

Zechariah 7:1-8:23

I will Return and Bless You

You might read these 8 messages in these visions like this; God has **destroyed** your enemies, **delivered** you from **exile**, **brought you back** to the city and the land. He is providing **comfort** and **assurance** to you His afflicted people that **His watchful eye** is **upon you**, and He will see to your **protection** from your enemies in a time of **peace**. He has **promised** that **His Temple** will be **rebuilt**, and **commissioned** you to **rebuild it**, so you can once again **worship Him** and His **presence** can **dwell among you**, and you can be **blessed and prosper**. So **get on** with the **work rebuilding the Temple** and to restore His **worship**, and attend to **your faithfulness** to His Covenant with you. All of these things would be accomplished by the power of His Spirit at work in them, and through His chosen **High Priest Joshua** and the **Davidic Prince Zerubbabel**. These visions not only had that **historical application** the them at that time, but the blessing and restoration that God promised in them become these great **shadows or types** of the **Messiah**, they are **Typological Prophecies** of **Jesus Christ** our Lord and the salvation that He brings now in the Kingdom of God.

Today's text brings these great lessons and promises to a **conclusion** by **summarizing** the **moral lessons** earlier stated, and also **reiterating** the **promises** that were made. Here the prophet is **calling** the **exiles** to **repentance** and true heartfelt worship in **chapter 7**, which concludes with a warning about **false religion**. Then in **chapter 8** **promising** them a great

future restoration and blessing for **Judah and Israel**, who will themselves **become a blessing** to many nations. These promises contain prophecies that have yet to even come to pass in history and look forward to a yet future day under the rule and salvation of Christ in His Kingdom.

The **main idea** of today's text then can be stated like this – Return to Me with true repentance and mourning for your sins and in obedience to My Word, then I will return to you and bring you back into the land and bless you and make you a blessing to others, and I will dwell among you and fill your lives with joy and prosperity.

This main idea is of course a reiteration of the purpose of the book which the prophet stated in chapter 1:3...

Zechariah 1:3 - "Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts,' **Return to Me**, "declares the Lord of hosts," **that I may return to you**, "says the Lord of hosts.

James 4:6-10 – 6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "**God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**" 7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. **10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.** NASB

A **brief list** of these **prophecies** would include Deuteronomy 4:25-31, Isaiah 11:10-12, Jeremiah 23:3-8, Ezekiel 11:14-21 as well as Ezekiel 36:22-37:23, and also in Joel 3:17-21, Zephaniah 3:18-20, to name just a few.

Israel/Judah and the New Covenant

Jeremiah 32:37-44

Jeremiah 32:37-44 - 37 "Behold, I will gather them out of all the lands to which I have driven them in My anger, in My wrath, and in great indignation; and I will bring them back to this place and make them dwell in safety. 38 "And they shall be My people, and I will be their God; 39 and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me always, for their own good, and for the good of their children after them. 40 "And I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me. 41 "And I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will faithfully plant them in this land with all My heart and with all My soul. 42 "For thus says the Lord, 'Just as I brought all this great disaster on this people, so I am going to bring on them all the good that I am promising them. 43 'And fields shall be bought in this land of which you say, "It is a desolation, without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans." 44 'Men shall buy fields for money, sign and seal deeds, and call in witnesses in the land of Benjamin, in the environs of Jerusalem, in the cities of Judah, in the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the lowland, and in the cities of the Negev; for I will restore their fortunes,' declares the Lord." NASB

← I will bring them back - Ingathering

← Israel/Judah – Not the Church

← In the Land of Judah

← Regeneration

← Restoration/ Blessing

← New Covenant

← Regeneration

← I will bring them back - Ingathering

← God's Oath

← Israel/Judah – Not the Church

← Restoration/ Blessing

← In the Land of Judah

Here's is an interesting fact for you. **Today's text** chapter **7:1-8:23** is also in the **form** of a **CHIASM**. Notice the bookends moving in toward the center.

- 7:1-3 – Delegation to pray before Yahweh: shall we continue?
- 7:4-7 – The fast
 - 7:8-10 – Call to righteous behavior
 - 7:11-14 – Refusal to obey and exile
 - 8:1-6, Yahweh's zeal for Zion
 - 8:7-15 – Regathering and restoration
 - 8:16-17 – Call to righteous behavior
 - 8:18-19 – The fast
- 8:20-23 – Delegation to pray before Yahweh: let us continue

See in this interesting CHIASM the **center emphasis** which is; **Yahweh's zeal for Zion!** Surely you can see how that is the theme of today's entire text, and this is what a **CHIASM** does, it shows us the **emphasis** of a text.

