

ZECHARIAH 12-13

REVIEW...

- **Zechariah** – 38th book of the Old Testament – the 11th of what is known as the 12 Minor Prophets
 - o In 520 B.C. – in the second year of King Darius the Great of the Medo-Persian Empire...
 - o God raised up 2 prophets - Haggai / Zechariah (*remembered*) - to rebuild the Temple!
- **Zechariah is broken up into five sections**
 - o **Zechariah 1:1-6** - The first prophecy comes 2 months after the rebuilding the Temple began...
 - o **Zechariah 1:7-6:15** - In the 11th month of the 2nd year of King Darius - series of eight visions...
 - o **Zechariah 7-8** - 4th year of Darius - the question and answer from the Lord about fasting
- **Zechariah 9-11** – The First Burden – the first advent of Jesus Christ
 - o The prophet looked forward to the conquest of Alexander the Great – but Israel was spared...
 - After which the Messiah would come riding in on a colt – He is just and has salvation!
 - Israel would reject Him – prisoners of hope – but God was not done with Israel!
 - They would be scattered to the nations – but God would bring them back in a 2nd Exodus!
 - o In between those two events – the advent of Jesus – and restoration of Israel...
 - A VERY difficult times for Jews – beginning with the destruction of the Temple...
 - And ultimately concluding with them embracing a worthless shepherd – Antichrist...
 - Which brings us to the 2nd and final burden of Zechariah!

THE SECOND BURDEN... (4 THINGS)

- **1ST – THE STUMBLING STONE... vs. 1-8**
 - o 1st – The burden of the Word of the Lord about Israel... vs. 1
 - The first burden left off with Israel in a very precarious position – embracing the Antichrist...
 - We know that God will save Israel – **Zechariah 10:6-7** - but How!
 - Before God answers HOW – He first establishes THAT He can save Israel!
 - God who stretched out the heavens / laid the foundations of the earth...
 - Also formed the spirit within man – if He can do all that – He can save Israel!
 - God promises to provide / heal / and rescue us from our trials...
 - God gives us amazing promises – but we can have a hard time believing He can deliver...
 - It is in those moments when it is good to reflect on what God HAS done...
 - He who stretched out the heavens / laid the foundations / formed the spirit in us...
 - If He is capable of doing all that – nothing is impossible for Him!
 - o 2nd – Jerusalem will be cup of drunkenness... vs. 2-3
 - All the surrounding nations will lay siege to Judah and Jerusalem...
 - The moment Israel was declared a nation again on May 14 – 1948...
 - They were surrounded by enemies on all sides - they were under siege!
 - They were immediately attacked by Syria / Jordan / Lebanon / and Egypt...
 - Israel survived the war against all odds – but the Arabs captured Jerusalem!
 - Since then Israel has become a stumbling block to ALL nations...
 - From 1967 to 1989 the UN Security Council passed 88 resolutions criticizing Israel...
 - During that time the UN General Assembly passed 429 resolutions against Israel!
 - UN Human Rights Commission condemned Israel more than every other nation combined!
 - There is only one entire UN Division devoted to a single group of people – Palestinians!
 - The only UN day dedicated to a specific people is November 29 – for the Palestinian People!
 - Only one refugee agency dedicated to a specific people: UNRWA - for Palestinian Refugees!

- On December 26 - 2016 even the US allowed resolution 2334 to condemn Israel!
- Ironically there is not such thing as Palestinians!
 - The Roman Empire renamed Judah – Palestine – after the Jewish revolt of 132 AD...
 - And the term Palestinian from then on referred strictly to Jews!
 - Until 1967 when Yasser Arafat began telling the lie of the ‘displaced Palestinian people’...
 - Tell a lie loud enough / long enough – and people begin to believe it!
 - In truth the ‘Palestinians’ are mostly Arabs or Jordanians who fled Israel in 1948...
 - They became refugees in Arab controlled LAND – until 1967 when Israel inherited them!
 - And it put Israel in a real pickle – the Arab nations will not take the refugees...
 - Israel cannot absorb them – the Arabs would outnumber the Jews – vote them out...
 - And the ‘Palestinians’ do not want their own nation – because Israel pays for everything!
- What solution does the world offer for peace in the Middle East...
 - Land for peace - give back some of the land - but the problem is it is not about land...
 - If the Middle East was a football field – Israel would be 12 sq. inches – it is not about land!
 - Israel tried giving land for peace – Gaza Strip – the results was Hamas took over!
 - I am often amused by the many debates / ideas on how to bring peace to Israel...
 - There will not be any peace in Israel – they will be a stumbling block till the Messiah comes!
 - Which is why when we pray for the peace of Jerusalem – we are praying for Jesus return!
 - **Psalm 122:6** – “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem...”
- o 4th – Retaking the Land... vs. 4-8
 - In that Day – God will fight for Israel...
 - God will strike every horse with confusion – and their riders with madness...
 - The leaders of Judah will say in their heart – we have found our strength in the Lord!
 - The leaders of Judah will devour all the nations around them like fire...
 - The least among with will be like David – those from the line of David will be like God!
 - They will recapture the rest of Judah (1948) first – and then retake Jerusalem (1967)!
 - In 1967 – the 6-day war – Israel recaptured all the land from the Sinai to the Golan!
 - Including the City of Jerusalem – which once again became the capitol of Israel!
 - The 5 attacking Arab nations easily outgunned Israel in tanks and weapons...
 - But there is one story where honey bees - attacked a column of Egyptian tanks...
 - Driving them out of their tanks so that Israel could come and confiscate them!
 - Aim for the trees...
 - There is another great story about an Israeli spy in the Syrian army...
 - The Golan Heights is a barren high dessert – lots of heat with no shade...
 - The spy visited and encouraged Syria to plant shade trees by all their fortifications...
 - The spy then told Israel when they attacked – just aim for the trees!
 - In the final days of the war...
 - Israel wanted to capture the Golan Heights – but Syria was trying to sue for peace...
 - To give Israel bad press – Syria broadcast Israel had entered Damascus – it was a lie...
 - But Syrian troops heard the report – and fled their tanks on the Golan Heights!
 - Israel was able to just walk in – capture the whole Golan in a single day!
 - **Romans 8:31** - “Since God is for us - who can be against us!”
 - If God is the one fighting for us - who can possibly stand against us!
 - As we learn to depend on the Lord - we are absolutely assured of victory!
 - Sin / satan / the world do not stand a chance - God will overcome them all!
- o 5th - The phrase ‘in that day’ appears 17 times in this second burden of Zechariah...
 - What DAY are we talking about – THE DAY of the Lord - the return of Jesus Christ...
 - **Luke 21:29-32** - Jesus gave the parable of the Fig Tree blossoming – coming back to life!

