

Welcome to our Church!

We are glad you chose to join us today to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope that your stay will be both meaningful and memorable.

Our Mission

We are a church that seeks to bring glory to God, to build the local church through discipleship and to fulfill the Great Commission.



Announcements

We will have our Christmas Celebration will be on December 8, 2019. There will be one joint service on that day (10AM) and we encourage the 1PM service to join the 10AM service.

The venue for the Sunday School Kid's Ministry is held at the Humabon Hall located at the 3rd Floor. For your safety, parents are requested to personally *sign in* and *sign out* their children at the registration table at the 3rd Floor. Kids below 3 years old must be accompanied by a parent/guardian/yaya.



How Can We Pray For You?

It is our privilege to pray for you. You may send your prayer requests by text, by writing them on the prayer cards provided or by sending us a private message on our FB page!



Discover Life in the Small Groups

We are passionate about community.

We encourage you to join our small groups where we cultivate meaningful relationships and grow in our relationship with God together.

To join a group, you may inquire from our volunteers at the Information Booth.



Stay for Fellowship Et Refreshments

We invite you to stay for coffee and fellowship after the service. Take the opportunity to meet new friends or inquire about our small groups or about the church.

Our weekend Services are held at the Café Corazon (2nd Floor), Bai Hotel, North Reclamation Area, Mandaue City, every Sunday 10AM-12NN and 1PM-3PM.

* The Living Word NRA Center is located at the 2/F Northgate Centre, Banilad (across Country Mall and beside University of Cebu-Banilad).

Get in touch with us:



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Living Word - NRA
Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.

intentional discipleship

MAKING DISCIPLES WHILE GROWING AS DISCIPLES



BEHOLD OUR GOD & FUTURE

Zechariah 2

Pastor DJ Barrios (Guest Speaker) | December 1, 2019 | 10AM & 1PM Service

sermon notes



SERMON THEME/BIG IDEA



MY NOTES/HIGHLIGHTS

Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of December 1-7, 2019



Sermon quick review

As you recall this week's sermon entitled "Behold Our God & Future," what was the most compelling or memorable point that stood out or confused or challenged you?

Or

Briefly share (1) a spiritual LESSON that you learned from the sermon, (2) an application from your last week's NEXT STEPS or (3) a PRAISE report from the past week.

Connecting

If you were to change one thing in your life, what would it be?

Group discussion

Read Zechariah 2

1. What do you think is the meaning of the man with the measuring line? Does the measuring line here have the same meaning as 2 Kings 21:13?
2. Who would be a wall about Jerusalem? What would be the primary purpose of the wall and what significance does the wall have concerning the city of Jerusalem? Have you ever experienced God as a wall that protected you?
3. What remodelling job has God planned for Jerusalem? What boundaries and measurements have been set for the project?
4. *Share.* The measuring line is a very powerful symbol in Zechariah's vision for Jerusalem. What remodelling would the Lord like to do in your life?
5. Nearly 20 years after returning from the Babylonian exile in the time of Cyrus (538 B.C.), God's people were discouraged. The foundation of the temple had been laid shortly after the initial return, in 536 B.C., but powerful opposition had prevented any further progress on rebuilding the temple. What is God's encouragement in

- verses 10ff that would be a cause for rejoicing? When you go through a tough time, do you normally find a reason to rejoice in God? Why or why not?
6. Share to the group some recent or past time where you were unable to immediately respond in obedience in God's plans in your life? What made it difficult?
 7. **[NEXT STEPS]** Ask each one to check the boxes that apply to them. Consider these suggestions and be ready to share about your experience next week.
 - I will commit to go through the devotionals this week.
 - If you have not yet surrendered your life to Jesus, would you like to do it? (Ask your small group leader to lead you.)
 - I will seek to enter God's presence everyday by _____.
 - I will seek God by obeying him in the area of _____.
 - I will seek to be sensitive to the presence of God even in my everyday tasks.
 - I will take the time to praise God and thank him everyday!

Closing the session.

