

INSPIRED WORD

October 7, 2020

SCRIPTURE

Zechariah 8:1-5: *Again the word of the Lord of hosts came saying, "Thus says the Lord of hosts: I am zealous for Zion and with great zeal, with great fervor I am zealous for her. Thus says the Lord: I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the city of truth, the mountain of the Lord of hosts, the holy mountain. Thus says the Lord of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each one with his staff in his hand because of great age. Streets of the city shall be filled with boys and girls playing in its streets. Thus says the Lord of hosts."*

SCRIPTURE / SHARING

Relating to what was said earlier, **Psalms 139:14** says: *I am fearfully and wonderfully made.* Also, two words from one of the songs have just stuck in my mind are "precious blood." And Jesus died and shed His blood and He has enough drops of precious blood to save anyone.

SHARING

There are so many strong voices, strong impressions, strong messages in our world today. I'm prompted by the word someone shared a moment ago that God is zealous. For me, God is the unseen; God is the real God, the eternal. He's zealous; He's zealous to reach our hearts, to reach our lives. We can be so distracted, around us this time, this year, so many issues, so many fears, so many concerns. God is zealous. The Spirit of God is zealous to reach our hearts and minds.

SCRIPTURE / SHARING

From **Ecclesiasticus (Sirach)**, which is a book I don't do a whole lot of reading in (**30:21-25**): *Do not abandon yourself to sorrow; do not torment yourself with brooding. Gladness of heart is life to anyone. Joy is what gives length to days. Give your cares the slip and console your heart. Chase sorrow far away, for sorrow has been the ruin of many, and it is of no use to anybody. Jealousy and anger shorten your days and worry brings premature old age. A genial heart makes a good trench man, someone who enjoys a good meal.* And it just goes back to that word "hope" that we had earlier on tonight. We chase away sorrow because we embrace Christ. We find gladness of heart because we know the Lord lives.

SHARING

That speaks to my heart too. There's times when we get anxious about things. I have a word that we should seek wisdom. There are a lot of other things but Solomon sought wisdom, and God rewarded him with wisdom. And in this time of turmoil and so many lies and things that just aren't true, I guess that's one thing we could pray for is wisdom, and God will help us.

IMAGE / SENSE

As we sang those last couple of songs, I just saw an image of... You know those airplanes that just pull those banners behind them and they go over crowds and things like that? It was an image of one of those small airplanes and it was pulling this big banner behind it. And it said, "Peace. Peace." And I just felt the Lord saying in all these words to us: "My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives but my peace." And He's asking us to just reflect on what His peace means. Not so much on what's going on around us but what it means to come to Him and just tell Him what our fears are, what our anxieties are, because He's flying that banner around, saying "Peace. Peace. Peace."