

ZECHARIAH

INTRODUCTION: ZECHARIAH was both Priest and Prophet; was probably born in Babylon, son of Berechiah, son of Iddo, he is called in Ezra, son of Iddo, which means he was possibly brought up by his grandfather. The 3 names are significant, Zechariah means “Yahweh Remembers”, Berechiah “Yahweh Blesses”, Iddo “the appointed time”.

As a young man (ch.2-4) he followed Haggai but ministered for a much longer period (between 520/480 BC) 16 years after the first captives returned from Babylon in the 2nd year of Darius, following the 70 years captivity.

Zechariah was one of the greatest of ancient inspired seers, his book. being full of the most striking visions in the O.T. He was a great poet and thus a fitting companion to plain practical Haggai.

PURPOSE Zechariah ministered with Haggai (Ezra 5-11) to stir the remnant to complete the unfinished Temple; in addition his ministry was apocalyptic to the nation (ch.1-8) and prophetic of both the first and second comings of the Jewish Messiah (ch.9-14). There are more specific Messianic predictions in Zechariah than in all the other “minor prophets” combined. Whilst Haggai’s message was one of rebuke dealing with the outward work of rebuilding the Temple, Zechariah’s message was one of encouragement to bring about an inward spiritual change in the people, prophesying, in glowing terms, of the glory to come to Israel in far off ages.

SUMMARY The book breaks down into 5 messages:

1. **A call to repentance. Ch.I-v1/6**
2. **8 Visions, all given in one night. Chs.I-v7 to ch.VI**
3. **4 fold answer to an enquiry by a deputation from Babylon. Chs. VII-VIII**
4. **Prophecies having both a partial and future fulfillment. Chs. IX-XI**
5. **Prophecies that are all wholly future. Chs. XII-XIV**

The first sections of Zechariah were given while the temple was being rebuilt and are partially fulfilled at that time, including 8 symbolic visions (ch.1-6) and 4 didactic messages (ch.7-8). Chap. 9-14 were given after the Temple was rebuilt and cover both the first coming of Jesus, his rejection, the scattering of Israel, and their “last day” acceptance of their Messiah, and His second coming and the establishment of His glorious Millennial Kingdom.

PROPHECIES OF MESSIAH: As “the Branch” (ch.3:8, Matt,2-23) As “Jehovah’s Servant (ch.3-8, Phil.2-7) As “God’s Shepherd” (ch.13-7, Mk.14-27 John 10-11) As “King-Priest” (ch.6-12/13, Heb.5-5/6) As “Builder of the Spiritual Temple” (ch.6-12/15, Mt.16-18) As “King over all the Earth” (ch.14-9, Rev.19-16). His entrance into Jerusalem (ch.9-9, Matt.21-4/5) His betrayal for 30 pieces of silver (ch.11-12/13, Matt,27-9/10) His hands and feet pierced (ch.12-10 John 19-37) and cleansing from sin by His death (ch.13-1, John 1-29)

In many ways Zechariah is a difficult book to interpret, and we need the full enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, as in ch.4-6 “Not by might, nor by power (nor by intellect), but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts” Ref. John 14-13/14; Eph.1-17/18; 2 Tim.1-7

Let us heed the Word of GOD!. “For all these things happened to them as examples; they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the age have come”. (1 Cor.10-11)

A CALL TO REPENTANCE.

CH.I-v1/6;

CHAP.1 V.1-6: Beginning 2 months after Haggai, Zechariah calls the people to repentance; like their fathers of old they had become backslidden, and it was time to return to the LORD. Their fathers had not hearkened to the Word of the LORD, and so they had been taken into captivity.

According to their ways and according to their deeds so GOD had dealt with them, and so will GOD do to all men on the Judgment Day. (Matt.7-2) Our only hope is to be washed in the Blood of JESUS and to be clothed in the garment of His righteousness.

8 VISIONS, ALL GIVEN IN ONE NIGHT.

CHS.I-v7 TO CH.VI (1-6);

(3 months later 8 visions are given intended to encourage the people.)

(1ST) VISION OF THE HORSES:

v7 on. The horse has a special place in Scripture; Job 39-19/27 gives a graphic description of his strength, and in 2 Kings 2-11 and 6-17 we see horses and chariots of fire. Rev. 6 tells of the 4 horsemen who ride forth to execute GOD'S judgments, and in Rev.19-11/14 we see JESUS and His army of saints riding triumphantly on white horses, destroying the enemy.