(Group facilitators: Before closing, read through the "Personal Reflections & Action.") Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a thankful heart, sensitivity to listen and grace to obey God.
- Pray for those who are going through personal struggles.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.

Personal reflection & action.

I woke up feeling emotionally fragile. Weak. Vulnerable. I prayed: "Lord help me. I'm not even sure how to pray." An hour later I was reading in Zechariah, seeking the help I had cried out for. It came.

"Jerusalem shall be inhabited as villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and livestock in it. And I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the Lord, and I will be the glory in her midst." (Zechariah 2:4-5)

There will be such prosperity and growth for the people of God that Jerusalem will not be able to be walled in any more. "The multitude of people and livestock" will be so many that Jerusalem will be like many villages spreading out across the land without walls.

Prosperity is nice, but what about protection? To which God says in verse 5, "I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the Lord." Yes. That's it. That is the promise. The "I will" of God. That is what I need.

And if it is true for the vulnerable villages of Jerusalem, it is true for me a child of God. That is how I apply the Old Testament promises to God's people. All the promises are yes to me in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). There is a "how much more" after every promise for those who are in Christ. God will be a "wall of fire all around" me. Yes. He will. He has been. And he will be.

And it gets better. Inside that fiery wall of protection, he says, "And I will be the glory in her midst." God is never content to give us the protection of his fire; he aims to give us the pleasure of his presence. I love the "I wills" of God! [John Piper]

See Question #8 (Next Steps) for specific personal applications

DAY 4. STILLNESS

Read: Psalm 46:10-11; Zechariah 2:13.

For most of us, stillness, silence, and serenity are difficult to find. Even when we are able to find it externally, it can still be difficult to cultivate stillness internally. Life is busy and so are our minds! It is not only tough to make the time to be still; it's tough to create stillness in our mind and body.

The idea of being still goes against what we naturally, and culturally, do. Our inclination is to step on the gas and go full speed ahead, believing that doing more, and having more, makes us more complete.

Instead, God is telling us here to hit the brakes and be still. If we are busy being busy, God's voice can be nearly impossible to hear, but the problem is that many times we view being still with God as inactivity.

It is important to our faith to realize that the more we are deliberately still:

- the more we hear God's voice,
- the better we recognize God's activity,
- the smaller our issues seem,
- the bigger God appears,
- and the more we follow God's divine purpose for us, instead of just our own agendas, ideas, and abilities.

Reflect & Apply.

1. When was the last time you released the pressing issues in your life to God? When was the last time you relaxed in the presence of God?
2. What was the context of the call for stillness in Zechariah 2:13?
3. Can you set aside just a few minutes today to "be still" before God, and to listen for his voice? In what area do you need to surrender to God today?

DAY 5. MEASURING UP

Read: Zechariah 2:1-5.

We are a generation who have never worked harder to have it all, yet go to bed most nights worrying that we aren't enough. We are constantly asking, "Why?" We are constantly measuring. It doesn't matter if you're single, married, rich, poor, old, young, in college, out of college. Every human struggle with this. We are always looking around to see how we measure up to everyone around us and usually focusing on all the ways we fall short.

When we read Zechariah 2, it hits us that this is exactly what we spend so much time doing. We are constantly measuring our city – is it big enough? Does it need more? How does it compare to other cities? I wonder what might happen if we could quit building walls around ourselves and let God do the measuring.

What if we lived as if we truly believed God has given us a life without walls? That he has plans for us that go beyond anything we can measure or imagine and promises to be the glory in our midst?

God promises us that not even a sparrow falls to the ground without him knowing, he is a God who values even the smallest things. He wants us to have peace and contentment that won't require us to put up walls of protection and spend our lives afraid of being vulnerable and real as we stop compulsively trying to measure the width and depth of our lives. He will be our protection. He will be the wall of fire all around.

Reflect & Apply.

