

Richard Todd Merz serving Christ meaning maturing each day / this occurs through study and then living!! Scripture, the most accurate book on the planet written over 1,500 years by an approximate (give or take a few per the dictionary) 40 authors [MOD 1 applied January 16, 2022]

APPLIED FORMAT
ZECHARIAH CHAPTER 8

Scripture passage included then commentary underneath each verse King James Version (KJV)

Verse (1): Again the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying,

Need to start this off from the heart of God. God provides explicit Guarantees to only the obedient in Jerusalem (Henry, 2008). This is critical because God ordered the prophet to change his approach to encourage the obedient of what will occur (Henry, 2008).

- 1. God will restore Jerusalem (Henry, 2008). Great Guarantee.**
- 2. God will make Jerusalem wealthy, successful, of upright reputation, and be reversed from the past (Henry, 2008). So, reform to be ready to receive the blessing where mercy should supersede the fast (Henry, 2008). So, convert from the fast to thanksgiving to turn fasts into festivals (Henry, 2008). Great Guarantee.**

Matthew 6:16 fasting is not a duty of itself as the more tightly held to a duty the greater the loss, but is used to ride of other duties and can be as simple as just one day but can be more and it is cautioned not to put timetables on it (Henry, 2008). It is to be done when God calls upon it (the human Church denomination was not in this discussion) or when the soul requires it (Henry, 2008). However, fasting in this verse is discussed as especially private with no set timetable of when it should be done as a highly valued act of personal worship - some did it frequently and some very seldomly (Henry, 2008).

Henry, Matthew. (2008). *Matthew henry's commentary on the whole bible*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers Marketing, LLC

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Verse (2): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury.

God retains the right to change His treatment in that God changed His mind concerning those who repent and turn from sin or those that are unrepentant – so God is consistent in the mind but humanities free will is treated differently based on repentance – Got Questions helped me best understand this issue (Got Questions, January 16, 2023). God changes His mind from humanity being His enemy to humanity being His beloved sons of the highest God in either unrepentance or repentance.

Got Questions. (January 16, 2023), “Does God change His mind.”
<https://www.gotquestions.org/God-change-mind.html>

Take this back to the verse, God has either a “Great Jealousy or a Great Fury.

Verse (3): Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

Note: The Will of God is amid everything. This then is the power of the Spirit of God.

Causation: The truth of God will be in Jerusalem.

Contesting: The Word of God is contested because of what is at stake. Eternal life, nothing less. The freedom of God’s Word had to be contested for by God in the flesh in God the Son. The Word of God is multiplied in the contesting and is not by any means diminished. Even Nations that oppose God’s Word, still cannot make the Word of God any less. Nations are Wise to enable God’s Word.

God used the words “Will and Shall” - strong language to accentuate the point that truth will and shall be solidified. When God returns the second time, God will not be a babe in a manager, God will rule and reign.

There will be a day when Jerusalem possess truth, honesty, and a profound calmness and will greatly increase in number (Henry, 2008).

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Verse (4): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age.

God uses the term “...old men and old women...” to demonstrate that the old in Jerusalem will live full days and will not be cut off because of their own lifestyle or Anger of God with support in the staff viewed as unashamed – so natural, full lifecycle will be the norm (Henry, 2008).

Henry, Matthew. (2008). Matthew Henry’s commentary on the whole bible. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers Marketing, LLC

This faithfulness is not only recognized in life but also in eternity – it carries over. Faith is displayed differently in life person to person and God honors the faith that is expressed rather than faith that is suppressed by the individual. Jerusalem shall be filled with the spirit of God in the elderly.

Verse (5): And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof.

The Godly Nation that upholds the freedom of Scripture shall be JOINED generation to generation (Henry, 2008).

Henry, Matthew. (2008). Matthew Henry’s commentary on the whole bible. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers Marketing, LLC

Verse (6): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts.

Notice how God is circular. If it pleases the JOINT Remnant found in Verse (4) and Verse (5), then it shall also please God. Really what this represents is Balance. Balance brings God-like obedient existence as opposed to the divisions that deeply entangle a Nation. Verse (4) and Verse (5) is where the Joining occurs and is expected of God. **Jerusalem will have the best demographics and the old and the young shall abide in fullness of the blessing of God in the natural of days and safety as the societal norm.**

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Verse (7): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country;

Notice even further. God will save His people from the East to the West Country. The indication is that the East and West do not follow the generational jointness God lays out. God will separate and deliver His people from the East and the West or any other Nation – all those who return to Holy City of Jerusalem shall be saved and blessed (Henry, 2008).

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God is gearing up to judge the Nations of those who will and will not be saved. See Matthew 25:32. The Nations – separation of the sheep from the goats.

What seems impossible for man, is possible for God (Henry, 2008).

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Verse (8): And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.

