

In the last lesson of our Study of Zechariah the Minor Prophet, we saw the day when Israel will receive forgiveness of her sin, the identity of the "little flock" and those who will be in the Kingdom on earth, we looked at two Messianic prophecies, and we looked at the great battle of Armageddon in that Day.

1. The national cleansing of Jerusalem...to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem

"In that day there shall be a fountain opened **to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem** for sin and for uncleanness" (**Zechariah 13:1**).

A. In that day this fountain will be opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. This is when Israel receives forgiveness of sin. When Israel looks upon the Lord Jesus, whom they have pierced, the spirit of grace and supplications will cause them to recognize Jesus as their Messiah through the word of God. They will deeply mourn that they crucified their Messiah. (Described in Zechariah 12:10-14). The spirit will teach them the truth of their sin. This will be the true 'day of atonement' for the believing remnant when the word of God is applied to them producing true repentance spoken of by the prophet Ezekiel:

"For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them (**Ezekiel 36: 24-27**).

a. The cleansing power of the fountain is made possible through the shed blood of their Messiah Jesus Christ on the Cross.

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1Peter 1:18-19).

Let's take a brief detour from Zechariah ...

B. Who is the "believing remnant"? The LORD has always kept for himself a remnant of true believers since the nation Israel began with Abraham in Genesis 12.

"Esais also crieth concerning Israel, **THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL BE AS THE SAND OF THE SEA, A REMNANT SHALL BE SAVED**" (**Romans 9:27**).

"I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace" (**Romans 11:5**).

C. The LORD of hosts will bring this remnant of true believers through the tribulation and he will gather them to him:

"And I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them: and they shall increase as they have increased" (Zechariah 10:8).

"And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God" (Zechariah 13:8-9).

- One third of the Jews will be saved through the tribulation and they will say "The LORD is my God". They are part of the believing remnant God has always kept for himself.

D. The Resurrection – Old Testament believers and those saved before the Law

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2).

Those resurrected to everlasting life is for believing Israel and those saved from Adam to Abraham. Remember, The Body of Christ has already been resurrected at the Rapture and have their glorified, eternal bodies and are in heaven.

- **Prior to Moses and the Law, man was saved by their faith in God and in their obedience to him.** For example, Adam and Eve were shown by God how he wanted them to approach him, and they in turn taught this to their children. Their son Abel approached God as he was taught; but their other son Cain did not. God accepted Abel's sacrifice but he did not accept Cain's sacrifice. Righteous Noah offered a sacrifice after the Flood and all the animals had left the ark: "And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offering on the altar" (Genesis 8:20). Another example is Job: "And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?" (Job 1:8).

Job believes that he will be resurrected...

"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed with me"

(Job 19:25-27)

The LORD promises Israel...

"Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. There prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel" (Ezekiel 37:11-12).

Those resurrected to everlasting contempt will be raised at the end of the 1,000 year Kingdom reign of Christ. This will be the Great White Throne Judgment in Revelation 20: 11-15.

Let's return to Zechariah...

2. Two Messianic Prophecies in Zechariah Chapter 13

- A.** At his 1st Coming Christ was not accepted by the religious leaders who should have recognized him through the Scriptures. But they had left the Scriptures and in their ungodliness were for

the most part following a system made by man. Blinded by their sin they chose to have Christ crucified rather than accept him as their Messiah. *The "wounds in thine hands"* are the result of being crucified. The "house of my friends" may refer to the temple and the Jewish religious leaders who did not accept him as their Messiah.

"But he shall say, I am no prophet, I am an husbandman; for man taught me to keep cattle from my youth. And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends" (Zechariah 13:5-6).

This was fulfilled at the 1st Coming of Christ...

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:11).

- B.** When Jesus was arrested by a multitude armed with swords, sent by the chief priests and elders of the people, his disciples forsook him and fled. God the Father (the LORD of hosts) refers to His Son Jesus as "my shepherd" because Jesus was doing the will of the Father by coming to earth to die on the Cross for the sin of the world. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who gave his life for the sheep.

"Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered; and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones" (Zechariah 13:7). *This was fulfilled at the 1st Coming of Christ...*

"Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I WILL SMITE THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED ABROAD" (Matthew 26:31).

