

July 17, 2024 – “A City Without Walls”

Read Zechariah 2:1-13

1. In the vision, Zechariah sees a future Jerusalem without walls except God encircling the city as a wall of fire and His glory visible in its midst. For his Jewish audience, what in their religious history is being evoked from this prophetic imagery?
2. With the future vision of a repopulated and God-inhabited Jerusalem, Zechariah calls out to the diaspora Jews still settled abroad throughout the Persian Empire to flee the land of the north, Babylon, and to return to Zion. How are we today being called to flee Babylon and to return to God?
3. Babylon stood as the symbolic city of sin and exile for God's people. Today, the ways of Babylon are mingled in with the City of God, the Church, the New Jerusalem. What are some examples that the ways of Babylon continue to manifest in the Church today?

Read Revelation 21.9-11, 15-17, 22-27

1. In another vision of Jerusalem, John the Apostle sees the heavenly city as an enormous cube descending from above, built by God. The only reference to a cube in the Old Testament is the Holiest Room in the Jewish Temple, built with the same three dimensions. What is being evoked by the prophetic image of the New Jerusalem as a giant cube coming down to earth from heaven?