

ZECHARIAH

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Zechariah chapter 12 as we continue our study through the Word of God. And this evening we will be concluding this fascinating and encouraging book. Now keep in mind that as we started out in our study of this book we saw a call for repentance.

Back in Zechariah 1:2-4 we were told, **“The LORD has been very angry with your fathers. Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Return to Me,” says the LORD of hosts, “and I will return to you,” says the LORD of hosts.’ Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets preached, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds.”’ “But they did not hear nor heed Me,” says the LORD.”**

And as we moved through this book we have seen this move to repentance and the restoration of God’s people, the Jews. Thus, as we finish up this book this evening we are going to see the Gentile nations judged, the restoration of Israel as they turn to Jesus as their Messiah, and the establishment of the Kingdom Age.

It will be a glorious day when peace will permeate the land as the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, rules and reigns from Jerusalem. But before that takes place we see the rise of the Antichrist and the persecution of God’s people during the Tribulation Period. They rejected their Shepherd, Jesus Christ and went after the false shepherds and ultimately they will go after the Antichrist. That is what we concluded with last time and that will lead us to the end of the Tribulation Period and their return to their Messiah, Jesus Christ.

With that as our background, let's begin reading in Zechariah chapter 12 beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us this evening as we study through His Word.

ZECHARIAH 12

VERSE 1

1. We saw in Zechariah chapter 9 the judgment of the Gentile nations that surrounded Jerusalem, and here in chapter 12 we see another "**Burden of the Word of the LORD . . .**" that will deal with the salvation and restoration of Judah.

What is interesting here is that Zechariah starts out by telling us of the power of God. He is the One who created the heavens, the earth, and man! Why does he start out like that?

Because God is trying to encourage His people as He tells them that He is in control of everything! I think that is important for us to understand because as we look at life doesn't it seem out of control at times? It does for me and yet I know that it is not out of control because God is the One who oversees everything! He created the heavens, the earth, you and me and thus, my problems are nothing for Him.

The point then is we need to rest in Him no matter how out of control things may seem. Look at the history of God's people, the Jews. Over and over again it looked like they were done, that they were going to disappear from history and yet, here they are today. How come? Because God said that the covenant He made with them was everlasting and thus, no matter how hopeless the situation may look, God is going to save His people and as we will see, He does!

VERSES 2-3

1. Think about this for a minute. Ever since Israel became a nation once again, back on May 14, 1948, they have been a cup of trembling to their enemies. Their enemies wanted them destroyed. Thus, as this nation was born Syria attacked from the north, Jordan from the east and Egypt from the south. And yet this tiny nation won the war! But this is not what is being spoken of here.

There is another problem for the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem. The Muslims claim Jerusalem as their third-holiest city. But there is a little problem. Jerusalem is not mentioned once in the Koran.

Not only that but listen to what Dave Hunt said, "During the centuries when Jerusalem was under complete Arab control, no Arab ruler or Islamic leader ever made it the object of a religious pilgrimage - again a strange indifference toward a city which is now considered to be the third-holiest religious site in Islam after Mecca and Medina." But again, that is not what is being spoken of here in Zechariah.

But there is more. Back in 1967 the same nations; Syria, Jordan and Egypt attacked Israel and God once again protected His people. Israel took the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt. They took the West Bank from Jordan. And the city of Jerusalem was now all theirs, it was no longer a divided city! And this was accomplished in 6 days! But again, that is not what Zechariah is speaking of here.

We are not done yet. Back in 1973 there was the Yom Kippur War as Egypt and Syria attacked this time. And once again God gave them a great victory. They marched into Egypt taking the whole 3rd Egyptian Army. Up north, they took the Golan Heights back coming within 17 miles of Damascus. If their enemies had not called for an end of the war, they were prepared to go all the way into Cairo in the south and bomb Damascus in the north. But this is not what Zechariah is speaking of here, we still have not seen the complete fulfillment yet of this yet.

And there is a big war coming and you can read about it in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39. This is still future and what we see in these chapters is Russia, with her Muslim allies, come down upon Israel. But once again we see God save His people destroying 5/6 of the Russian Army. But that still is not the complete fulfillment of this prophecy.