- **God the Father and God the Son are co-equal:** "against the man that is *my fellow*, saith the LORD of hosts": God the Father called His Son Jesus his "fellow". To be a 'fellow' with someone is to have a friendly companionship with someone who is your equal.

- 3.** In that Day...The LORD of hosts will completely remove the idols from the land and people will not even remember these idols. He will also remove all prophets and the unclean spirits out of the land.

"And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land. And it shall come to pass, that when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the LORD: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he hath prophesied; neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive" (Zechariah 13:2-4).

- False prophets will be judged by their own parents, who may choose death as the punishment. Parents may choose death for their child because then people will truly place Christ first in their heart.

- False prophets will be exposed by the presence of the Lord Jesus and they will remove the rough garment that prophets wore as a sign they were a prophet. This garment was made of rough, untanned sheepskin or a cloak of camel's hair. The prophet Elijah wore this type of garment and his successor Elisha followed in his example.
- False prophets who on their own expose themselves and confess that they are no prophet will be able to return back to the farm from where they came.

"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh..." In our study of Chapter 14 we learned more details about the terror of the Lord's battle to save Jerusalem and destroy her enemies. Chapter 14 ends by giving instructions that all the nations must follow or they will suffer consequences. Jerusalem will then be holy unto the Lord. Everyone and everything in Jerusalem will be holy unto the Lord!

4. The Battle to save Jerusalem and to destroy her enemies begins...

"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle **(Zechariah 14:1-3)**.

"The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the LORD of hosts mustereth the host of the battle. They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land. **Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand: it shall come as destruction from the Almighty.** Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. Behold the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it" **(Isaiah 13:4-9)**.

"And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon" **(Revelation 16:16)**.

1. **The LORD gathers all the nations against Jerusalem to Armageddon.** The word Armageddon means "hill of Megiddo". There is a town of Megiddo and in this area is where King Josiah, King Saul, and King Ahaziah the son of Ahab and Jezebel were all slain. The Valley of Megiddo is part of the Plain of Esdraelon. The Plain of Esdraelon is around twenty miles long and fourteen miles wide. Many nations have marched through this area such as the Assyrians, Egyptians, Alexander the Great and his army, and even Napoleon; who declared that plain to be the finest battlefield in the world.
2. **There will be a great noise of confusion, high emotions, and excitement which will fill the mountains.** The armies will be filled with sorrow and have an overwhelming sense of impending doom. Their emotions will be so high that their faces will heat up as "flames". Fear will cause their hearts to melt. Because of the confusion, fear, and sense of dread their hands will become faint. Their bodies will struggle to move just as a woman who is in her labor pains.

3. **Jerusalem will be taken by her enemies;** her houses will be tore up looking for things of value to steal, the women will be raped, half of the population will be taken away as slaves, but some will be able to escape (residue of the people). Those who escape possibly will hide out in Petra which is the place where the Jews escaped to when Titus invaded Jerusalem in 70 AD.

A. The LORD will go forth and fight against these nations who are against Jerusalem and Judah will join Him: "And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance"
(Zechariah 14: 14). Wealth will be gathered from the Gentiles.

"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mount shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee" (Zechariah 14:4-5).



a) When the Lord Jesus returns with his armies from heaven and he places his feet upon the mount of Olives there will be a great earthquake. A valley will be formed between the mount of Olives because it will be split right down the middle. Half of the mount will move to the north and the other half to the south. This will form a great valley.

b) The armies that return with Christ are his

angels. Saints can also mean 'angels' or 'holy ones' depending upon the context; also scripture will explain scripture.

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory" (Matthew 25:31). "And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean" (Revelation 19:14).

The armies that return with Jesus are Christ's holy angels.

B. This will be a Day unlike any day has ever been before.

The earthquake 'proclaimed' that the Lord God, Creator of heaven and earth, has arrived to end the ungodliness and set up His righteous Kingdom on earth! What a glorious day!





"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass that at evening time it shall be light. And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be (Zechariah 14:6-8).

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim" (Joel 3:18).

