



LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Life Group Notes – 10th October 2021 (Harvest / Green Sunday)

Coming back to the heart: Security for all. Zechariah 2

Please visit the LCC website to listen to the talk or read the transcript if available.

Zechariah 2:1-5, 10-13 – Jerusalem to be a city without walls

² Then I looked up, and there before me was a man with a measuring line in his hand. ² I asked, ‘Where are you going?’ He answered me, ‘To measure Jerusalem, to find out how wide and how long it is.’

³ While the angel who was speaking to me was leaving, another angel came to meet him ⁴ and said to him: ‘Run, tell that young man, “Jerusalem will be a city without walls because of the great number of people and animals in it. ⁵ And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,” declares the LORD, “and I will be its glory within.”

¹⁰ ‘Shout and be glad, Daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you,’ declares the LORD. ¹¹ ‘Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you. ¹² The LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. ¹³ Be still before the LORD, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.’

Note this is the NIV2011 version of the text. It would be helpful to compare it with other translations.

Comment:

We have seen how Ezra, and the prophets Haggai and Zechariah exhorted the Israelites to work together after their return from exile to rebuild in a better way, focussing on seeking God before pleasing themselves. But as the project progresses, the prophet Zechariah starts to communicate an even bigger vision for God’s people than they might have expected. This isn’t just about the Jewish people rebuilding their own cultural identity and national security. New ideas start to emerge: God has a heart for all nations, not just his chosen nation of Israel. Chapter 2 describes this vision of an Angel with a measuring line who is about to conduct a survey before any further building work takes place. But then Zechariah sees another Angel sent to stop the first and present a new vision. Jerusalem is to be a city without walls – where God himself is both its glory and its security and ‘many nations’ and ‘all mankind’ are welcomed to join in. As the book of Zechariah progresses we gradually see that a messiah is coming to ‘dwell with the people’ as their king, not a king in the usual way but ‘lowly and riding on a donkey’. Jesus ushered in the Kingdom of God which is for all people everywhere, with a vision for the peace and security of all nations. So in our actions and attitudes, whether that be our choices as consumers or the use of our time and resources, we need to remember to love our global neighbours too, just as Christ first loved us.

Questions:

- 1) In what ways can we love our global neighbours as well as our local ones?
- 2) What are some of the key ways we can make a positive impact on the environment?
- 3) Have you checked your carbon footprint recently? Try it at <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>
- 4) What is the mood of this vision? What strikes you about the dialogue?
- 5) In light of this passage what sort of church is the Lord wanting us to become over the next year?