

I. Chapter 2: 1-5

1. Being Measured by God (v.1-2)

"And I lifted up mine eyes again, and looked, and behold a man with a measuring line in his hand. Then said I, Whither goest thou? And he said unto me, To measure Jerusalem, to see what is the breadth thereof, and what is the length thereof."
(Zechariah 2:1-2)

This man is Christ in His humanity; He is the Angel of Jehovah, the very One who spoke with Zechariah.

God measures with His plumb line, which signifies that when God comes to restore His work, the standard rests in God's hands, not in the hands of men. Everyone whom God intends to use must first be measured by Him.

This means that in the process of God's restoration, He examines whether we are after His heart and whether we can bear His presence. Brothers and sisters, this is of great importance.

Brothers and sisters, how often today we neglect our true condition before God. How often in church life we only seek our own satisfaction rather than the Lord's will. If the Lord were to measure us one day, He would hardly find much of Christ in us.

Now that God desires to restore His work through us, He first measures us as persons. He looks at how much of us belongs to Christ and how much does not. All that is not of Christ will ultimately be refined by God as by fire; only the part that belongs to Christ is what God can use.

Only when we wholeheartedly live for God today, willing to take up our cross, draw near to the Lord, and practice breaking our self-life, can we be used by Him. Only then will the Lord be able to measure out more of Christ within us. The more we willingly practice daily to be measured before God, and the more we lay aside our old self, the more usable we become in His hands.

2. Wall of Fire (v.5)

Here we see that both the wall of Jerusalem and the glory within it are the Lord Himself. This indicates that Jehovah will be the protection surrounding Jerusalem, and the glory in her center. The glory in the center and the fire all around are both Christ.

This shows that Christ is the center and the spread of God's economy. Today, Christ is the glory in the center of the church, and also the burning fire surrounding the church to protect her.

In the New Jerusalem, the Triune God in Christ is the glory in its center (Rev. 21:23, 22:1, 5). This glory shines forth through the transparent wall, and becomes the protecting fire (Rev. 21:18).

II. Chapter 2: 6-13

1. Scattered His People Like the Four Winds of Heaven (v.6)

In the latter half of verse 6, speaking of His people, Jehovah declares: "I have scattered you like the four winds of heaven."

We may think that the Israelites were exiled because God dispersed them in judgment, yet this verse tells us God was not merely scattering them in abandonment, but dispensing and spreading them abroad. This is much like the scattering of the believers in Acts chapter 8.

There were tens of thousands of believers in Jerusalem, but God was not satisfied with merely this local gathering. Then persecution arose, and it scattered the believers. Persecution itself is not good, yet it brought forth the glorious expansion of God's testimony (cf. 11:19).

Likewise, if the Israelites had never gone into exile, God's testimony would have been confined only to the small city of Jerusalem and its temple. But when the Israelites were scattered to Babylon, four young men became God's witnesses and

testified for Him. In this way, God's testimony expanded all the way to Babylon.

If God's testimony had not reached Babylon, how would people have known that He can nullify the power of the fiery furnace and shut the mouths of lions? God is great; He rules over all, and His heart is vast. Therefore, He desires His testimony to spread forth to distant places.

2. Confidence and Confirmation God Grants His People

In Zechariah 2:9 and 2:11, there appears the same phrase:

And you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me.

Brothers and sisters, in the process of the Lord's recovery today, this word is most precious. Many times, the reason we can keep walking and endure amid difficult and trying circumstances is simply because we know and acknowledge the Lord of hosts is there.

I am convinced that when the children of Israel returned to restore Jerusalem in that day, they faced countless hardships and difficult surroundings. The way we overcome such difficulties is always by faith — what the Lord is doing. It is a faith that truly experiences and personally knows the Lord's working in practical daily living. No matter what our present condition may be, no matter where we are today, the Lord is always with us.

3. God works through His recovered people (v.13)

In the end, we behold God Himself rousing Himself from His holy dwelling. Who is His holy dwelling? It refers to those who are revived, recovered and restored unto God.

Brothers and sisters, this is a most crucial truth; it was so in the Old Testament, and it remains the same in the New Testament. God works today exactly through this company of recovered people, and these fully restored corporate people of God are referred to in the Bible as the overcomers. God moves in the church not through every individual believer, but through the overcomers to fulfill His will, and this is precisely why in Revelation chapters two and three, God commanded John to write to the seven

churches, with each letter purposely mentioning the overcomers at the end.