C. Describe what this day will be like

- a) The light of this day will be different. It won't be sunny and it won't be dark. In the evening when it should be getting dark it will get light instead.
- b) The living waters will go out of Jerusalem: half of the water will go to the former sea and the other half will go toward the hinder sea. The "former sea" is the Dead Sea and the "hinder sea" is the Mediterranean Sea. The living water is coming from a spring of literal water that gushes up as a result, most likely, of the earthquake described in Zechariah 14:4-5.
- c) "All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem" (Zechariah 14: 9). Major changes will result from the earthquake; flattening the land.

There was one other occasion when God marked the Day with a change in the light and with an earthquake: when His Son Jesus died on the cross for our sin...

"And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day" (Amos 8:9).

"Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour... Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God" (Matthew 27: 45, 50-54).

D. The plague –for those who fought against Jerusalem. As they stand upon their feet their flesh, eyes, and their tongue will rot away, they will disintegrate!

"And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the LORD shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbor, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbor" (Zechariah 14: 12-13).

5. The LORD shall be king over all the earth

"And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses. And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited" (Zechariah 14: 9, 11).
"For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent" (Zechariah 3:9).

A. The Lord Jesus will be the one king over the entire earth. Jerusalem will be at peace never again will she suffer destruction. There will be one language, a "pure language" so that all the people can serve the LORD in agreement. Possibly, this language will be the Hebrew language.
All the people (Jew & Gentile) whom Christ allows into his Millennium (1,000 year) Kingdom have been declared righteous by him. However, the children born during the Kingdom will have to make a decision on Christ. During this time salvation is received by following the Law through Israel.

B. What the Lord Jesus will expect from the nations during his Kingdom reign?

"And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles" (Zechariah 14: 16-19).

- "Families" also means "nations"
- **All people who go into the Millennial Kingdom have placed their faith in Jesus Christ.** Let's now consider two groups of people: (1) Gentiles who were part of a nation who "came against Jerusalem"; however, ALL nations of the earth will come against Jerusalem. So this would be a gentile of any nation. Those gentiles who did not take the mark of the beast are showing they do not believe in the Anti Christ and that they do believe in Jesus as the Messiah. They will go into the Kingdom. (2) Those gentiles who helped the Jews during the tribulation by giving them food, water, shelter, etc. demonstrated their faith in Jesus by helping his people the Jews. They did not take the mark of the beast. By doing so, they went against the Anti Christ. Both groups are part of the Judgment of the Sheep and the Goats. Both go into the Kingdom.
- It should be understood that while this warning is for all nations and people, it will mainly apply to those who are born during the Millennial Kingdom; many of whom will not want to follow Christ. "And it shall come to pass..." suggests a passage of time.
 - Those who do not come to worship the King and keep the feast of tabernacles will face dire consequences. Their nation will have no rain so they crops will fail. And they will be stricken with the plague.
- Remember, the earth's population will be greatly reduced by the battle of Armageddon and the events of the tribulation period. So it would be possible for all people to come to Jerusalem to keep the feast of tabernacles. Although it is possible that representatives of each nation may come and represent the people of their nation. We just don't have enough information to know the details about the annual trip to Jerusalem.
- **The Feast of Tabernacles** is described in Leviticus 23:33-36 and was given to Israel right after God delivered Israel from bondage in Egypt. The feast was to be celebrated each year on "the fifteenth day of this seventh month" and was to run for seven days. It was preceded by a "holy convocation" or Sabbath day when the Israelites did not work and spent the day in worship to the LORD. Then for the next seven days they offered "an offering made by fire to the LORD". Also, on the seventh day the feast ended with a "holy convocation" or Sabbath day to the LORD. During the eight days of the feast the Israelites dwelled in booths or tabernacles made from the branches of trees. This is a reminder that God delivered the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt.
- **The Millennial Kingdom will be a time of testing for those born during this time.** So while the curse upon creation has been lifted, and the devil has been bound during this time, those born during this time will have to make a decision about the LORD. Sadly, we learn that at the end of the 1,000 years when Satan is loosed many will chose to follow Satan rather than Jesus. Jesus will quickly stop the rebellion led by Satan by fire from heaven. Next, Jesus will judge the Lost of all ages, and then the earth will go into the eternal kingdom of heaven on earth. (Rev 20-22).

Ladies, thank you for joining me in our Study of "Zechariah the Minor Prophet". I hope you have been as blessed as I have been by Zechariah and his prophecies. May God be praised! To Him belongs all the glory. Blessings, Debbie Eads