1. Reflect. Isn't it a relief to know that we can never be "good enough" apart from Jesus, and that he loves us anyway?
2. What areas in your life have you been "measuring"? What is the motivation behind it?
3. Open your hands to the Lord today and let him do the measuring, protecting and providing. He is more than enough for you!



Living Word NRA
Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.

"BEHOLD OUR GOD & FUTURE"

December 1, 2019

Questions for Personal Study & Reflection

This 5-day devotional includes readings with brief commentaries that builds upon the weekend sermon. You are encouraged to take the time to read the Bible passages and meditate on them. On average, you will need 20-30 minutes to complete them.

Reflection questions and applications are intended to invite you to slow down and mediate on the truth that God is teaching you. Daily application steps are also given to help drive the message in practical ways.

DAY 1. THE “I WILL” OF GOD

Read: Zechariah 2.

I woke up feeling emotionally fragile. Weak. Vulnerable. I prayed: “Lord help me. I’m not even sure how to pray.” An hour later I was reading in Zechariah, seeking the help I had cried out for. It came.

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Reflect & Apply.

1. Have you ever experienced God as a wall that protected you?
2. Is it hard for you to think of God as protector especially during times of difficulty? Why or why not? What is normally your response when life is difficult?
3. Think of specific instances God has taken care of you this week. Take the time to praise him for that.

DAY 2. THE APPLE OF GOD’S EYE

Read: Zechariah 2:8; 1 Peter 3:12; Psalm 34:15-16.

In the original Hebrew text of Zechariah, the phrase “the apple of his eye” is more literally translated “the little man of his eye.” If you look deeply into someone’s eyes, you actually see a tiny reflection of yourself in their pupils. At some point in our language development, the “little man” or “little doll” became the “apple” of the eye, possibly because pupils are round.

The amazing reality behind this image is that, figuratively speaking, when believers look into God’s eyes, they see their own reflection. Why? Because the Father is always looking at his children. “The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous ... but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil” (1 Peter 3:12; see Ps. 34:15-16). Sin turns our eyes away from God, but whenever we look back to God we are reminded of the steady gaze of his love. We see ourselves in God’s eyes.

All this is true because of what happened on the cross. If anyone was ever the apple of God’s eye, surely it was Jesus, God’s Son. But he closed his eyes in death so that being the apple of God’s eye could become a reality for us forever. God turned his face away from his Son for our sake, and now the eyes of the Father are focused, because of Christ, on us.

Reflect & Apply.

1. Do you ever think of someone as the apple of your eye? Or have you experienced being the apple of someone’s eye?
2. Reflect on the fact that you are created in God’s image. What thoughts come to your mind when you think of this?
3. What does being loved by God mean to you? As a Christian, has this remained a steady beacon in your life? Or has this become something of the past? What do you need to do to recapture this?

DAY 3. YOU ARE NOT AN ACCIDENT

Read: Isaiah 44:1-4; Zechariah 2:10-14.

You are not an accident. Your birth was no mistake or mishap, and your life is no fluke of nature. Your parents may not have planned you, but God did. He was not at all surprised by your birth. In fact, he expected it.

Long before you were conceived by your parents, you were conceived in the mind of God. It is not fate, nor chance, nor luck, nor coincidence that you are breathing at this very moment. You are alive because God wanted to create you! The Bible says, “The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me (Psalm 138:8a NIV).”

If there was no God, we would all be accidents, the result of astronomical random chance in the universe. You could stop reading this because life would have no purpose, meaning or significance. There would be no right or wrong, and no hope beyond your brief years on earth.

But there is a God who made you for a reason, and your life has profound meaning! We discover that meaning and purpose only when we make God the reference point of our lives. The Message paraphrase of Romans 12:3 says, "The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us."

Reflect & Apply.

1. God has made it possible for you to know him and experience an amazing change in your own life. How has this been evident in your life lately?
2. What is it in your current circumstance that makes you complain? Because we know that there is no coincidence with God, what change of attitude or perspective is needed in you?
3. If you have been complaining lately, take a moment to repent and ask for God’s forgiveness. Ask God for patience and a godly perspective.
