

Water of Life Community Church

ZECHARIAH – IMPARTING HOPE

WEEK ONE

ZECHARIAH 2-3

ICE BREAKER

PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Zechariah comes on the scene in a figuratively dark and literally dry (Haggai 1:10) time in Israel's history. It is tempting to think that God brought about the drought they were experiencing simply to punish Israel for her misplaced priorities. While this is partially true, the main reason that God brought the drought was so that Israel would repent and turn to Him again. The goal of God in the drought was to heal Israel of their idolatry. The drought was a hard mercy that God brought upon His people in order to save them. What we learn in Zechariah 2-3 is that in our most difficult seasons, God's mercy remains. He is our protector, provider, and defender. He loves us and uses any means necessary to grow us closer to Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. READ ZECHARIAH 2:1-5.

- a. What types of circumstances make people feel exposed, in danger, or at risk?
- b. When explaining that Jerusalem would be a city without physical walls, God said, "I myself will be a wall of fire around it, and I will be the glory within it." In your own words, what does it mean for God to be a wall of fire around us? What does it mean for Him to be the glory within us?
- c. Is God a wall of fire around you, or are you looking to something or someone else for protection in your current circumstance? Why is it that any other protector than God will ultimately fail you?
- d. We learned in this week's message that if you put your circumstances between you and God, you are in trouble. What are some signs we are putting our circumstances between us and God?
- e. When has God proven Himself as your defender? Your protector? Your provider? As you face the present and consider the future, what are some practical steps you can take to remember and find encouragement from God's faithfulness in the past?

2. READ ZECHARIAH 2:6-13.

a. In your own words, summarize what these verses teach you about God. What promise is there for you in this passage?

b. How does it make you feel to know that you are the "apple of God's eye" (v. 8)?

c. For what reason do you have to "shout for joy and be glad," even in the most difficult circumstances?

3. READ ZECHARIAH 3:1-5.

a. In what way can every person relate to Joshua in verse 3? We don't like to talk about it, but why is it important for us to understand that we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God?

b. In what way can Christ followers relate to Joshua in verse 4? Why?

c. Read Philippians 1:6. What hope and confidence can you have today, even in this difficult season?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

GOING DEEPER

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MEMORY VERSE

Zechariah 2:8 English Standard Version (ESV)

"For thus said the LORD of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye: "

NOTES