 44:2-4)
- 39. Evil plans against neighbors (Zechariah 8:17)
- 40. False oaths (Zechariah 8:17)
- 41. Esau (Malachi 1:1-3; Romans 9:13)
- 42. Divorce (Malachi 2:14-16)
- 43. The deeds of the Nicolaitans (Rev 2:6, 15)

(Based on Joel Meredith's Book of Bible Lists)

God HATES...

Zechariah 8

What the Lord loves: *(only a partial list, but clearly stated in scripture)*

1. Israel (Deuteronomy 7:7-8. Isaiah 63:9, Jeremiah 31:3, 2 Chronicles 2:11, and so on...)
2. The Patriarchs, fathers of Israel (Deuteronomy 4:37)
3. Zion (Psalm 87:2) *(Israel, land of Israel)*
4. A just verdict *(judgment arrived at fairly)* (Isaiah 61:8, Psalm 37:28)

God LOVES...

Zechariah 8

5. Righteousness, right living before Him (Psalm 11:7, 33:5)
6. Those who practice rightness (*righteousness*) and pursue it (Psalm 146:8, Proverbs 15:9)
7. The whole world, all of mankind (John 3:16, 1 John 4:10) *and individuals* (Mark 10:21)
8. Those who keep His commandments (John 14:21)
9. A cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7)
10. The Son (John 10:17, 15:9, 17:26; Hosea 11:1)

God LOVES...

Zechariah 8

11. Those who love His Son (John 16:27)
 12. Sinners (Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:14, Ephesians 2:4-7; Hebrews 2:9; 1 John 4:9)
- It is never a waste of time to explore, know, and understand the things God hates, and things He loves. **It is a good reminder to us that we are to be “like-minded” with Him.**
 - Whenever we love something He hates, or we hate something He loves, we are out of alignment, and out of fellowship, with Him.

God LOVES...

Zechariah 8

- This 3rd message to Israel, as a result of the question asked by the delegation from Bethel, can be summarized as a firm promise that Israel will one day be restored, Jerusalem would be known as the City of Truth, and God Himself would dwell with them.
- The conditions during the **Millennial Kingdom** are described here, and confirmed by many other passages of scripture. He says don't be amazed.
Nothing is too hard for Him!

Zechariah 8

- And that is a message for today as well! We must continue building the Temple within (*nurturing our relationship with Him*) with the help of the Holy Spirit, and building up His Body.
- We must also “keep our hands busy” and live lives that please Him.

It is the same message we need!