Here, 3 months later, Zechariah is given a vision of a Rider on a red horse, with other horses; (note thru' this book Zechariah keeps asking the meaning and is always given the answer)

v.11 The explanation is they have been walking to and fro thru' the earth, and all is quiet, but Jerusalem is troubled; it has been spoiled by its enemies, its walls broken down and their glorious temple destroyed. However GOD was not pleased, v.15, as they "helped forward the affliction". Now GOD responds with comforting words of mercy, restoration and glory. Some of the promises given were partially fulfilled both before and at the coming of Messiah, others will only be fulfilled after JESUS' second coming, during His glorious Millennial reign. V.14 GOD is zealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with great zealously, and one day Jerusalem will be the capital city for the whole Earth, as in Ps. 48-2 & Rev. ch.21

The "going to and fro" reminds us that Satan also is always on the prowl seeking to do evil (Job 1-7 & 2-2) However we can take comfort in the fact that "the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole Earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward Him". 2 Chron. 16-9. Our comfort and strength is always in the LORD .

(2ND) VISION OF THE HORNS v.18:

Horns are a symbol of power; these 4 horns represent 4 nations that have afflicted Israel incl. Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and later Greece; but now GOD promises deliverance through 4 craftsmen who will break the power of the horns, which was literally fulfilled in past ages. In the immediate situation the 4 craftsmen could be interpreted as Zerubbabel, Joshua, Ezra & Nehemiah who fought so valiantly to rebuild the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem.

Today those nations are rising again for the final overthrow of all the nations that reject GOD and His righteous ways. Rev.12-3, gives us a picture of the Devil's final attempt to take over

the whole Earth, pictured as a great red dragon having 7 heads, speaking of 7 world empires, and 10 horns, called 10 kings, and corresponding with the 10 toes in Nebuchadnezzar's vision, (Dan. 2-42) who for 3-1/2 years will rage over the Earth, (Rev. 13-5).until he is destroyed by the Rider on the White Horse with the sword proceeding out of His mouth.

This is our confidence, that no matter how great the warfare, in the end GOD always triumph

CHAP.2: (3RD) VISION OF THE MEASURING LINE.

V.1-5 A man goes forth to measure Jerusalem in its width and its length, followed by a promise that Jerusalem would one day be a populous and prosperous city and the LORD would be the glory in the midst of it. What trials and destructions have taken place since, but GOD'S promises are sure, and though there was a partial fulfilment when JESUS walked in Jerusalem, the great Day of the LORD is yet future. (& near at hand!)

MEASUREMENTS are very important to GOD. He gave very specific instructions re sizes in the Tabernacle, e.g. the outer fence of 300 cu. x 5 = 1500 (years) = approx. the Law period, whilst the cubic size of the Holy Place, 20x10x10 = 2000 years indicates the age of Grace, and the Most Holy Place, 10x10x10, 1000 years is the time of the Millennial Age. In Rev. 21 we are given the measurements of the New Jerusalem and the wall thereof. The city is so huge that if only 100 people inhabited each cubic mile, it would contain 337,500,000,000 people. In Eph.3-14/19 Paul prays that "You may be able to comprehend the width and length, and depth and height to know the Love of CHRIST". (How immeasurable is GOD'S Love!) GOD also measures nations prior to judgment, as in Amos 7-7 when GOD used a plumbline to judge Israel. In Rev. 11-1/2 we see an angel measuring the temple of GOD, leaving out those who are in the outer court (not close to GOD) who suffer great tribulation as a result.

FUTURE JOY OF ZION AND MANY NATIONS.: v.6/9 "Flee from the land of the north"; they had been spread abroad as the four winds of Heaven. We see these four winds again in Rev. 7 when GOD seals 144,000 Israelites for a special service. Note that multitudes of returnees to modern Israel have come from the north, from Russia and northern Europe. A call to "come out of Babylon". A similar call is made in Rev.18-4 "Come out of her (Babylon) My people, that ye receive not of her plagues".

V.8/9 GOD cannot withhold the expression of His Love "for he who touches you, touches the apple of His eye". and He will make their enemies to be their servants.

V.10/12 "SING & REJOICE O DAUGHTER OF ZION " rejoice in the promised coming of the LORD, the establishment of His Throne in Jerusalem, and many nations coming to worship Him. See Isa.2-1/5 & Micah 4-1/7. The expression of praise in the worship of our GOD should be a very essential part of our Christian walk. David was a "man after GOD'S own heart", because of his joyous worship, songs and psalms of praise, which were built on his faith and knowledge of GOD. GOD hungers for the worship of His people; John 4-23/24 "the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship Him". Paul exhorts us in Eph.5-18/19 to "be filled with the Spirit; speaking to

ourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts to the LORD”, and Nehemiah 9-10 says “the joy of the LORD is your strength”.

v.13 “Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD”. Besides our praise, it is important that we wait on GOD and learn how to be silent before Him. Hab.2-20 “The LORD is in His Holy Temple, let all the earth be silent before Him”. Ps.46-10 “Be still and know that I AM GOD”. The most momentous of all “silences” is that found in Rev. 8-1. When the 7th seal is opened, the whole Universe stands still and silent in awe as the final and tremendous events begin to take place that usher in the Millennial Kingdom and end all the evil works of Satan.