The complete fulfillment of this prophecy is seen in the Battle of Armageddon when the Antichrist and the Gentile nations surround Jerusalem, they are ready to destroy the Jews and God will intervene and destroy her enemies. The enemies of Israel will not be able to move this heavy stone!

This tiny nation, the size of New Jersey, is at the forefront of talks within the United Nations, not for Israel but against this nation. We see the rise of Antisemitism throughout the world. And this will only increase as the Lord's return draws closer.

I like the way that David Hunt sums this up. He said, "Consider how remarkable even this one prophecy is. Who could have imagined when the Old Testament was written that all the nations of the world would be involved in deciding the fate of Israel? And this involvement of all nations in dividing Israel has occurred exactly as prophesied and is still in the process of being implemented."

Make no mistake about it, man does not decide the fate of Israel, God does. And those who try to come against Him will lose, not might! We see the last part of verse 3 tell us this very thing, “**... all who would heave it away will surely but cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.**” We have seen this in the past and this will climax or reach its complete fulfillment, like I have said, at the end of the Tribulation Period.

VERSES 4-9

1. What an important lesson for us to learn. The leaders of Israel will recognize that their strength will not be found in them, but in the Lord. In Psalm 118:8-9 we are told, “**It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.**” They learned their lesson, they forgot that lesson and they will remember it again. May we learn that lesson also, that our confidence needs to be in the Lord!

And what we see here is that the Jews do turn to the Lord to defeat these enemies that are coming against her. God will empower His people for victory over their enemies and they will devour them as a fire pan in a wood pile or a fiery torch in the sheaves. It will be quick and it will be complete! And God will empower His people so the weak will even be strong. And it will be the Lord, the Messiah, who will lead His people to victory.

And here is the thing we need to remember. No nation, no matter how big, no matter how strong, will be able to stop God’s plan, these things will come to pass. And as true as that is for Israel, it is also true for God’s people, you and me. If God is for us who can be against us and the answer is simple, no one! I am not saying that people will not try to stop you from sharing the Gospel but no one can stop the work of God!

2. I want you to see here that this has to be speaking of the end of the Tribulation Period as we are told Zechariah 12:9, **“It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all nations that come against Jerusalem.”** And as we saw in verse 3, all the nations of the world will come against her and that happens at the end of the Tribulation Period.

VERSE 10

1. Blindness has happened to the Jews because they rejected their Messiah, Jesus Christ! But what we see here is that the eyes of the nation are opened and they will turn to the Lord. The Spirit of God will remove those blinders that have covered their eyes and they will see Jesus!

Now why won't they turn to Jesus today? We are told in II Corinthians 3:13-16, **“unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.”**

Yes, on an individual basis some Jews are coming to the Lord Jesus, but the nation as a whole will not turn to the Lord until this veil is lifted. And that won't happen until the Tribulation Period and culminating at the end of the Tribulation Period when they call upon the Lord!

And as you read this you can clearly see that the blindness is removed as they look to the One whom they have pierced, they look to Jesus. And they mourn for what they did to Him, how they turned their face from Him. But they come to saving faith!

And as you read this and you read what Paul said in Romans chapter 11, you see this amazing promise fulfilled. Paul put it like this in Romans 11:25-27, **“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.’”**

That **“fullness of the Gentiles”** that Paul is speaking of deals with that last Gentile that gets saved before the Lord comes for His Bride, the Church. We call it the Rapture! Once that happens then God will pour out His Spirit upon the Jews and their eyes will be opened! They will receive the forgiveness of sin that is only found in Jesus for He alone can take away their sin just as He does ours!

VERSES 11-14

1. The Jew’s will recognize that they put their Messiah to death, they pierced Him. It is as Matthew 27:25 says, **“And all the people answered and said, ‘His blood be on us and on our children.’”** And it was as judgment came upon them. But here we see that their mourning will be like the mourning that took place when the godly King, Josiah, was killed by Pharaoh Necho II at Hadad Rimmon. He was the last hope for the fading Judean nation. (II Chronicles 35:20-27).

