

# Zechariah 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will encamp about mine house because of the army, because of him that passeth by, and because of him that returneth: and no oppressor shall pass through them any more: for now have I seen with mine eyes.

## Analysis

**And I will encamp about mine house because of the army, because of him that passeth by, and because of him that returneth**—after pronouncing judgment on surrounding nations, God promises protection for His people. "**I will encamp about mine house**" (וְחָנַתִּי לְבִתִּי מֵצֶבָּה) uses military imagery—God personally establishes a protective garrison around His temple/people. The verb chanah (חָנַה) means to pitch a tent or encamp, suggesting God's shekinah presence as a defensive perimeter.

**"Because of the army"** (mitstsavah, מֵצֶבָּה, from garrison/standing force) clarifies the protection's purpose: defense against military threats. "**Because of him that passeth by, and because of him that returneth**" (מֵעַבֵּר וּמֵשָׁב) describes armies marching through the region—whether advancing to conquest or returning from campaign. Palestine's strategic location on the land bridge connecting Africa, Asia, and Europe made it a perpetual military corridor. God promises to shield His house from these constant troop movements.

**"And no oppressor shall pass through them any more: for now have I seen with mine eyes"** (וְלֹא-יַעֲבֹר עוֹד נֹגֵשׁ כִּי עָתָה בָּאִתִּי בְּעִינִי) (בְּהָם). The promise of no more oppressors (noges, נֹגֵשׁ, taskmasters/exactors) finds ultimate fulfillment in Messiah's kingdom. God's declaration "**for now have I seen with mine eyes**" echoes Exodus 3:7 when God

saw Israel's affliction in Egypt and initiated deliverance. Divine observation precedes divine intervention—God sees His people's suffering and acts to defend them.

## Historical Context

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This prophecy found remarkable fulfillment during Alexander the Great's campaign (332 BC). According to Josephus (*Antiquities* 11.8.5), when Alexander approached Jerusalem after conquering Tyre and Gaza, the Jews feared destruction. The high priest Jaddua went out in procession to meet Alexander, wearing his priestly garments. Alexander, reportedly shown Daniel's prophecy about a Greek conqueror (Daniel 8:5-8, 21), spared Jerusalem and granted Jews religious freedom. Whether this account is historically precise or legendary, the fact remains: Alexander devastated surrounding cities but left Jerusalem intact—armies "passed by" without harming God's house.

The ultimate fulfillment awaits Christ's return when "no oppressor shall pass through them any more." Historically, Jerusalem has suffered repeated conquests: Babylon (586 BC), Rome (AD 70, 135), Crusaders (1099), various Islamic dynasties, and others. Yet prophecy promises an eventual end to oppression when Messiah reigns from Jerusalem (*Zechariah* 14:9-11; *Isaiah* 2:2-4). The present age experiences partial fulfillment—God protects His people (the church, spiritual Jerusalem) from ultimate spiritual harm, though not from temporal suffering (*Romans* 8:35-39). Complete fulfillment awaits the New Jerusalem where nothing that defiles will enter (*Revelation* 21:27).

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's promise to "encamp about mine house" assure believers of His personal, active protection against spiritual enemies?
2. What does God's statement "I have seen with mine eyes" reveal about His awareness of and compassion for His people's suffering?
3. How should we reconcile this promise of protection with the historical reality that Jerusalem and the church have faced oppression and persecution?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיַחֲנֵן יְתִי

לְבִתָּה

מִצְבָּה

And I will encamp about mine house because of the army

H2583

H1004

H4675

יַעֲבֵר ר

וּמְשֵׁב ב

וְלֹא

because of him that passeth by and because of him that returneth

H5674

H7725

H3808

יַעֲבֵר ר

עַד עַלְיָה מ

נִגְשָׁה

כִּי

עַתָּה ה

because of him that passeth by

H5674

H5921

H5750

and no oppressor

H3588

H6258

H5065

בָּא יְתִי

בְּעִינֵּי

them any more for now have I seen with mine eyes

H7200

H5869

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 54:14** (Parallel theme): In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

**Isaiah 60:18** (Parallel theme): Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.

**Isaiah 52:1** (Parallel theme): Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.

**Jeremiah 31:12** (Parallel theme): Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.

**Isaiah 52:12** (Parallel theme): For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the LORD will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your rereward.

**Isaiah 31:5** (Parallel theme): As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.

**Psalms 34:7** (Parallel theme): The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

**Psalms 72:4** (Parallel theme): He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.

**Exodus 3:9** (Parallel theme): Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

**Amos 9:15** (Parallel theme): And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.