

Good and Comfortable

Zechariah 1:1-17 In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying, 2 The LORD hath been sore **displeased with your fathers**. 3 **Therefore say thou unto them**, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, **and I will turn unto you**, saith the LORD of hosts. 4 **Be ye not as your fathers**, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye **now** from your evil ways, and *from* your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the LORD. 5 Your fathers, where *are* they? and the prophets, do they live for ever? 6 But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us. ...13 And the LORD answered the angel that talked with me **with good words and comfortable words**. 14 So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy. 15 And I am very sore displeased with the heathen *that are* at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction. 16 Therefore thus saith the LORD; **I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies**: my house shall be built in it, saith the LORD of hosts, and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem. 17 Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; **and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion**, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.

Here we find Jerusalem under judgment (6) and God has called Zechariah to send a message to them (1) The message from the Lord to this people astray in sin is Simply Amazing!

He tells them that He will bless them! (13) (16) (17)

Are you Good and Comfy? It is because of God!

Prophetic Application:

Hosea 3:4-5 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and *without* teraphim: 5 Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.

John 3:16-18 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

GRACE!!!!

GOD IS COMFORT:

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

1. The Scriptures are Comfort –

Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and **comfort of the scriptures** might have hope.

Psalms 119:50 This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

2. His Spirit is Comfort –

John 14:26 But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

THE GOODNESS OF GOD:

1. God Blesses us Daily

Psalms 52:1 Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? the goodness of God *endureth* continually.

Psalms 68:19 Blessed *be* the Lord, *who* daily loadeth us *with benefits*, *even* the God of our salvation. Selah.

- **PREVENTING IN BLESSINGS** (from ahead)

Psalms 21:3 For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head.

PREVENT: to act ahead of; forestall. to precede. to anticipate.

- **OVERTAKING WITH BLESSINGS** (from behind)

Deuteronomy 28:2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

2. God Blesses Us to Draw Us

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Back to our text, God is drawing His people with His goodness...

(16)...I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies...

Deuteronomy 8:16-20 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; **(GOOD & COMFORTABLE)** **17** And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of *mine* hand hath gotten me this wealth. **18** But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day. **19** And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. **20** As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.

3. God Blesses us Despite Us

Everything God has ever done for us was despite of us, not because of our deserving.

Ill: Answered prayer in time of spiritual coldness!

Many times we think it is our great relationship with God that caused blessings to flow, yet in reality it was in spite of us that He blessed us!

Matthew 5:43-45 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. **44** But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; **45** That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

The atheist who shakes his fist at God Almighty, yet his heart still beats, he enjoys good health.... WHY? The Goodness of God

4. God's Blessings Has a Deadline:

Deuteronomy 28:2, 15 (2) And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.... **(15)** But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

He Came with Grace/Goodness

John 10:9-11 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. **10** The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly. **11** I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

He is Coming in Judgment – for those who've rejected His goodness!

His Coming is Comfort for those who know Him –

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (18) Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Conclusion:
Psalms 34:8

If you come today for salvation, you will find a Saviour waiting with outstretched arms....

BUT If you wait....