And we see mourning and true repentance carried out by individuals, from Kings like David, to the prophets like Nathan, to the priests like Levi and his grandson Shimei, besides all the Jewish families. Every part of Israeli society will mourn as they realize that they were the ones who pierced the very One who had come to save them.

It is as Paul said in Romans 6:23, “**For the wages of sin is death, but the [free] gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**” You see, they are receiving that free gift of life that is found in the Messiah, Jesus Christ!

I like the way that Spurgeon sums this up as he wrote, “We know of a surety, because God has said it, that the Jews will be restored to their own land, and that they shall inherit the goodly country which the Lord has given unto their fathers by a covenant of salt forever; but, better still, they shall be converted to the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, and shall see in him the house of David restored to the throne of Israel.”

ZECHARIAH 13

VERSE 1

1. This verse flows out of what was spoken from verse 10 on through verse 14 of Zechariah chapter 12. You see, as they turn to the Lord God will send forth a fountain of living waters that will cleanse Israel of her sin. She will be made as white as snow.

It is as John tells us in I John 1:7-9, **“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** The grace of God is rich and it is deep and it will flow to all who turn to Him and are willing to receive it into their lives!

2. It is as the song goes, “Are You Washed in the Blood of the Lamb?”

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?
 Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
 Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour?
 Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

[Chorus:]

Are you washed in the blood,
 In the soul-cleansing blood of the Lamb?
 Are your garments spotless are they white as snow?
 Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Lay aside your garments that are stained with sin
 And be washed in the blood of the Lamb.
 There's a fountain flowing for the soul unclean.
 O, be washed in the blood of the Lamb!

That is the only place you will find the cleansing from your sin, the blood of Jesus applied to your life by faith. Apart from Him you are stained and so are the Jews. And the only cleansing is in Jesus.

2. To put this into perspective for us, listen to what Spurgeon wrote regarding this cleansing fountain. “According to the verse before us this provision is inexhaustible. There is a *fountain* opened; not a cistern nor a reservoir, but a fountain. A fountain continues still to bubble up, and is as full after fifty years as at the first; and even so the provision and the mercy of God for the forgiveness and the justification of our souls continually flows and overflows.”

And this fountain is open for all to receive as Spurgeon tells us, “The means by which sin and sinfulness can be put away are at this moment accessible to the sons of men. The atonement is not a fountain hid and concealed, and closed and barred and bolted, it is a fountain open.”

VERSES 2-6

1. Idolatry and false prophecy were the two principle ways Israel was led astray from God. God not only provides a fountain to cleanse, but He also promises to cut off the source of uncleanness - in this case, idolatry and false prophecy.

And keep in mind they were worshiping these idols and God alone deserves our worship. And the day that is spoken of is not just a 24-hour day but it speaks of the *Day of the LORD* which begins with the Tribulation Period and goes on into the Kingdom Age. But these idols will be removed from the land prior to the Lord setting up His Kingdom.

2. Now as we read this about the false prophets, it seems a little harsh, doesn't it? But if someone is leading you astray, putting you in danger, putting your life in jeopardy, I don't think we would want them around and that is how God feels about these false prophets. He tells us they will be put to death.

And again, the reason is simple. They are leading people away from God, causing them to go down the broad way instead of the narrow road. In Deuteronomy 18:20 we see God speak of this once again. We read, **“But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.”**

Again, in Deuteronomy 13:1-11 we are told **“If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’- which you have not known – ‘and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst. If your brother, the son of your mother, your son or your daughter, the wife of your bosom, or your friend who is as your own soul, secretly entices you, saying, ‘Let us go and serve other gods,’ which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers, of the gods of the people which are all around you, near to you or far off from you, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth, you shall not consent to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him or conceal him; but you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and**

afterward the hand of all the people. And you shall stone him with stones until he dies, because he sought to entice you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. So all Israel shall hear and fear, and not again do such wickedness as this among you.”

I wish more teachers of the Word of God would read these things before they start speaking out of their own wisdom instead of the Words of God. Many teachers are so flippant and disrespectful to what God has to say, even changing the Word of God to fit their own fleshly desires. How sad. Even in the New Testament we see a warning to those who are teaching the Word of God. James warns us, **“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.”** James 3:1. There is a responsibility and we are accountable as we are teaching the Word of God, please do not forget that!

