Zechariah 2:1-5

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Zechariah 2:1–5*** (ESV)  
**1** And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand! **2** Then I said, “Where are you going?” And he said to me, “To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length.” **3** And behold, the angel who talked with me came forward, and another angel came forward to meet him **4** and said to him, “Run, say to that young man, ‘Jerusalem shall be inhabited as villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and livestock in it. **5** And I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares YHWH, and I will be the glory in her midst.’ ”

1. These verses begin Zechariah’s Third Vision. Let’s remember the context:  
   a) Summarize the main point of the, Introduction, Zech 1:-1-6.  
   b) Summarize the main point of the First Vision, Zech 1:7-17.  
   c) Summarize the main point of the Second Vision, Zech 1:18-21.

Introduction – **REPENT.** Don’t be like your ancestors. Repent… turn back to YHWH and obey his Torah. When you do, He will turn back to you as well.

First vision – **YHWH will return to His people!** YHWH’s people should be encouraged, because He will rebuild His city and His land, and dwell there with His people again. And prosperity will return to all the cities of the land.

Second vision – **YHWH will punish the nations!** God knows His people have been suffering under the hands of others. But a time is coming for punishment of those nations. Your sufferings have not gone unnoticed. The abuses will be paid for. Take heart, be encouraged, for I am your God.

1. When was “measuring line” in 2:1 previously discussed in Zechariah? How is this vision linked to the prior one?

In 1:16 the words of YHWH say that there will come a day when the measuring line will be stretched over Jerusalem. This prophesy seems to give more details of what will happen at that time.

Often prophesy builds upon, or further expands upon previous prophesy. It is often not sequential, but rather repetitive, giving further detail with each repetition.

1. Who are all “the players” in this vision? Are any the same, or all they all different?

Zechariah  
The angel who talked with Zechariah  
The man with the measuring line  
Another angel (one with a message from YHWH)  
YHWH who gives words to the angel for all to hear

They seem to be all different, as made clear in 2:3.

1. What was the man going to measure? What did that have to do with the city walls? Why do you think the angel said to “run” to the man with the measuring line and give him the message?

He was measuring the width and length of the city. This would be the same as measuring the location of the city walls. The message to him was there were no walls to measure! There were too many people to be walled. Furthermore, there was no need for walls.

1. Why did ancient cities have walls around them? What is the reason given that Jerusalem would be as a “village without walls”?

Walls provided an enclosure of safety where all the people and their animals could live. No walls were to be around Jerusalem because there were too many people and animals.

1. Why would a living in a village without walls be of great concern to people living then? What reason were they given not to worry?

They would be open to attack. Walls were for protection. But YHWH would be their protection.

1. YHWH says he will be a “wall of fire” for His people. What does this mean? When was YHWH seen as fire before? Look at Dt 5:4, Num 11:1-3; 1 Kings 18:38, 2 Kings 1:12, Ezek 21:31, Ezek 22:21, Ezek 22:31, Zeph 1:18, Zeph 3:8.

***Deuteronomy 5:4*** (ESV)  
**4** The Lord spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the midst of the fire,

“fire of my wrath”, “fire of YHWH”, “fire of God”, “fire of my jealousy” – YHWH will destroy with fire. So a “wall of fire” will protect those within, and punish / destroy those who try and attack His people.

1. Still on the topic of “wall of fire”, recall the situation after the Exodus, when the people spent 40 years in the desert (Exodus 13:21-22 and Numbers 9:15-16). Then also look at Isaiah 4:2-6 which is another section of prophesy concerning the end times.

***Exodus 13:21–22*** (ESV)  
**21** And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. **22** The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

***Numbers 9:15–16*** (ESV)  
**15** On the day that the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony. And at evening it was over the tabernacle like the appearance of fire until morning. **16** So it was always: the cloud covered it by day and the appearance of fire by night.

***Isaiah 4:5–6*** (ESV)  
**5** Then the Lord will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy. **6** There will be a booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

In the past, YHWH led his people in the wilderness with a pillar of cloud and fire. In the future (the end times) He will again show his presence this same way. YHWH is seen as fire. He makes his presence known as fire. He will protect (and destroy) with the fire of His presence.

1. YHWH says he will be glory in the midst of His people? What does this mean? Again, think back to the 40 years in the desert. What was the sign of his glory? Specifically where was his glory seen?

He will live among them, as he did before when his glory filled the holy of holies in the Temple. His fire upon the holy of holies was the sign of His glory. Moses would glow after being in His presense.

1. Given the condition of Jerusalem at the time, what would people think when they heard the message of Zech 2:4 ?

Hard to imagine! No need for walls? So large?? Multitude of people of livestock in such a place of desolation? This would have been more than any would have dared to dream!

1. Always look for repetitive words, phrases and themes in prophetic books. There are several phrases / themes in this passage that are similar to what we have already encountered in Zechariah. Find where the following are linked to (or allude to) phrases from Chapter 1, and also state if anything new is being told to us in each case:

* the angel who spoke to me (2:3)

As in 1:9 and 1:19 ; indicating continuity of these visions

* measuring line (2:1)

Amplification of the prior vision from 1:16; we are now given more detail of this event, such as a village without walls, with YHWH being her protection like a wall of fire.

* He will dwell in your midst (2:10)

Same as in 1:16 where His house shall be built in Jerusalem; we are now explicitly told He will dwell in their midst

* multitude of people and livestock (2:4)

Same as prosperity will return in 1:17. What does that prosperity look like? Many people and livestock!

* He will plunder the nations (2:9)

Cast down the horns of the nations in 1:21. But we are now told that His people will plunder them!

* He people are the “apple of his eye) (2:8)

He is jealous for his people (1:14) and will comfort them (1:17). This tells us more of His feelings – that His people are **very precious** to Him.

* He will again choose Jerusalem (2:12)

Same as in 1:17. The other phrases above give more definition to what this looks like.

1. Summarize the message of this prophesy. What would it have meant to the people hearing it?

YHWH will be rebuild the city like never before. It will be filled with people so walls cannot contain it. It will be prosperous and powerful… they will plunder the nations that have plundered them. And they will have the protection and presence of YHWH.

This would be a huge encouragement to the people. Something really big is going to happen. We could be a part of it. It should cause them to become serious about their purpose and calling.

1. Has this prophesy happened yet? Often prophesy is fulfilled partly in the near future, and more fully at a later date. What part of this prophesy was fulfilled shortly after Zechariah’s time? (Hint – research about the Maccabean Revolt.)

Israel conquered the Selucid (Greek empire) in 167 BC. The temple was rebuilt and even expanded under Herod the Great. Jerusalem became a thriving city again.

But not everything was fulfilled. This glory was short lived. The final and ultimate fulfillment is yet to come.

1. How do we see ourselves in this passage? What does Yahuah want you to learn about HIM? What does He want you to learn about YOURSELF?