CHAP. 3: (4TH) VISION OF THE HIGH PRIEST:

V.1 Joshua the High Priest (representing all the priesthood) is standing before the Angel of the LORD, with Satan at his right hand to oppose him; we see in Rev.12-10 Satan accuses us day and night before GOD, but we overcome him through the Blood of the Lamb. Ref. Job ch. 1.

V.2 In Jude v7 the same language “The LORD rebuke thee” is used by the Angel of the LORD, who is probably Michael, the great prince over Israel – Dan. 10-21.

V.3 on. Joshua is clothed in filthy garments, but the filthy garments are taken away and he is clothed with rich robes and a clean turban is put on his head. Before this Isaiah (ch.64-6) had plainly declared that “all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags”, none of us by our own efforts can make ourselves clean in the sight of GOD, everyone of us needs to be cleansed in the Blood of the Lamb, and be clothed with the garments of His Righteousness, ref. 1 Cor.1-30. Note that in Rev.19-8, at the Marriage of the Lamb, the Bride of Christ was “arrayed in fine linen, clean and white, which is the righteousnesses of the saints”. However in Matt. 22-11/14, one dared to enter “not having a wedding garment” and he was “cast into outer darkness”, so let us be warned and put all our trust in JESUS and not in our own good works. Joshua was given a clean turban; Paul tells us in Eph.6-17 “to take the helmet of salvation “.

THE COMING BRANCH & THE STONE:

Joshua is exhorted to walk in GOD’S ways and keep His commands with a promise of service in the house and courts of GOD. (Note that in Moses Tabernacle there was an outer court and the Tabernacle which was called GOD’S House at that time.) This is followed by the promise that GOD will send His Servant, The Branch, who came 500 years later as our Messiah, JESUS, GOD’S Servant and our Saviour. See also Isa. 11-1, Jer.23-5 and Luke 1-78, (where the “Dayspring from on High has visited us” is in the Greek “the Branch”).

A Stone is set before Joshua, having seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of GOD (Rev.5-6) described in Isa.11-2/3 with seven names. They are also called seven Lamps in Rev. 4-5. This shows how essential is the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and lives.

Jacob used a stone for a pillow, and he set it up as an altar and anointed it; (the British-Israelites claim that this stone was carried by the Israelites thru’ the wilderness, and is the Stone of Destiny upon which the Kings of England have been crowned.). Christ is called “a precious corner stone” Isa. 28-16 & 1 Pet.2-6. In Ps.118-22 it is prophesied of JESUS, the Stone which the builders rejected is become the head stone of the corner (as in a pyramid).

He is the Rock upon which the Church is built, Matt.16-18, and the “Stone cut out - without hands” who will destroy all the nations of this world, Dan.2-45, in the Judgment Day.

Isaiah (ch.8-14) prophesied that JESUS would be both a sanctuary to believers or a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence to both the (idolatrous & disobedient) houses of Israel.

Let this Stone be to us “the power of GOD and the wisdom of GOD” 1 Cor.1-24. We also “as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, to offer up spiritual sacrifices” 1 Pet.2-5.

There are many other refs to “stones”, e.g. 1 Sam.17-49, Ezek.36-26, Acts. 7-5, Rev. 2-17.

The final verses shew GOD’S Mercy after judgment in the restoration of Israel as a nation “in one day” (Isa. 66-8) and of a Millennial promise “everyone under his vine and his fig tree” (Micah 4-4). Despite all Israel’s rebellion and idolatry, GOD never forgets the Covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac & Jacob, and in Lev. 28 we see that after proclaiming twice as many curses for disobedience as there are blessings for obedience, yet, if (only) they will confess their sin and humble themselves, He will again have Mercy upon them Lev.28-40-45.

CHAP. 4: (5TH) VISION OF THE LAMPSTAND AND OLIVE TREES:

The Angel to Zechariah, “Wake Up”. There is certainly a call to the Church today to “Wake Up”, To wake up to what Satan is doing and how he is preparing the world for the reign of the Antichrist, as we see all the criminal activities of world governments, the sexual immorality, violence, murder. thefts. and in particular all nations turning against Israel, little realizing that in so doing they are coming under the curse of GOD. Gen.12-3 and Ps.2-1/5.

