

## **Zechariah 2:1-13 – I Will Dwell in Your Midst**

Zechariah chapter 1 contained the first 2 of 8 visions. In the first vision the earth was at rest. That was not good because the nations who harmed Israel needed to be judged. God promised that he would return to Jerusalem and that the temple and the city would be built. In the second vision, Zechariah saw four horns and four craftsmen. This vision was a confirmation that the nations which scattered Judah and Israel would be judged. Chapter 2 contains the 3<sup>rd</sup> vision and an oracle.

### **Read Zechariah 2:1-5.**

This section of verses contains the third of eight visions. In verse 1, what did Zechariah see? In Zechariah 1:16 God declared that “the measuring line would be stretched out over Jerusalem”. The “man” is not further identified as an angel, so the focus of the vision is on the action of the man and not on identifying the man. (2:1)

What did Zechariah ask the man? What was the man’s response to Zechariah? At this point, does it appear that the man’s intended action was good? (2:2)

In verse 3, the “angel who talked with me” was first introduced in the first vision in 1:9. Some commentators refer to this angel as the “interpreting angel”. Who else appeared in verse 3? (2:3)

In verse 4 there is some debate about who said what. Some versions directly say that the first angel told the second angel to run. Other versions directly say that the second angel told the first angel to run. What was the angel’s message to the man going to measure Jerusalem? What was the meaning of the message? Was this message fulfilled before Christ’s first advent? How was this message fulfilled or how will it be fulfilled? (2:4)

How does verse 5 relate to verse 4? What was the message in verse 5? What other passages of Scripture does this verse remind you of? See Exodus 13:21–22, Numbers 9:15–16, Revelation 21:2-3, 22. (2:5)

### **Read Zechariah 2:6-13.**

These eight verses contain an oracle. A vision is something that is seen. An oracle involves “spoken” words which are communicated by God to a prophet. It is often introduced by the words “thus says the Lord”. The oracle is given to a prophet to communicate God’s message to individuals, groups of people or nations. In verse 6, what phrase lets us know that this is an oracle and not a vision? What command did God give? What was the reason for the command? (2:6)

In verse 7, what command did God give? What is the meaning of verses 6 and 7? Does Babylon refer to the ancient city which is now located in Iraq or is it used figuratively of a world which is hostile to God? (2:6-7)

Verse 8 is a difficult verse. Many understand the verse to say that God sent Zechariah either physically to the nations or to speak judgments against the nations, but not in person. Some understand the verse to say that God sent an angel to the nations. Others understand the verse to say that God left Jerusalem and went to the nations. The “apple of his eye” is also a difficult phrase. The word translated as “apple” only occurs here in the OT. Most understand it to literally apply to the pupil of the eye. It is then understood figuratively as “the apple” of the eye. (2:8)

In verse 9, what did God promise to do? (2:9)

What command did God give in verse 10? What was the basis for this command? (2:10)

“I will dwell in your midst” occurs in both verses 10 and 11. In verse 11, what did God say would happen? How was this fulfilled or how will it be fulfilled? (2:11)

In verse 12, what did God say he would do? How was this important for the people building the temple? (2:12)

What command was given in verse 13? (2:13)