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 condmned 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 reslotion 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 be 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 to 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 5^{th} 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 see 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 out lives remember that Jesus is coming Luke 21:28
- 2ND LOOK ON HIM... vs. 9-14
 - o 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!
 - o 2nd Great mourning... vs. 11-14
 - There will be national morning...
 - $\bullet \hspace{0.4cm}$ 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 morning...
 - 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."
- 3^{RD} 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!
- $\mathbf{4}^{\text{TH}} \mathbf{R}$ EFINED 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!