Then he is shown a LAMPSTAND OF SOLID GOLD, with seven lamps, and two olive trees beside it, later explained, v11/14, that they are vehicles through which the golden oil flows into the lampstand, and that they are the two anointed ones that stand before the LORD of the whole Earth. Rev. 11-3/4 reveals that these are GOD’S two Witnesses, believed to be Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets, bringing the oil of the Holy Spirit and the Light of the Word of GOD to the children of Israel. They were GOD’S witnesses to the world; so the Church today, described in Rev.1-20 as seven Lampstands, is called to be the light of the world. This picture also emphasizes how essential it is for us to study the Law and the Prophets

v.5 THE WORD OF THE LORD TO ZERUBBABEL:

The promise is given to Zerubbabel that not by his own power or wisdom, but by the Spirit of GOD, working through both the Law and the Prophets, all will be accomplished. Tho’ the difficulties seem like a mountain, before Zerubbabel, they shall become a plain (true for all believers Matt.17-20 Mark 11-23) The hands of Zerubbabel, who laid the foundation of the Temple, will also finish it. This is all prophetic of the greater than Zerubbabel, who began the building of the Church, replacing the Temple as the habitation of GOD, that He will also finish it, and bring it forth as pure gold, “a perfect Church, without spot or wrinkle”, Eph. 5-27

In v.7 we have another picture of Christ as the Head of the Church – “he shall bring forth the capstone, crying “Grace, grace unto it”. The capstone of a pyramid is a perfect pyramid in itself, but no pyramid is complete without it. In like manner, until Christ is the true Head of the Church, we will never be complete. Praise GOD that that Day is not far off.

V.10: “Who has despised the day of small things?” Let us not be discouraged if our efforts seem in vain, GOD has pledged Himself to finish the work. “for the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him” 2 Chron.16-9.

There was rejoicing over the plumbline in the hand of Zerubbabel then. Let us rejoice that today GOD Himself has the plumbline in His Hand, and by the mighty power of His Holy

Spirit, He will build His true Temple, the New Jerusalem, and all the Universe will rejoice in that great Day. What a blessed privilege that He gives each one of us the opportunity to be part of it.

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man shall hear My voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with Me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I overcame, and am set down with My Father, in His throne. Rev. 3-20/21 “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his GOD, and he shall be My son”. Rev. 21-7. Let us strive to be among the overcomers. Amen.

CHAP.5 (6TH) VISION OF THE FLYING SCROLL:

The fact that it is a flying scroll indicates that this is a message from Heaven and reminds us of the Seven Thunders that will be proclaimed as the roar of a lion from Heaven spoken of in Rev. 10-3. It is approx. 30' x 15' in size, is full of curses, which go over the face of the whole earth. What a dreadful warning to the inhabitants thereof. Imagine how many curses could be written on a scroll this size !

It is therefore prophetic of the days in which we live. JESUS warned us of the time of great tribulation that is coming at the end of this age because of the iniquity that shall abound, “the Day of Vengeance of our GOD”, the 2nd half of Isa.61-2 that JESUS did not read at Nazareth.. We must face the fact, that in addition to the world wide perjury and hypocrisy mentioned here, the nations have rejected GOD’S Laws and thrown off all rules of purity and righteousness. as Psalm 2 and Isaiah. ch.24 show very plainly. Jer.25-15/38 speaks of the cup of GOD’S wrath that all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth will drink.

(7TH) VISION OF THE WOMAN IN A BASKET:

This is a picture of the consummation of evil. The woman in the basket represents Religious Babylon, and the two women that carry her into the land of Shinar to build her a house there represent Political and Commercial Babylon. This triple alliance is seen in Revelation 12 and 13 as the Dragon, the Antichrist and the False Prophet. Although this unholy union will seem to work together for a while, in the end the Antichrist, and the 10 kings under his dominion, will hate and destroy Religious Babylon, the false Church, the Mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth. (Rev. 17-5). This is indicated by the lead weight on the top of the basket.

Satan will then organise the total collapse of the whole Babylonian Commercial system. Read Rev. ch.18. Finally when Satan has complete control of the Earth under the reign of the Antichrist and False Prophet, He will gather the armies of the world to try and prevent the return of our Blessed LORD & Saviour, JESUS CHRIST, but his vain attempt will end in total defeat, with the Antichrist and the False Prophet cast into the Lake of Fire, and Satan bound for the 1000 years of Christ’s glorious Millennial reign.