And I guess this was a good incentive program not to speak out of your own heart. These false prophets would be silenced. They no longer will dress the part of a prophet, but will try to disguise themselves by saying they are farmers and don't have the time to be a prophet. They may fool man, but they will not fool God!

3. Now look at verse 6 again, **“And one will say to him, ‘What are these wounds between your arms?’ Then he will answer, ‘Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.’”** And as you read this it seems to be speaking of the true Prophet, Jesus Christ. I don't think that is the point here and it does not fit in with what we were reading regarding the false prophets.

The Hebrew is literally *between your hands*. In other words, it could be speaking of this person's body, his chest or back. Keep in mind that false prophets would wound or mutilate themselves as they served these idols. We see that in I Kings 18:28 and Jeremiah 48:37.

Thus, the idea here is that this man who was being accused of being a false prophet points out that these scars are not self-inflicted but it is the result of a brawl at a friend's house. He did not want to be associated with a false prophet because the result would be death!

Calvin wrote, "Some apply this to Christ, because Zechariah has mentioned wounds on the hands; but this is very puerile [foolish, silly]; for it is quite evident that he speaks here of false teachers, who had for a time falsely pretended God's name."

In either case, we are now going to be looking at the True Shepherd, Jesus Christ as we read on.

VERSE 7

1. Now we know this is speaking of Jesus because He quoted this verse in Matthew 26:31. It speaks of Him being put to death and the sheep scattering, not only His disciples but the Jews as a nation. This verse says, "**Then Jesus said to them, 'All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'**"

What I want to focus on here, and I think sometimes we miss this, is who is going to strike the Shepherd? It is God the Father who will strike the Son. In Matthew Jesus said, "**I will strike the Shepherd**" and if Jesus is the Shepherd then the only one that can strike Him is God the Father.

And if you still don't believe it, look again at Zechariah 13:7 and you will see that it is God the Father who calls for the sword to be drawn against His Shepherd, against Jesus! You see, "**... the Man who is My Companion**" is not speaking of a friend, but an equal. We see this word used in Leviticus 6:2 and 18:20 and it speaks of being a "near neighbor." In other words, as Baldwin points out, this Shepherd "dwells side by side with the Lord, His equal."

Also, Keil makes these remarks, "God would not apply this epithet to any godly or ungodly man whom he might have appointed shepherd over a nation. The idea of nearest one (or fellow) involves not only similarity in vocation, but community of physical or spiritual descent, according to which he whom God calls his neighbor cannot be a mere man, but can only be one who participates in the divine nature, or is essentially divine."

2. We see this same idea in Isaiah 53:4-7 where we read, "**Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; he was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.**"

Now keep in mind that Isaiah spoke these words some 700 years before the birth of Christ and Zechariah some 500 years before the birth of Christ. Just as the Scriptures spoke, we see come to pass! This is what our Lord has done for us!

3. And in the last part of verse 7 we are told, “**... Then I will turn My hand against the little ones.**” Now keep in mind that this is not in judgment but that God will once again pour out His Spirit upon the children of Israel. These people who were proud have now become little as they humbled themselves before the Lord and God’s hand of blessing will be upon them.

VERSES 8-9

1. As much as the Jews were scattered God will bring them home again! And as you read these verses please understand that they are speaking of a future time, a period of time known as Jacob’s Trouble, the Great Tribulation!

And this man who comes on the scene as a man of peace, the Antichrist, makes his true colors known as he comes against the Jewish people who refuse to worship him. This happens at that 3½ year mark of the seven-year Tribulation Period and continues on until the end or it climaxes at the end.

And the slaughter of the Jewish people will be worse than during Hitler’s atrocities that he brought upon them, murdering some 6 million Jews! We are told here in Zechariah that only 1/3 of the Jews will make it through the fire. That means 2/3 will be put to death! Think about it, maybe some 10 million Jews will be put to death! It truly is a Time of Jacob’s Trouble.

But for those who make it through it will be a refining process for them. These are those who have given their life to Jesus and will enter into the Kingdom Age with Him. Will some of those who have died be believers? It is possible. We know that the two Jewish witnesses will be killed and possibly the 144,000 Jewish witnesses as well. What we do know is the utter destruction this man of sin brings upon the Jewish people!

