Future Hope
Zechariah 8:1-23

The contents of chapter 8 will never appear on a popular news channel. It's full of the priorities of God. It is full of good news.

We need future hope. We need a hope that isn't based on wishful thinking.

10 hopeful statements from God himself. This is what the LORD Almighty says.

To understand them we need to know something about Jerusalem. Jerusalem is either a *special place* or a *special people*. The physical city and the redeemed people of God.

Originally Zion referred to the fortress on a hill in Jerusalem. See 2 Samuel 5:6-7. As well as being a physical place, Jerusalem also becomes a way of speaking about the redeemed people of God: See Isaiah 40:1-2, 52:1-3, Hebrews 12:18-24 and Revelation 21:1-27.

There are layers of application in Zechariah chapter 8. The *immediate*, *long-term* and *ultimate* applications.

1. God is jealous for Jerusalem (Vs 1-2)

God has a passionate love for the place and the people.

Jerusalem was the place where the promises of redemption were fulfilled. The Lord will provide on Mount Moriah - see Genesis 22:14. Jesus set his face towards Jerusalem - see Luke 9:51.

God has a burning desire for his people. He is not disinterested.

2. God will return to Jerusalem (Vs 3)

When will God return? Immediate? Long-term? Jesus. Holy Spirit. Ultimate? Perfect presence. Faithful City and Holy Mountain. God's presence does this.

3. **Jerusalem will be full of life (Vs 4-5)**

There are mixed ages. There is fullness of life.

4. **Jerusalem's future is determined by God (Vs 6)**

None of this happens by accident but by God's intervention.

5. **Saved people will live in Jerusalem (Vs 7-8)**

Saved people will be part of Jerusalem.

6. **Jerusalem will be a blessing to the nations (Vs 9-13)**

There is to be an outward direction for the people of God. Blessing received is not to be kept to ourselves.

7. **Jerusalem will be full of truth (Vs 14-17)**

The God of truth wants his people to be full of truth.

8. **Jerusalem will enjoy lots of feasting (Vs 18-19)**

Fasting will turn into feasting.

9. **Jerusalem will be multinational (Vs 20-22)**

Many nations will be part of this. Let's invite many people.

10. **Jerusalem will contain Jew and Gentile (Vs 23)**

The Gentiles haven't replaced the Jews. By faith in the Jewish Messiah we are united as one people. See Ephesians 2:14-18.

Let's rejoice at this good news! Let's be part of the story.