### Zechariah

## Chapter 8

1Then The Word of Jehovah the Almighty[, His Messenger,] came to me and said:  
  
 2[‘God said:]  
  
 ‘I’ve shown zeal for Zion and JeruSalem…  
 In My rage, I’ve been jealous on their behalf, 3said Jehovah.  
 So to Zion, I’ll now return,  
 And in JeruSalem’s midst, I’ll camp;  
 Then, it will be called The City of Truth…  
 The Holy Mountain of Jehovah the Almighty.’  
  
 4‘And after that, Jehovah the Almighty told me to say this:  
  
 ‘Old men and women will once again sit  
 In JeruSalem’s squares,  
 Each with their canes in their hands…  
 For they’ll have lived many days.  
 5And the city will also be filled  
 With boys and girls that will play in her squares.’  
  
 6‘Then Jehovah the Almighty said this:  
  
 ‘Couldn’t this have happened to those who remained…  
 To those who were left back in those days? No!  
 But, is this something that I can’t do?  
 Asks Jehovah the Almighty... No!’  
  
 7‘For thus says Jehovah the Almighty:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’ll [return] My people from the lands in the east  
 And from the lands in the west.  
 8Yes, I’ll bring them all back,  
 And in JeruSalem, they’ll camp.  
 Then, they’ll be My people again,  
 And in truth and righteousness, I’ll be their God.’  
  
 9‘For, thus says Jehovah the Almighty:  
  
 ‘O you who listened during these days;  
 Strengthen your hands [to follow] the words  
 That have come from the mouths of the prophets  
 Since the Temple’s foundation was laid  
 And in the day that they built it…  
 10Back when their wages bought nothing,  
 And nothing was paid for in cattle.  
  
 ‘For those who entered and those who went out,  
 There was only affliction, not peace;  
 And against their neighbors, I turned every man.  
  
 11‘But, I won’t treat the few [that remain]  
 The same as I did in the past,  
  
 ‘...says Jehovah the Almighty...  
  
 12‘Rather, I’ll send peaceful times;  
 The grapevines will then produce fruit;  
 The land will yield its abundance;  
 And the sky will bring forth its dew…  
 Yes, I’ll bring this to those who remain.  
  
 13‘And as for you, house of Judah;  
 Although you were a curse among nations,  
 I’ll now send salvation to you,  
 And you’ll be a blessing once more.  
 But, [you must now] be courageous,  
 And you must strengthen your hands!’  
  
 14‘Thus says Jehovah the Almighty:  
  
 ‘Although I once thought to bring evil on you  
 Because your fathers provoked Me to rage  
 (And until now, I hadn’t relented),  
  
 ‘...says Jehovah the Almighty...  
  
 15‘I’ve reconsidered and I’m now ready  
 To do good for those living in Judah  
 And for those who are living in JeruSalem…  
 So, you must now be courageous!  
  
 16‘And these are the things you must do:  
 You must each speak truth to your neighbors;  
 You must make decisions that bring about peace;  
 And justice must be returned to your gates!  
  
 17‘Against your neighbors, you must not consider  
 Doing evil things in your hearts…  
 And don’t love lying oaths!  
 For, I detest all such things,  
  
 ‘...says Jehovah the Almighty.’  
  
  
18Then the Word of Jehovah[, that is, his messenger] came to me and said:  
  
 19‘You must fast in the 4th and 5th months,  
 And fast in the 7th and 10th.  
 Then to Judah, I’ll bring joy and gladness,  
 And you’ll carry good things to your holiday feasts.  
 You’ll all be glad, for then there’ll be truth…  
 There’ll be peace and love [throughout the whole land].  
  
 20‘For, thus says Jehovah the Almighty:  
  
 ‘Many peoples will then come among you,  
 And there’ll be many cities in which they can dwell.  
 21Then, in those cities, they’ll gather and say:  
  
 ‘Let’s go beg before the face of the Lord…  
 Let’s seek the face of Jehovah…  
 Yes, all should go there with me!’  
  
 22‘Then, to JeruSalem, they’ll come  
 Seeking the face of Jehovah  
 In order to bow down before Him.’  
  
 23‘Thus says Jehovah the Almighty:  
  
 ‘In those days, ten men from all nations and tongues  
 Will come to grab hold of the hem of each Jew,  
 And this is what they’ll say:  
  
 ‘We wish to come [and live] among you,  
 Because we’ve heard God is with you!’