

June 16, 2019

Zechariah 1 – 2

God Keeps His Promises

Do you keep your promises? Most of us consider ourselves to be honest people, so we take pride in doing what we have promised. Some folks, however, are not known for keeping their word. A promise from such a person is worthless because they will not do what they promise.

Promises are only as good as the person making them. Promises from a liar are meaningless, but promises from a trustworthy person give you confidence. God is trustworthy and honest; you can depend on Him to always keep His word.

The book of Zechariah contains many different promises. There are promises concerning the people who were Zechariah's contemporaries, promises about the coming of Jesus Christ, and even promises concerning the end of time. God always keeps His promises, so read on to learn about some promises for the future.

Zech. 1:1 The date was October or November of 520 B.C., between Haggai's third and fourth messages.

Zech. 1:2 What did the LORD say about the Jews' ancestors?

Zech. 1:3 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; _____ ye unto _____, saith the LORD of hosts, and _____ will turn unto _____."

God called the Jews of Zechariah's day to repent. He **promised** if they turned to Him He would turn to them. In verses 4-6 He warned them not to be foolish like their ancestors. Three months later, Zechariah saw a vision of many angels who had come from patrolling the earth. They reported that the heathen nations were enjoying peace and rest.

Zech. 1:12 What did the angel of the Lord ask?

Zech. 1:13 The Lord responded with comforting words.

Zech. 1:14 How does God feel about Jerusalem and Zion?

Zech. 1:15 How does He feel about the heathen?

Zech. 1:16 God promised, "I am returned to Jerusalem with _____: My house shall be _____ in it."
Ancient builders used measuring lines.

Zech. 1:17 "My cities through _____ shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet _____ Zion, And shall yet _____ Jerusalem."

- Zech. 1:18** Zechariah saw another vision. Horns in the Bible symbolize strength and power.
- Zech. 1:19** What did the angel say these horns represented?
- Zech. 1:20** What did Zechariah see next?
- Zech. 1:21** What did the angel say they would do to the horns?

The word **fray** means to make someone tremble with terror. God promised to cast the Gentiles out of Israel.

- Zech. 2:1** What did Zechariah see next?
- Zech. 2:2** What did the man say he was going to do?
- Zech. 2:4** What message did the angel have for Zechariah?

Jerusalem in Zechariah's day had few residents, an incomplete Temple, destroyed houses, and no walls. The Lord promised to bless and enlarge Jerusalem such that walls could not contain it.

- Zech. 2:5** What else did God promise?

In verses 6-9 God called the Jews who still remained in Babylon to come back to their homeland.

- Zech. 2:10** Why should they sing and rejoice?
- Zech. 2:11** "And many _____ shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my _____: and I will _____ in the midst of _____."
- Zech. 2:12** What will the Lord inherit?
What will He choose?
- Zech. 2:13** When God is ready to act, everyone should be silent.

Concluding Thoughts: The Lord made many promises in these two chapters. Specifically, He promised:

- To return to the Jews if they repented and returned to Him.
- To return to Jerusalem and see that His Temple was completed.
- To spread His cities abroad, comfort Zion (the Jews), and choose Jerusalem.
- To cast the Gentiles out of Israel.
- To enlarge Jerusalem.
- To protect Jerusalem and put His glory there.

- To draw many nations to Himself.

Are these promises believable? That depends on the person making the promises. In this case, that Person is Almighty God, who always keeps His promises.

Has God made any promises to you? Look up some of the following: **Matthew 11:28**; **John 14:2-3**; **Acts 16:31**; **Romans 10:9**; **Philippians 4:6-7**; **Hebrews 13:5**; **1 John 1:9**. Thank God for these promises, and trust Him to do what He said.

Project: Memorize **Zechariah 1:3**. Make a list of some of your favorite Bible promises and thank God for them every day.