And the Jewish people are a miracle because Satan and his forces have been trying to destroy them ever since they became a people. Let me share this with you and you will see what I mean. We are told,

About one hundred years ago the king of Prussia, Frederick the Great, was having a discussion with his chaplain about the truth of the Bible. Frederick had become skeptical and unbelieving, largely through the influence of the infidel Voltaire. So he said to his chaplain, "If your Bible is really true, it ought to be capable of very brief proof. So often when I have asked for proof of the inspiration of the Bible I have been given some enormous volume that I have neither the time nor disposition to read. If your Bible is really from God, you should be able to demonstrate the fact simply. Give me the proof of the inspiration of the Bible in a word."

The chaplain replied, "Your majesty, it is possible for me to answer your request quite literally. I can give you the proof you ask for in a single word."

Frederick looked at the chaplain with some amazement and asked, "What is this magic word that carries such a weight of proof?"

The chaplain answered, "Israel, Your Majesty."

The continued existence of the Jewish people in spite of centuries of persecution is one proof of the Bible's inspiration and of the existence of the God who has promised to preserve them and bring them to a time of great national blessing in the last days.

- James Montgomery Boice, *The Minor Prophets*, Two Volumes, pp. 218-219

How true that is. You see, God's covenant that He made with His people He will bring to pass. The Jews will dwell in Jerusalem and their Messiah, Jesus will rule and reign from the throne of David. God is not done with His people, He will restore them! What a miracle this is!

2. Make no mistake about it, this is a fiery trial for the Jewish people. And today, as we walk by faith, God puts us through the fire, trials, testing our faith and refining us, purging out the dross to make us like pure gold.

He is making us more like Him! It is a Paul said in II Corinthians 3:18, “**But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**” One day that will take place as we go to be with Him! He will finish the work He began in each of us!

ZECHARIAH 14

VERSES 1-2

1. As some read this they try to apply this to the church, as H. C. Leupold does. He wrote of this chapter, “Our verses do not, therefore, apply to any one situation. They do not describe a siege, capture and captivity which actually occurred. By means of a figure they describe a situation which obtains continually through New Testament times. God’s people shall continually be antagonized and suffer bitter adversity at the hands of their foes and shall in consequence be brought low; but there shall always be an imperishable remnant, and that not so extremely small.” (H. C. Leupold, Exposition of Zechariah, 259)

As I have said tonight, God is not done with Israel, the Jewish people. The everlasting covenant that He made with them is everlasting. And as you look at the Scriptures, the last days, the Tribulation Period is dealing with the Jewish people, not the Church because we have been removed before this period of time begins, this judgment upon the earth dwellers.

Now keep in mind that the Jewish day begins at sunset rather than with the rising of the sun. And I think we see that with the *Day of the LORD*. Yes, it begins in darkness but it ends in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, it ends in the glorious light of His return!

Also, when we think of the *Day of the LORD* we tend to think of it as a day of judgment against a Christ rejecting world, which is true. But it is also a time of restoration, and specifically here, of the nation of Israel. The things that Israel lost in battle, they will be restored, returned to them.

But before restoration there is this time of Jacob's Trouble and not only will the Jews be attacked by the Gentile nations, but so will Jerusalem. I believe that this is speaking of the time beginning with the 3½ year mark of the seven-year Tribulation Period and on to the end of the Tribulation Period when the Gentile nations gather together, surrounding Jerusalem. And as they make their conquest against the city, things look bad, houses plundered, women violated, many taken into captivity, but not all. Why? Because of what we are going to read in verse 3.

VERSES 3-5

1. Can you imagine how hopeless the Jewish people must have felt and then, all of a sudden the Lord comes forth and He is fighting for them. Now here is a big question, "Why did the Lord wait so long to intervene? Why didn't He respond sooner?"

I believe He was waiting upon the nation of Israel to call upon Him, and as soon as they do, He steps in, fighting for His people and destroying their enemies. It is as Matthew 23:38-39 says "**See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'**"

And thus, He will hear and respond to His people in the following manner, **“The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; he shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; he shall prevail against His enemies.”** Isaiah 42:13.