- In the Bible THE Fig Tree is a picture of the Nation of Israel – **Mark 11:13**
- Before the Antichrist rises – makes a peace treaty to rebuild the Temple – **Daniel 9:26**
- Before the 7 years of Tribulation that follows / concluding with the Return of Jesus Christ!
- Israel had to first be reborn - Jerusalem had to come back under the control of the Jews!
- We have seen Israel blossom – that day is today – meaning the end is very near!
 - We are seeing these events unfold – but it is easy to get caught up in the cares of this life...
 - We need to reprioritize our lives – remember that Jesus is coming - **Luke 21:28**
- **2ND – LOOK ON HIM... vs. 9-14**
 - 1ST – Pour out the Spirit of Grace... vs. 9-10
 - In that day the LORD will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem...
 - At the end of the 7 years of Tribulation...
 - The Antichrist will gather his army in the Valley of Megiddo - **Revelation 19:11-21**
 - Then Jesus will come out of Heaven on a white horse – King of Kings / Lord of Lords...
 - With one word he will defeat the Antichrist and his army – **II Thessalonians 2:8!**
 - Then God will pour out the Spirit of Grace on the house of David / Jerusalem...
 - And Israel will look on ‘ME whom they pierced’ – and mourn!
 - First question – who did Israel pierce (*dakar*) – always meaning to physically pierce...
 - In the context the person talking ‘ME’ is the LORD (*YHVH*) – **Zechariah 12:1**
 - When did Israel physically pierce God – the answer of course is the cross!
 - There is also a 2 mysterious letters next to the word ‘ME’ – Aleph and Tau...
 - It is not a word – which is why it is not translated – but it is there in the Hebrew...
 - The Aleph and Tau are the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet!
 - So it could read they will look on the ‘First and the Last’ or the ‘Alpha and Omega’!
 - **Revelation 1:8** – “I am the Alpha and the Omega--the beginning and the end...”
 - An amazing passage proving Jesus is both Messiah / and LORD - God almighty!
 - Second question – why will Israel mourn when they see Jesus...
 - Not just Mourn – but mourn as one who has lost their ONLY SON / their FIRST BORN SON...
 - The first-born speaks of the inheritance – receiving the blessing!
 - The Jews thought because they were the CHOSEN people – they were guaranteed heaven...
 - They had convinced themselves they were good and moral – deserved the blessing...
 - Until they came face to face with Jesus Christ – then all their goodness melted away!
 - It is easy to fool ourselves into thinking we are OK – good moral people...
 - Until we end up face to face with Jesus – and see just how wretched we really are!
 - 2ND – Great mourning... vs. 11-14
 - There will be national mourning...
 - In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem...
 - Like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the Megiddo valley...
 - Referring to how Israel mourned the loss of King Josiah – **II Chronicles 25:34-35**
 - Because he was a Godly king – it was a day that became a national day of mourning!
 - Speaking of the national revival – ALL Israel will mark the day Jesus died for them!
 - There will be individual mourning...
 - Every family will mourn – from the greatest to the least...
 - From the house of David (*King*) to the house of Nathan – the youngest son of King David...
 - From the house of Levi (*priest*) to the house of Shimei – the grandson of Levi...
 - Because the revival will not just be national – it will be individual!
 - Some people say there is no reason to reach out to Israel – go where the fishing is good...
 - They are blinded because they rejected Jesus Christ – **Romans 11:7-10**

