



## The Incredible Vision that Empowers Us

Zechariah 2:1-13

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### How Big is the Vision?

What God has in mind is greater than you can even imagine. That's the truth. God has asked us to answer His call to build. Our hearts begin to stir. We realize we need to get up and do something in this world. We see the needs and opportunities all around us. We start to size up the situation. We start to determine where and how God would have us build. But if our vision is too small, we will not find inspiration to get up and build.

So God has a special way of empowering our hearts as we begin to build. It is the power of an incredible vision. God wants to show us the amazing, eternal implications of what we are doing. So God shows us His master plan. He shows us the bigger picture. He gives us a glimpse of the full and finished glory of what we are working on. He does this to give a sense of significance to even the smallest things we are doing as we build. He makes a direct connection between what we are doing right here...right now and the amazing glory of what will be – what we are building towards. All of this is meant to empower us as we build.

This is the meaning of the vision in Zechariah 2. The young man in the vision has answered the call to build. So he picks up a measuring line to get started. He wants to get a feel for the scope of what God has called him to do. But then he finds out that God's vision is so much bigger than he ever imagined. God is up to something absolutely huge. It's mind-boggling. And this young man gets to be a part of it all.

### Jerusalem – Heavenly City; Heavenly Hope

As the vision unfolds, the focus goes beyond just the rebuilding of the temple. Jerusalem, the city of God, becomes the focus. The picture of Jerusalem that is given is amazing. Jerusalem will be a city without walls and God Himself will be a wall of fire all around!

This is one of the many passages in scripture where the physical city of Jerusalem becomes a symbol of a greater reality. This is language that is taken up in the Book of Revelation (Revelation 21:2), where the heavenly city of Jerusalem is the ultimate hope of God's people. Throughout the Bible the heavenly city of Jerusalem is a symbol of the ultimate hope and longing of God's people; the ultimate victory of God's Kingdom over the kingdoms of this world. In Hebrews 11:10-16 we are told that Abraham was looking for this heavenly city – by faith!

One of the most wonderful promises of Zechariah is in chapter 2 verse 10, where God says that “many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day, and I will dwell in your midst.” This is one of the promises of the Gospel in the Old Testament. It gives a vision of the heavenly city, filled with people from all nations and all peoples. This is all part of God's master in the Gospel. He is working throughout the whole world to rescue people through the Gospel and bring them to the Heavenly City – which is the very presence of God himself.

### Building a City on a Hill

Things get interesting when you put the words of Christ together with the prophecy of Zechariah. Jesus also spoke of a city. He called it a city on a hill (Matthew 5:14). Jesus said that His church was to be the light of the world and a city on a hill. That means us!

In the imagery of the Book of Revelation, this world is likened unto the city of Babylon. But God's people are called out of Babylon to be citizens of a heavenly city. We live in hope of a new heavenly Jerusalem and the very presence of God! But in the meantime, we are builders in a broken world. And what we are building is the city on a hill that Christ spoke of. It is like “a city within a city.” It is a city of lives rescued and made new through the Gospel. It is a community of Christ followers who build something special in this world for the Glory of Christ. We do this by opening our hearts to Christ through faith. We do this by trusting Christ for His gift of forgiveness and new life. We do this by responding to the Spirit of Christ who prompts us to say no to sin. We do this by saying yes to Jesus as He leads us to serve others in love. We do this by joining with other believers in active ministry for the cause of Christ both inside and outside of the church.

The beauty of all this is that each thing we do, big or small becomes a part of the gigantic eternal thing that God is doing through the Gospel. What we do as we build a city on a hill in this world, will literally impact eternity. That's how big our vision needs to be! This is God's great gift to us. It is the gift of a greater vision. Once you begin to see this vision, you will be moved. I have no doubt that you will get up and begin to build!