2. I like the fact that the Lord places His feet on the Mount of Olives and it cleaves in two. Of all the places to plant His feet, why the Mount of Olives? Remember in Acts 1:9-11, we see the Lord’s ascension take place here as we read, **“Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’”**

This same place, on the Mount of Olives, where the Lord was taken up into heaven, He is going to return one day. And when He does, when He places His feet on the Mount of Olives, it will split in two, making a large valley. And this could be the place where Jesus will judge the nations, called the Valley of Jehoshaphat in Joel 3:2, 12.

3. Now the Lord tells the Jews to flee through this new valley that He created, flee for safety. And this earthquake that takes place is likened to the earthquake in King Uzziah’s day. This great earthquake is spoken of by Amos in Amos 1:1 but it is not found in the historical books of the Bible. There is no record there of this earthquake occurring during the reign of King Uzziah. But this cataclysmic event will occur as the Lord returns, causing the Mount of Olives to split in two!

4. One more point here at it comes out of verse 5, the last part of this verse that says, “**... thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with Him.**” Who is that speaking of? I believe it is speaking of us, His bride, the Church coming with Him as He returns.

Jude put it this way, “**Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”**” Jude 14-15.

Also in Revelation 19:14 we read “**And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.**”

And in Colossians 3:4 we are told “**When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.**”

VERSES 6-11

1. Obviously we are now in the Kingdom Age here in Zechariah. And what we see here in these verses is that the sun and the stars will no longer give light but the Lord Himself, His glory will shine brightly and light this world!

2. We are also told of these living waters that will flow from Jerusalem. We saw this in our study in Ezekiel. In Ezekiel chapter 47 we are told that this river will flow from under the new Temple, through this new valley and half will flow to the Eastern Sea or the Dead Sea and half will flow to the Western Sea or the Mediterranean Sea. These waters will not dry up but flow continually and they will bring healing and life to the Dead Sea.

That is so true even today. What I mean by that is that when we allow the living waters, Jesus Christ to flow into our life, He will bring healing and life to these bodies which were sick in sin and spiritually dead.

3. And in this Presidential Election year and everyone going crazy who the next President is going to be, I like what verse 9 says, “**... the LORD will be King over all the earth ...**” What a day that will be.

Keep in mind that the Lord is setting up His Kingdom on this earth and the sheep will enter into the Kingdom and the goats, those who have rejected Jesus during the Tribulation Period will be kept out, they will be cast out to Hades until the Great White Throne Judgment, which takes place after the Millennial reign of Christ.

Of this day Jeremiah 33:14-16 tells us, “**‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah: In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.’**” That day is getting closer.

And as we see in verse 10 there are more topographical changes as the areas around Jerusalem become like a plain and Jerusalem is elevated higher. Thus, as people look at Jerusalem and see its Temple, it will be placed in honor, above all nations and people, and the inhabitants of this earth will be drawn to the Lord to worship Him there.

And the mountains that were used as protection for the Jewish people, since they are living safely now, they will no longer be needed. Think about it, ever since the invasion and captivity by the Babylonians against the Jews, the Times of the Gentiles or Gentile persecution upon Israel has continued. But here we see the Times of the Gentiles come to an end, the Jews will dwell safely!

VERSES 12-15

1. This is looking back to when the Lord returns “**And fight[s] against those nations**” that we read about in verse 3 of Zechariah chapter 14. And as you read of their flesh decaying or dissolving while they stand, many feel that this plague is a neutron bomb which dissolves the flesh but leaves the buildings standing. And it not only affects the people but according to verse 15 we see the animals affected as well.

It could be a neutron bomb, but keep in mind it is the Lord who is doing this and He does not need a neutron bomb to defeat His enemies!

Also, as you read this it seems that God puts the enemies in a confused state and they shall begin to fight each other. You see, as these forces from the east and the north come down upon the Antichrist in the area of Jerusalem, and the Antichrist, who is in Africa putting down a rebellion, now moves northward towards Jerusalem, to put down this rebellion, they will meet in the Valley of Megiddo and this is where this Battle of Armageddon takes place as the Lord defeats these enemies.