How vain it is to try and thwart the purposes of GOD, and how we need to keep our hearts in tune with the will of GOD, especially in these days in which we live !

CHAP.6-1/8 (8TH) VISION OF THE FOUR CHARIOTS:

These chariots come from between two mountains of brass; they are called the “4 Spirits of Heaven” who go out from before the LORD to execute the will of Almighty GOD. They walked to and fro throughout the Earth and brought peace in the north country.

Brass in the scriptures speaks of judgment; in the Tabernacle of Moses, the altar where sacrifices were made for sin, and the laver, where the priests washed, were both made of brass and speak of the judgment that can only be forgiven thru’ the blood of JESUS, and the washing of water by the Word, Eph.5-26. (Silver is redemption money, and gold speaks of the Divine nature;)

In Rev. 6 we see four riders on horses going forth to carry out the judgments of GOD.

1ST A white horse; speaks of Righteousness; given a bow, a sign of GOD’S Covenant, going forth to conquer; surely to conquer the hearts of people, for mercy precedes judgment. Isa.26-9

2ND A red horse, indicating War; given power and a sword to make war and kill. Rev.19-11

3RD A black horse; bringing Famine; given a pair of balances; a day’s wages for a loaf of bread

4TH A pale horse; named Death, with power over a fourth of the Earth to kill with sword and hunger and death and the beasts of the Earth. Ps.145-6, Isa.64-3, Joel 2-11 and 31.

Whatever GOD’S Judgments were in past ages, and they were many, none compare with the “Day of Vengeance of our GOD” Isa.61-2 & 63-4.

ZECH.6;V.9-15; THE COMMAND TO CROWN JOSHUA;

This is prophetic of the ministry of Messiah. The captives bring gifts of silver and gold which are made into a crown for Joshua, the high priest, prophetic of our true High Priest, the Branch who has since come and is building the true Temple, the Church, the bride of Christ and in its consummation pictured as the New Jerusalem, is to be the dwelling place of our GOD. Rev.21 v.13 “He shall sit and rule on His Throne”. CHRIST is both King and Priest, and the elect are called to have this same office. Rev. 5-10.

v.14 The crown then made was to be set as a memorial in the rebuilt temple as a witness.

v.15 Again this speaks of people coming from afar to build the temple, as in the gospel age people from all nations (Gentiles) will come and be built into the Temple Church.

A FOUR-FOLD ANSWER TO A DEPUTATION FROM BABYLON. CHS. VII-VIII (7-8);

Chap.7 -1/7; 1st answer – Obedience is better than fasting; The people ask whether they should continue to observe certain fasts they (not GOD) had introduced. (The only fast required under the law of Moses was on the Day of Atonement - Lev.16-29). GOD points out that they and their fathers had not fasted unto Him, but had taken pleasure in feasting and drinking. They were just observing an outward ritual and not being obedient to the spirit of the Law, “to do justly and to love mercy” Mic.6-8. “To obey is better than sacrifice” 1 Sam.15-22.

Chap. 7-8/14; 2nd answer – Disobedience resulted in Captivity; GOD had commanded them to “execute true justice, show mercy and compassion”, but they refused to heed and made their hearts like flint, therefore GOD shut His ears to them and brought judgments, finally resulting in the 70 years of captivity. “They have rejected My Law” Jer. 6-19.

Chap. 8-1/17; 3rd answer – GOD will return to Zion;

Despite all their backsliding and departure from GOD’S holy laws, GOD cannot change His Nature, He is a Covenant keeping GOD, and Israel is still His Covenant People, (even today) He is jealous for Zion, (Ps.48-2) and promises to return and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem.

The promises of v.4 & 5, of people of great age, and children joyfully playing in the streets, after the slaughters of their fathers by the armies of Babylon, would come to pass as also under the Maccabees, but in its perfect fulfilment, this will only occur during the Millennium, and after when “the tabernacle of GOD is with men and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people and be their GOD” (v.8 & Rev. 21-3), even all the redeemed, from “every kindred and tongue and people and nation” (Rev. 5-9)

v.6: GOD encourages them saying “If this is marvellous in your eyes”, it is not in Mine. “Is anything too hard for the LORD?” Gen.18-14 “Nothing is too hard for Thee who made Heaven and Earth by Thy great power and outstretched arm” Jer.32-17.

v.7/8 GOD promises to restore His people to the Covenant land; this was partially fulfilled up to the time when Messiah was on Earth, but after they were scattered abroad because of their rejection of Him. Matt.23-37/38; today they are again gathering in Israel, but the fulfilment of this promise will only take place in the Millennial age and after, as in Rev. 21-3.

