

"Zechariah's First Burden"

Part 4

Zechariah 9-11

Introduction: In our study of Zechariah, we are currently looking at chapter 9. In this chapter God had foretold of the conquests of Alexander the Great as he would ravage the enemies of the Jews. Then God foretold of the coming of the Messiah hundreds of years before He would enter into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Notice Zechariah 9:9

Then Zechariah continued to speak of the coming Kingdom of Jesus Christ and the peace that would come as a result.

Notice Zechariah 9:10

This was the very thing which Isaiah had prophesied.

Isaiah 2:2-4

² *And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.*

³ *And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

⁴ **And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.**

The coming Millennial Kingdom will be a time of world peace and mark it down that it will not happen until Jesus speaks peace to the nations. I think I mentioned to you last week that the United Nations has adopted Isaiah 2:4 but they are unable to bring peace in this world.

Isaiah 11:5-9

⁵ *And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.*

⁶ *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.*

⁷ *And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

⁸ *And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.*

⁹ *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

Now we have come to the next verses.

➤ **God's Faithfulness**

Notice Zechariah 9:11

This verse and the next verse are going to point to the faithfulness of God in His dealing with the Jews. The Prisoners who were in the pit with no water were the remaining Jews who had not yet returned from the captivity. Let me explain to you the three different returns.

Return #1 - This is found in Ezra, 1, through 6, fifty thousand of them came back to rebuild the temple. The book of Zechariah is taking place in that first return.

Return #2 - This is found in Ezra, 7, through 10. Two thousand Jews are going to come back to decorate the temple and reform the people. Now let me give you something else to consider. After Ezra 6 and before Ezra 7 there is a long gap. Do you know what transpired in the gap? The book of Esther.

Return #3 - This is the return found in Nehemiah when Nehemiah and the Jews returned to rebuild the walls around the city.

So, when Zechariah writes this letter only the first return has happened. The second and the third return are yet to take place. So, there are still many Jews in Babylon.

Notice Zechariah 9:11 again.

God is saying here that He cannot let the remaining Jews in the captivity because of the blood of the covenant. What is He talking about? This is a reference to the Abrahamic Covenant.

This is a reference to the Abrahamic Covenant in Genesis 15.

Genesis 15:5-18

⁵ *And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.*

⁶ *And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.*

⁷ *And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.*

⁸ *And he said, LORD God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?*

⁹ *And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.*

¹⁰ *And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not.*

¹¹ *And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.*

¹² *And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram: and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him.*

¹³ *And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;*

¹⁴ *And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.*

¹⁵ *And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.*

¹⁶ *But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.*

¹⁷ *And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.*

¹⁸ *In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:*

God made a covenant with Abram and the entire covenant rested upon the faithfulness of God. Abram did not walk between the animals, but God did. Therefore, God is obligated to

keep this covenant in which Israel shall never cease to exist. If God allowed Israel to perish, then He would be found to be a liar. God has promised to Israel the land, a King, a Kingdom, and all that goes with the Kingdom. He will keep this covenant but not for the sake of the Jews but for His names' sake.

Ezekiel 36:22

²² *Therefore say unto the house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.*

The Abrahamic Covenant is Israel's foundational covenant. Everything for Israel rests on this covenant. There is no other nation in the world that has this covenant, and the covenant promises that are connected with it. This covenant is absolutely unchangeable.

Hebrews 6:13, 17-18

¹³ *For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself.*

¹⁷ *Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:*

¹⁸ *That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie,*

Immutable - unchangeable.

Two things - God's PROMISES and God's WORD.

When we see Israel being preserved and rescued in the Old Testament it is because of the Abrahamic Covenant. That is why the Exodus happened.

Exodus 2:24

²⁴ *And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.*

This is why God has never and He never will allow the Jews to be destroyed.

Notice Zechariah 9:11 again.

It is because of this covenant that God cannot allow the Jews to stay in the captivity. This is also why He will not allow Satan to destroy them in the Great Tribulation.

Revelation 12:13-17

¹³ *And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.*

¹⁴ *And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.*

¹⁵ *And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.*

¹⁶ *And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.*

¹⁷ *And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

Notice Zechariah 9:12

The Jews were to turn to their STRONG HOLD which was God. The Jews, who were in the captivity, were "prisoners of hope" because of God's promises. When they were brought home God would give them double of what they had lost in the captivity.

Application:

How does all of this apply to our lives? There is a parallel that I want you to see that is very encouraging.

➤ The New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:*

³² *Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:*

³³ *But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

³⁴ *And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the*

greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

When we are saved, we are brought into the New Covenant. We experience the spiritual blessings of this covenant.

Matthew 26:26-28

²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

²⁷ And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

²⁸ For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

This too is an unconditional covenant. It rests upon the faithfulness of the Father and the Son, NOT ON US! We did not make the covenant. It was ratified at the cross when Jesus shed His blood as the payment for our sins. This satisfied the righteous demands of the Father, and the covenant was made. Now when we are saved, we are brought in under this covenant. Once we are saved, we can never lose our salvation because if we did then God would not be faithful. Our sins are forgiven and forgotten. That is every single sin, past, present, and future.

John 10:27-29

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

Notice Zechariah 9:12 again.

If you find yourself in a situation where you feel like a prisoner, then turn to your Strong Hold who is God. Then remember that we may be prisoners in this old world, but we are prisoners of hope. This life is not as good as it gets. There is a life with the Lord that is coming, and this life will pale in comparison to that life.

Conclusion:

Romans 8:16-18, 28

¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.