Notice even more that the truth is always in the midst. Jerusalem is where God's Joint will be found in truth and in righteousness. Therefore, it is most plausible that the United States is the caretaker of Joint as the Nation expressed in Scripture that upholds the freedom of Scripture especially since Israel is God's Joint. Revelation 12:13-17.

Verse (9): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Let your hands be strong, ye that hear in these days these words by the mouth of the prophets, which were in the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built.

The truth of God resided in the strong hands of those called to lay the cornerstone of the Lord's House who heard the truth of God from the prophets that, in turn, will build the temple of God.

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Verse (10): For before these days there was no hire for man, nor any hire for beast; neither was there any peace to him that went out or came in because of the affliction: for I set all men every one against his neighbour.

Before the rebuilt Joint, the Old Joint was laid bare exposed by God almighty. Joint was a title without any real fruit. A mask set before the people. God kept unto himself a Joint remnant who would be faithful to be the cornerstone of true Joint. Jerusalem is God's Joint.

Verse (11): But now I will not be unto the residue of this people as in the former days, saith the LORD of hosts.

God was amid rebuilding Joint unto the Joint remnant not the Old Joint. Joint will be prosperous in Verse (12) causing the Joint remnant to have all these things. This is not a blind "all these things" but a responsible "all these things" displayed – keeping the honest, honest. The Joint remnant is the obedient remnant from which true fruit was and is found and the reason God kept the Joint remnant unto Himself. Again, the rebuilding comes from the rebuilt Joint not the Old Joint.

Verse (12): For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.

Notice: there are 4 "Shall" statements in Verse (12).

The seed Shall be prosperous.

The vine Shall give fruit.

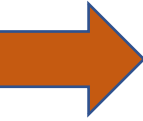
The ground Shall give increase.

The heaves Shall give dew.

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Verse (13): And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong.



Among the unfaithful Old Joint, the true Rebuilt Joint was cursed. But God indicates, fear not let your hands be strong and Judah and Israel will be saved and shall be a blessing. True Joint will be and shall be a blessing unto the generations (many).

But now, they shall be just a prosperous as they were cursed and God will place honor upon them (Henry, 2008)

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Verse (14): For thus saith the LORD of hosts; As I thought to punish you, when your fathers provoked me to wrath, saith the LORD of hosts, and I repented not:

God thought to punish all because of the Old Joint, but God indicated that His provoking unto wrath was held off because of the Rebuilt faithful Joint. The Old Joint did not repent, but were punished. The Rebuilt Joint is to be a blessing for the generations (many).

Verse (15): So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah: fear ye not.

God thought again to bless the Rebuilt Joint unto Jerusalem and Judah to fear not.

God made the determination to bless – literally from God Threatening to God Blessing (Henry, 2008)

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Verse (16): These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:

Truth is the key. This is a shall. This brings about peace knowing that right was carried out in true judgment not taking away from nor adding to. Peace is a shall so truth must be found. This is not affiliation driven, it is truth driven.

Verse (17): And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD.

Do not bear false testimony nor imagine such falseness against anyone. The Lord hates these matters.

Verse (18): And the word of the LORD of hosts came unto me, saying,

With the rules of life and business, then the word of God came.

As a carryover from Verse (16) and Verse (17), the Rebuilt Joint even got to do the same duty as the former Old Joint, just the right way - again from Threatening to Blessing (Henry, 2008). Here in Verse (18) is the happy place of superseding the ritual of the fast in favor of the conversion to the thanksgiving days (Henry, 2008). See Verse (1).

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Verse (19): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be to the house of Judah joy and gladness, and cheerful feasts; therefore love the truth and peace.

The fasting occurring during specified times in this verse was not for ceremony, but for worship – notice the change/conversion from ritual to instead joy, gladness, and cheerful feasts. Although, you may also submit to the restraints of the fast (a private matter of faith) that will share in the triumph of the feasts (Henry, 2008). See Verse (1).

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Love, truth, and peace is the message in Zechariah Chapter 8.

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Verse (20): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities:

This includes men of business from many cities and keen citizens (Henry, 2008).

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This is not limited, but rather it expounds greatly to embrace many.

Verse (21): And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also.

The spirit of God multiplied rapidly as the people began to understand and see the truth of prayer. No one can do all things, but in prayer impossible things can be accomplished only by the grace of God.

Verse (22): Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.

It is the complicated and the simple made workable to enhance the truth of God's Word. Not everyone wants the complicated and not everyone wants the simple. Herein lies the blend to reach more. It is the complicated working together with the simple and reaches more souls for God Almighty.

Not everyone wants to study pages and pages of pertinent information on one verse of Scripture – too complicated. Not everyone wants to study one or two paragraphs on one verse – too simple. Rather it is the grace of God working amongst to reach more souls for God. Glory be to God.

Key: Many people and strong Nations "Shall" seek the LORD as a result.

Verse (23): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.

In those days, Ten men from different Nations, grab hold of ALL languages, will go with the Jew because they heard God is with them (Henry, 2008). The Great Joint Blend of verse (22).

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