And in the Kingdom Age we see all that was taken from the Jews returned, all the wealth, gold, silver they will have in abundance!

VERSES 16-19

1. Those who make it through the Tribulation Period, those Gentiles who have turned to the Lord, will enter into the Kingdom Age and will come to worship the Lord every year, all will come to worship the King. You see, instead of coming to Jerusalem for battle, they come to worship the King of kings and Lord and of lords.

Now it says that they will keep the feast of Tabernacles. Why? It would seem to be a reminder of God's care for His people, His love for them even during times of distress. But now they are enjoying times of joy in the Kingdom Age, but this feast will remind them of their days in the wilderness when they lived in booths and how God sustained them, watched over them, just as He has done during this time.

2. Now as you read verses 17-19 it seems strange that some people in the Kingdom Age are not coming to worship the Lord. I thought that all would! This is clearly speaking of the Kingdom Age and there will be those nations, those people who refuse to worship the Lord during this time. I know, it seems hard to believe, but that is what we are reading here.

I don't think this will happen right away but keep in mind that there will be children born during this time, during this 1,000 years, and they will have to make a choice to serve the Lord or reject Him. And, ultimately, at the end of the Millennial reign of Christ Satan is loosed for a season and some will side with Satan. The Lord will quickly put down this rebellion and there will be the Great White Throne Judgment for all who have rejected Jesus and then the eternal state with a new heaven's, a new earth and a new Jerusalem!

3. Let me make one more point and this is applicable for us today. We saw here that those nations, those people who don't worship the Lord will experience drought, no rain. I think that is true today and I am not talking about physical rain. Those Christians who refuse to worship the Lord will experience a dryness to their souls and the only solution is to worship the Lord and those living waters will flow into your life again!

VERSES 20-21

1. Here we see that in the Kingdom Age there will no longer be a separation between that which is holy and that which is common, for everything will be given to the Lord in worship and in service. Boice put it like this, "The point is that the people and the city will be so holy that even these insignificant things will be fully dedicated to the Lord."

But why are there no more Canaanites? Because they were symbolic of anything that was ceremonially unclean, unholy. And in the Kingdom Age all will be holy before the Lord. What a day that will be!

2. As we started out in this book we saw a call to repentance. A cleansing of the Jews. A cleansing of the land. A purging out of all that is unclean. A restoration of Israel in the Kingdom Age with the Lord Jesus Christ ruling and reigning on the throne from Jerusalem.

It is as Jeremiah 23:5-6 says, "**Behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.'**"

Make no mistake about it, He is our righteousness and He will one day rule and reign upon this earth and His righteousness will flow throughout the land. He will restore all things to that state that they were created to be in the first place, they were all **VERY GOOD!** We await that day!

3. As I close this evening and we close this book of Zechariah, let me leave you with this to think about. We have focused on restoration and God is in the business of restoring broken lives. We are told,

A few years ago, an angry man rushed through the Rijks Museum in Amsterdam until he reached Rembrandt's famous painting "Nightwatch." Then he took out a knife and slashed it repeatedly before he could be stopped. A short time later, a distraught, hostile man slipped into St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome with a hammer and began to smash Michelangelo's beautiful sculpture The Pieta. Two cherished works of art were severely damaged. But what did officials do? Throw them out and forget about them? Absolutely not! Using the best experts, who worked with the utmost care and precision, they made every effort to restore the treasures.

By His sovereign grace, God can bring good out of our failures, and even out of our sins. J. Stuart Holden tells of an old Scottish mansion close to where he had his little summer home. The walls of one room were filled with sketches made by distinguished artists. The practice began after a pitcher of soda water was accidentally spilled on a freshly decorated wall and left an unsightly stain. At the time, a noted artist, Lord Landseer, was a guest in the house. One day when the family went out to the moors, he stayed behind. With a few masterful strokes of a piece of charcoal, that ugly spot became the outline of a beautiful waterfall, bordered by trees and wildlife. He turned that disfigured wall into one of his most successful depictions of Highland life.

- Charles Swindoll, *The Quest For Character*, p. 49

That truly is our God!