v.9/16: GOD then exhorts those who had heard the words of the prophets to “be strong” and finish building the Temple, (as we ought also heed the words of the prophets and take our part in the building of GOD’S Holy Temple, the Church, the Bride of Christ !). Before they resumed building in 520 BC, they had been in desperate straits, no wages and no peace from the enemy, but now the LORD of HOSTS will be with them and will bless them with the dew of Heaven, their land will be fruitful, and as they have been a curse among the nations, both the houses of Judah and Israel will become a blessing. Modern Israel has brought many blessings in the way of new inventions to the World, but the fulness is still future.

v.14/17: Just as GOD had punished their fathers for their disobedience, so now GOD will do good to them; but they must speak the truth, not swear falsely nor defraud their neighbor for these are things that GOD hates.

Chap.8-18-23: 4th Answer – A Time to Rejoice:

As a result of GOD'S Blessing, the former fasts will become feasts of joy and gladness. How precious are the mercies of our GOD ! As a result many peoples and strong nations will come up to Jerusalem to seek and worship the LORD of HOSTS. Isa,2-1/6 & Micah 4-1/5

v.23 "In those days 10 men from every nation will grasp hold of a Jewish man, saying, Let us go with you for we have heard that GOD is with you". A Millennial promise.

How different today, when all nations are turning against Israel. The No.10 is a reversal of the 10 nations aligned with the Beast who will all be destroyed by the LORD at His coming !!

CHAPS. 9-14: consist of prophetic messages covering both the first and second comings of Messiah, are not in chronological order and make an interesting study as we come to them.

PROPHECIES HAVING BOTH A PARTIAL AND FUTURE FULFILLMENT. **CHS. IX-XI (9-11);**

CHAP.9: ISRAEL DEFENDED AGAINST ENEMIES

Consistently through Zechariah, (and in all the prophets) GOD shows His love and mercy in promises to defend and bless Israel and destroy her enemies, but again and again Israel falls back into disobedience and idolatry, causing a cycle of blessing and cursing. Thus many of GOD'S promises still have a future fulfilment.

v1-8 "The burden of the Word of the LORD". The word *burden* suggests a heavy judgment; Hadrach was north of Hamas on the Orontes River, SW of Aleppo. Damascus 60 miles NE of the Sea of Galilee, was the capital of ancient Syria. Tyre and Sidon on the Phoenician coast were overthrown by Alexander the Great in 332 BC. Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron and Ashdod were Philistine cities on Israel's south coast. Jebus was the ancient stronghold that David conquered and renamed Zion. " GOD would remove their abominations and blood sacrifices.

V9-10 A call to Judah to rejoice for their coming King. This is an example of compressed prophecy. The Promised King did come, lowly and riding on an ass, and brought salvation, not only to the Jews, but for the whole world (Jo.3-16), but His dominion from sea to sea, even to the ends of the Earth, and the destruction of His enemies, will only be fulfilled in the Millennium, an event we can look forward to with great rejoicing.

V11-17 God will save His People; "Return to the stronghold, ye prisoners of hope"; this is an encouragement to those still in exile. GOD would bring them back from their captivity, "from the waterless pit"; many of them were comfortable in Babylon, but their spiritual drink, the "living water" was to be found in the Land GOD had given them. V 13/15; there was a fulfilment of these verses under the Maccabees, who valiantly fought and overthrew the reign of Greece, but there will be a grander fulfilment of these promises in the future.

CHAP.10: THE LATTER RAIN, JUDGMENT & RESTORATION OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL

v1 Promise of the Latter Rain. The latter rain was to prepare the fruit and grain for the harvest; in Deut. 11-13/14 GOD'S promise was conditional on obedience. Prov.16-15 :God's favour is like a cloud of the latter rain". In Jer.3-1/3 & 5-24 we see that the former and latter rain were withheld because of Israel's shameless behaviour and lack of fear of the LORD.

In Hosea 6-3, GOD would come to them as the former and latter rain, if they would repent ! Rain is often typified as an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as in Joel 2-21/24, & v29, a wonderful prophecy of restoration, and this was quoted by Peter on the Day of Pentecost after the disciples were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in many different languages .Acts 2

A promise of a further outpouring of the early and latter rain from which will come a harvest of "precious fruit" just prior to our LORD'S return is given in Jas.5-7/8, and reminds us of our

benedictory song, - all glory be to our GOD who is able to present us faultless before His Throne with exceeding joy. How glorious is our GOD, and His Ways past finding out.

