

# REBUILDING THE CITY WITHOUT WALLS

## Zechariah 2: Looking Ahead to the After

### PUT THE MEASURING LINE DOWN

Ezekiel 40:1-16

Nehemiah 2:13; 4:7

Revelation 21:9-27

**Zechariah 2:1-5** surprises with its prediction of a Jerusalem without walls. The returning Jews did rebuild Jerusalem's walls. There are remnants of Jerusalem's ancient walls still to be seen today. It is hard to understand any other explanation for Zechariah's prophecy than to see the church post-Pentecost, in which we go to all nations, baptizing and teaching, working as exiles, trusting God to be our mighty fortress. The wall of fire looks back to 2 Kings 6 and ahead to the Pentecostal descent of tongues of fire.

### THE APPLE OF HIS EYE

Ezra 2

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Revelation 18:4-24

**Zechariah 2:6-9** has a great reversal in store for what areas we might think safe and what areas we might think risky. The cornea appears exceptionally vulnerable, which is precisely why the body has fine-tuned defenses protecting it (Deuteronomy 32:10, Psalm 17:8). The land of the north referred to the Babylonian lands to which exiles were taken, then put down roots and raised families. Most of those Jews did not want to return for what appeared to be a risky venture in the Promised Land. Shaking of the nations (Isaiah 23:11, Amos 9:9, Haggai 2:6-7) describes political tumult in which the established order overturns. All in all, Zechariah is promising that while Babylon seems a more settled, secure place, Jerusalem is the place God truly plans to protect.

### THE GLORY AND THE TENT

Ezekiel 10:18-19; 11:22-24

Luke 2:27-32

Ezekiel 44:1-9

John 1:14-16

**Zechariah 2:10-12** picks up where Ezekiel left off. The glory of the Lord ceased to tabernacle with Zion but would return. This prophecy, in line with the rest of Zechariah 2, looks past the returning exile's current work of rebuilding to the coming of the Christ. "I will build a house for you," David had heard (2 Samuel 7). The full tabernacling of God's glory comes when the Word is made flesh.

### AFTER HIS GLORY

Genesis 49:8-12

Habakkuk 2:20

Hebrews 12:22

**Zechariah 2:8** and "after His glory" is a curious phrase. Those trying to interpret the book apart from the New Testament tend to think Zechariah is basically saying he knows he won't be believed now, but after his words come true, there will be understanding that he was sent by God. Luther ties this verse to Genesis 49 and sees an end to the earthly glory of Judah becoming eclipsed by the eternal throne of Christ. **Zechariah 2:13** caps this reading with a reminder that we are better to fear the Lord than man.