

## Scripture Zechariah 8: 4-12

Old men and old women will come back to Jerusalem, sit on benches on the streets and spin tales, move around safely with their canes—a good city to grow old in. And boys and girls will fill the public parks, laughing and playing—a good city to grow up in.”

Do the problems of returning and rebuilding by just a few survivors seem too much? But is anything too much for me?

Not if I have my say.

I’ll collect my people from countries to the east and countries to the west. I’ll bring them back and move them into Jerusalem. They’ll be my people and I’ll be their God. I’ll stick with them and do right by them.”

Get a grip on things. Hold tight, you who are listening to what I say through the preaching of the prophets. We’ve come through a hard time: You worked for a pittance and were lucky to get that; the streets were dangerous; you could never let down your guard; I had turned the world into an armed camp. But things have changed.