Receiving the early and the latter rain together is the equivalent of the "double portion", which is the birthright of the first born, Deut.21-17. In Gen.48-22, Jacob gave to Joseph a double portion. This was confirmed by Joshua to Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, "Thou art a great people, thou shalt not have one lot only," Josh.17-17/18. Elisha also got a double portion when he saw Elijah going up to Heaven in a whirlwind. 2 Kings. 2-9/12.

It is wonderful to know that "the LORD'S portion is His People" Deut. 32-9. (That's us !!!)

The word "portion" comes from the Hebrew word "Khaylak" meaning an inheritance. Perhaps even more wonderful, GOD is our portion, (our inheritance!) Ps.16-5, Ps.73-26, Lam.3-24, We are "heirs of GOD and joint-heirs with Christ" Rom. 8-17.

v.2/3 Judgment on the false shepherds; Diviners and idols were leaving the people like sheep without a shepherd; the leaders were like goatherds and would suffer punishment.

V4/5 The Armament of the LORD; GOD in the midst of His People is Mighty, and He will use them to destroy His enemies. For He Himself is the chief corner stone. Ref. Job38-6, Ps.118-22, Isa.28-16, Eph.2-20, 1 Pet.2-6, See also Jer. 51-19/23 "My battleaxe and weapons of war", and for us, "The GOD of Peace will bruise Satan under your feet shortly" Rom.16-20

v.6-12 The Restoration of Judah & Israel: GOD'S Mercy is abundant, and He cannot let Israel go. "v.6 "I will bring them back". "How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out" Rom.11-33.

CHAP.11 JUDGMENT ON THE WORTHLESS SHEPHERDS.

v.1-7 GOD requires faithfulness and obedience and He will judge between the righteous and the unrighteous. As before, this prophecy has been partially fulfilled, but is also future.

v.8 Zechariah has two staffs, "Beauty" and "Bands". These are to guide the sheep, and opposes the Canaanite god Baal who had two clubs Driver and Chaser to do battle with.

The word Beauty comes from the Heb. word "no-am" meaning agreeableness, delight, splendor or grace, and refers not so much to outward appearance as to inward beauty of character and holiness. The word Bands is from the Heb. "khaybel" meaning a twisted rope or measuring line in relation to inheritance and/or suffering, and used together suggest a people with beauty of character and bound together in bonds of love and longsuffering.. These are also aspects of GOD'S character, which He wants to share with us, as the psalmist says,

"Let the beauty of the LORD our GOD be upon us." Ps.90-17

v.10 However Zechariah, perhaps in exasperation, cut his staff Beauty in two to indicate that he was breaking the covenant he had made with the people, as he later did to his other staff, Bands, to show that Judah and Israel were to be separate nations.

v.12 Zechariah's wages, 30 pieces of silver, the price of a slave, was probably the same price Potiphar paid for Joseph in Egypt, and was what Judas sold JESUS for. GOD told Zechariah to throw the money to the potter, as the priests later did in JESUS' day with Judas' bribe.

v.13/15 is the sad story of the neglect shown by the worthless shepherd, and the judgment that was to come on him.

Our final study on chap. 12-14 vitally concerns us, as we are living in the days of the fulfilment of the things prophesied, and we need to “watch and pray” that we might be ready.

PROPHECIES THAT ARE ALL WHOLLY FUTURE. **CHS. XII-XIV (12-14);**

CHAP.12 THE COMING DELIVERANCE OF JUDAH;

v.1-6 The “burden” speaking of a heavy judgment, GOD first shows His mighty power and works, He is jealous for Jerusalem, and He declares war upon those who come against Zion, “the apple of His eye” Zech. 2-8. We can see how much of this word has been fulfilled in the recent history of Israel since 1948, when despite all the Arab nations arraigned against them, they have won every battle; and today Jerusalem is again inhabited by the Jews. V.6

v.7-9 This is a good description of what happened in 1948, when 5 Arab nations tried to drive Israel into the sea.

v.10-14 Mourning for the Pierced One. This is prophetic of a day when JESUS will come and reveal Himself to His ancient people, and they shall see Him whom they pierced, and a great mourning shall be amongst the people, as at last they realise how wrong they had been, the house of David and their wives apart, the prophets, priests, people and their wives apart.

