

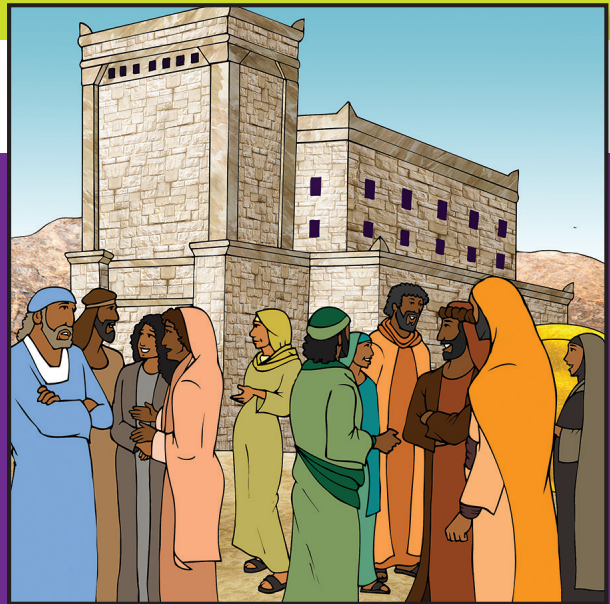
May 10, 2020

BIBLE LESSON

11



KEY VERSES: [God said,] “I will save my people I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be . . . their God.” (Zechariah 8:7, 8a)



Better Days Are Coming

Lesson Scripture: Zechariah 8:1-8, 11-17

God's Word

1 The word of the LORD Almighty came to me. **2** This is what the LORD Almighty says: “I am very jealous for Zion; I am burning with jealousy for her.” **3** This is what the LORD says: “I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the Faithful City, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain.” **4** This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each of them with cane in hand because of their age. **5** The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there.” **6** This is what the LORD Almighty says: “It may seem marvelous to the remnant of this people at that time, but will it seem marvelous to me?” declares the Lord Almighty. **7** This is what the Lord Almighty says: “I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. **8** I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God.”



11 “But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as I did in the past,” declares the LORD Almighty. **12** “The seed will grow well, the vine will yield its fruit, the ground will produce its crops, and the heavens will drop their dew. I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people. **13** Just as you, Judah and Israel, have been a curse among the nations, so I will save you, and you will be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong.” **14** This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Just as I had determined to bring disaster on you and showed no pity when your ancestors angered me,” says the LORD Almighty, **15** “so now I have determined to do good again to Jerusalem and Judah. Do not be afraid. **16** These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts; **17** do not plot evil against each other, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this,” declares the LORD.

Bible Story

Better Days Are Coming

Zechariah 8:1-8, 11-17

God gave Zechariah a message for the people: *I am very jealous for Zion (also known as Jerusalem). I will return to her and dwell in the city. Then Jerusalem will be called "The Faithful City."* God declared that Jerusalem will have peace and prosperity. Old men and women will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, and there will be boys and girls playing. God said, "This might seem unbelievable to you, because there are not many of you—but this is not a problem for Me. I will rescue My people from the east and west. I will bring them home again and they will live safely in Jerusalem. They will be My people and I will be their God."

Things would not be like they were before. The people's crops would prosper, the vines would yield plenty of fruit, and there would be plenty of rain. All these blessings would be given to the people left in the land. Before, they were cursed among the nations—but now God would save them, and they would be a blessing. God promised that He would not change His mind. He said, "I did what I said I would do when your ancestors angered Me and I promised to punish them, and I won't change My decision to bless you. Here is what you need to do: tell the truth, be fair, live at peace with everyone, don't plot to harm others, and don't swear that something is true when it isn't. I hate all of those things."

Looking Ahead

(Part 1)

"Granny, it's been five days since the electricity went out. Do you think things will ever get back to normal?" Cary asked.

"The tornado that came through did a lot of damage. I'm sure the utility companies are working as fast as they can," Granny explained.

"I hope things get back to normal soon. I never thought I would say this . . . but I miss school!" Cary exclaimed.

"It's funny how we take things for granted until we don't have them anymore. What do you miss the most?" Granny inquired.

"At first, I missed my cellphone because I couldn't charge it. But after a few days, what I really miss is . . ."

What do you think Cary misses?



Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Hi, class! Nicholas and Cornelius here. As you know, we love to travel. In today's lesson, we heard that a *remnant* (small group) of God's people travelled from Babylon to Jerusalem. The seventy-year exile in Babylon was finally over. God made a promise that His people would return to Jerusalem—and they did. Look at the map; how far was the journey from Babylon to Jerusalem?

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Zechariah prophesied from 520 to 518 BC. He was sent to give a message to the Jews who had returned to Jerusalem. Zechariah had two very important messages: first, look back and remember the past; and second, look forward and prepare for the future. Zechariah's message is still important in 2020. Remember what God has already done and look forward to what He will do. The Word of God is timeless.



Looking Ahead

(Part 2)

"Hot water! I really miss hot water!" Cary continued. "When the electricity comes on, I want to take the hottest shower ever!" Cary proclaimed.

"It will take some time for things to get back to how they were. I hope we remember how kind everyone has been during this tragedy. I hope our friendliness stays the same," Granny commented.

"I'm going to continue to help Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, even when we get our electricity back. They need help keeping their yard up," Cary explained.

"The neighbors have been talking and they say we should have electricity tomorrow. That means better days are coming," Granny said.

"I can't wait!" Carey shouted for joy.

Unscramble and Use

Unscramble the scrambled-up words below (which can be found in today's Scripture passage). Then use each word in a sentence related to today's lesson.

1. lewld _____
2. srtseocan _____
3. trennam _____
4. oulaejs _____
5. eehitrnncai _____