- But when we talk about Israel we must deal with Israel nationally and individually...
- Not all Jews were blinded – they will just not accept Jesus NATIONALLY till He returns...
- Jews have been getting saved from the beginning of the church – Apostles were all Jews!
- **Romans 11:25** – “Blindness IN PART has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”

▪ **3RD – THE FOUNTAIN OPENED... VS. 1-6**

o 1st – The Remedy - For sins and uncleanness... vs. 1

- In that day a fountain will be opened – to take away the sins and guilt of Israel...
- Not that the fountain was not available before – they just were not willing to come!
- It took mourning for their sin – for them to be willing to receive forgiveness!
- When Jesus comes the 2nd time – ALL Israel will be saved – **Romans 11:26**
- If I gave you a pill and told you to swallow it to save your life – you might hesitate...
- But if I told you that you had been poisoned – and the pill was the antidote – down the hatch!
- One of the hardest parts about sharing the Gospel – is getting people to see the need...
- People assume they are good – assume that God will accept them into heaven...
- Which is why it takes bad news – showing people how BAD we really are...
- It is only when we realize we are not good – it opens up the door to see our need for Jesus!

o 2nd – Purity of the people... vs. 2-6

- Jesus will be first – before ANYONE else...
 - In that day – people will not even remember the names of idols...
 - All false prophets and unclean spirits will be driven from the Land...
 - If someone even tries to give a false prophecy – their parents will confront them...
 - Because they lied in the name of the Lord – their father and mother will put them to death...
 - Fulfilling the command of the Lord – **Deuteronomy 13:6-9**
 - If we try to serve and please our family - and serve and please the Lord...
 - We will be end up being conflicted by our contradicting loyalties...
 - In the end we will falter and have to choose one or the other...
 - Following Jesus means putting Him before EVERYONE else – **Luke 14:26**
- People will be afraid to not follow Jesus...
 - In that day – false prophets will be ashamed of their visions...
 - They will take off their course robes – the garment of the prophets...
 - Think of John the Baptist with his camel hair robe – **Mark 1:6**
 - A robe they wore to deceive people – try and convince them they were men of God!
 - Terrified because of the consequences of being revealed as a false prophets...
 - They will proclaim – I am not prophet – I have been a famer since my youth!
 - We live in a nation where the unimaginable is acceptable...
 - People can say what they want – and we excuse it as free speech...
 - But if the penalty for sin is severe enough – it encourages people not to sin!
 - **Proverbs 3:11** – “Do not despise the chastening of the LORD...”
- When he is asked about the wounds on his arms...
 - He will answer – these are the wounds I received in the house of my friends...
 - In context this is referring to false prophets – who bore the marks of their trade...
 - Like the prophets of Baal who cut themselves when they faced Elijah – **I Kings 18:28**
 - But these prophets will lie about their marks – blaming it on their farming work!
 - Often quoted in reference to Jesus Christ – who was wounded in the house of friends!
 - Most errors in Bible interpretation come from taking a verse out of CONTEXT...
 - We must interpret a verse or passage in relation to the surrounding verses...

- Understanding a verse in the context of the other verses before and after...
- The context within the chapter / within the book / within the whole Bible!

▪ **4TH – REFINED BY FIRE... vs. 7-9**

o 1st – Strike the Shepherd... vs. 7

- Awake O sword against My Shepherd / My Companion...
 - Who is the Shepherd / Companion of the LORD – Jesus Christ
 - When was Jesus struck by the sword – capitol punishment – on the cross...
 - And when they struck the Shepherd - the sheep were scattered...
 - Directly quoted by Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane - **Matthew 26:31**
 - Predicting how the Disciples would scatter and flee at His Crucifixion!
- Then I will turn my hand against the little ones...
 - This is probably not the best interpretation – better to say turn towards the little ones...
 - Jesus did not turn against His little lambs after the crucifixion – He came to help them!
 - **Matthew 26:32**- “But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.”

o 2nd – Only 1/3 shall be saved... vs. 8-9

- In the same way God will turn towards His little ones after His 2nd coming...
 - But not all of them will make it – two thirds of Israel will perish in the Tribulation...
 - When the Antichrist stands in the Holiest of All – all hell breaks loose...
 - The Jews realize their mistake – and reject him – provoking his wrath...
 - Jesus warns them do not even go back into their houses – just RUN – **Matthew 24:15-16**
 - For satan / Antichrist will seek to devour the Jewish people – **Revelation 12:13**
 - But God will hide the remnant of His people for 3 ½ years in Bozrah / Petra – **Isaiah 63:1**
- They will be brought through THE FIRE – refined like silver / tested like gold...
 - They will be His people and He will be their God!
 - Silver is refined by putting it into the heat of an intense fire
 - The fire draws out the impurities of the silver so they can be removed
 - The smith knows the silver is pure when he can see his reflection...
 - Trials are never fun – but they have a purpose – and we need to be patient - **James 1:2-3**
 - Because it is through those fiery trials God will to show us our heart...
 - He uses them to reveal the sin in our life - so that He can then draw it out!
 - Jesus put us in the fire to draw out the impurities from our life (*sin*)...
 - He knows when we are done – because He sees his reflection in our lives!