CHAP.13. IDOLATRY CUT OFF ;

v.1 “In that day”; often refers to the Day of the LORD, which is the 1000 year Millennial day, including the events which introduce it. This verse follows on directly from chap.12, after the house of David and Jerusalem repent of their unbelief, and can now be washed in that fountain, the blood of the Lamb of GOD who bore the sins of the world. Praise His Name !

v.2-5 The Worthless Prophets. As we saw the “worthless shepherds” in chap. 11, so now we see the worthless prophets who did not speak according to the word of the LORD “cut off”.

v.6. Some prophets had self-inflicted wounds; it is also prophetic of the wounds JESUS bore.

v.7-9 The Shepherd Saviour. Strike the Shepherd and the sheep will be scattered. JESUS is the Good Shepherd, Jo.10-11 & 14, and His sheep were scattered both at the crucifixion and after during times of persecution, Matt.26-31, Jo.16-32, Acts 8-1.

“Two-thirds shall be cut off” 1 million Jews were killed in AD70, and 6 million (one-third of the Jews) in the Holocaust (which the Muslims deny) and perhaps another third will be destroyed during the coming “time of Jacob’s trouble” Jer.30-7, when one-third will be refined through their suffering, as gold is refined in the fire, and they will become GOD’S people, and He will be their GOD. v.9 We also, as GOD’S people today, in like manner have to be refined, as Paul says, we are sons and heirs, “if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together” Rom.8-17. Refer also to 1 Pet.1-7 and Rev. 3-18.

CHAP.14 THE COMING DAY OF THE LORD, THE GLORY AGE.

There can be no doubt that this refers to the 1000 year “Day” of the Millennial age, and cannot be reconciled with the A-Millennial dogma, a view which has been in vogue since Augustine.. The Scripture speaks specifically of a visible bodily return of our LORD. Christ will come in power and judgment as a Mighty Warrior, the LORD of LORDS and KINGS of KINGS, as in Rev.19, and He will reign over the Earth for 1,000 years, Rev.20. The nations under Antichrist will be arraigned against Jerusalem, many Jews will suffer, others will flee to the valley that will be formed when JESUS returns and His feet touch the Mt. of Olives., from which He ascended, (Acts. 1-9/12) and which will split in two to form this valley. I have heard a report that there is a geological fault that runs right through the Mt. of Olives.

V.5 “Thus the LORD shall come and all the saints with You”. There will be changes in Earth conditions, the Earth will be liberated from the curse, Rom.8-19/21, the desert will blossom as the rose, Isa. 35-1, animal natures will be changed, the wolf will dwell with the lamb, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and a little child shall lead them, and the Earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea, Isa.11-6-9, the law shall go forth from Zion, and the Word of the LORD from Jerusalem, nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn war any more; every man shall sit under his vine and his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid. Micah 4-2/4 It is quite evident that none of these promises have yet been fulfilled, and can only be fulfilled in the Millennium, as in v. 16 to 21, when all Nations shall come and worship the King of all the Earth.

v.12-15 The End Time Judgment: But first judgment must be executed upon those who fought against Jerusalem, and terrible is His judgment; truly “it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living GOD” see Heb.10-27/31, and Ps.2-1/5

v..16-21 The Nations Worship the King: That there will be nations left on the Earth who will live and die during the Millennium is clearly set forth here, and given in great detail in Isa. ch.65-v17/25. Conditions will be much as they were before the Flood, with great longevity of life, while the KING OF KINGS and His saints rule over all the Earth.

It will be a 1000 year honeymoon for the LORD JESUS CHRIST and His Bride, the Perfect Church. and will be a time of love, holiness, rejoicing, and feasting as everybody comes to keep the Feast of Tabernacles and to worship the GOD of Heaven.

It will also, in the providence of GOD, be the final test to see whether man is capable of his own salvation, even under a perfect rule of righteous law and judgment; sadly, at the end of the 1000 years, when Satan is loosed out of the bottomless pit for a short period, there will be those who have only yielded a “feigned” submission, (See Ps.66-3, where the word “submit” comes from the Hebrew “kawkhash” and means to be untrue) and will cast in their lot with the Devil and end in the Lake of Fire after the Great White Throne judgment, Rev. 20.

Thus before we enter the eternal ages, it will be finally settled that man is totally dependant on and irrevocably linked with GOD, and can only fulfil his destiny as he lives in total unity with the will of a loving, holy, gracious and joyful GOD, who only wants for us to share with Him in His Kingdom, as His Family, all that He is and Has throughout all the ages to come.

This chapter then brings us great hope and cause for rejoicing, but is also a warning to those who do not yield to the claims of a Loving and Holy GOD. Let us believe and rejoice. Amen.

Studies given by Alfred Curtis @ Kangaroo Ground Presbyterian Church: June 2010

[NOTE: The doctrinal viewpoint expressed in these Bible studies are the personal view of the author (Alfred Curtis) and may not align in all aspects with the orthodoxy of the places of worship (if named or referenced) where these bible study(s) may have been presented.]