

"Zechariah's First Burden"

Part 7

Zechariah 9-11

Introduction: Last week in our journey through the book of Zechariah we came to chapter 10 of the letter.

The focus of this chapter is the Messiah and His blessings for His people Israel. The chapter opens with a challenge.

➤ **Hindered Blessings**

1. The Challenge

Notice Zechariah 10:1

From this verse we see that the Jews were challenged to ask for rain. This tells us that they were experiencing drought conditions and the reason was that they were not walking in obedience to the Mosaic Covenant.

Deuteronomy 28:1, 3-5, 8, 11-12, 15

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

³ *Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.*

⁴ *Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.*

⁵ *Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.*

⁸ *The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

¹¹ *And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers to give thee.*

¹² *The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.*

¹⁵ *But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:*

The point is that God wanted to bless them but when there is sin there can be no blessing.

Application:

This is also true in our lives. When there is sin in our lives God will not and cannot bless us nor will He hear our prayers.

Psalm 66:18

¹⁸ *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*

Psalm 32:1-2

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

² *Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.*

2. The Problem

Last week we looked at verse 2 and ended there. I want to look at this verse closer than we did last week because there is more here to understand. When we stopped last week, I shared with you some thoughts on Necromancy. Necromancy is the attempt to speak to the dead. There are many people today who make it a practice to enter seances and to do all they can to communicate with the dead, especially dead relatives. I might also add that they get answers, but not from their dead relatives.

Notice Zechariah 10:2

The word "idols" here is the word "teraphim". These were household idols that were kept by many.

Genesis 31:19

¹⁹ *And Laban went to shear his sheep: and Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's.*

2 Kings 22:1-2

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath.

² *And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.*

2 Kings 23:24

²⁴ *Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the **idols**, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.*

Judges 17:5

⁵ *And the man Micah had an house of gods, and made an ephod, and **teraphim**, and consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.*

Now there is more concerning these teraphim and that is they were images made to represent deceased ancestors.

Notice Zechariah 10:2 again.

When we look at this verse, we see that those who looked to the teraphim were receiving answers. The diviners were basically false prophets and they were getting their messages from these teraphim. Last week we looked at how this was possible.

1 Corinthians 10:19-21

¹⁹ *What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?*

²⁰ *But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, **they sacrifice to devils**, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.*

²¹ *Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.*

Demons attach themselves to idols and they can have major influence over the people who look to the idols. That is exactly what was happening with the diviners mentioned in Zechariah 10:2 They were not getting a message from a deceased relative they were

getting a message from the demons. God had clearly instructed Israel not to have affiliation with those who were involved in necromancy.

Deuteronomy 18:9-14

⁹ *When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.*

¹⁰ *There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch.*

¹¹ *Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.*

¹² *For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.*

¹³ *Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God.*

¹⁴ *For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.*

Now let me show you one thing that happened to Saul because he had these teraphim.

1 Samuel 19:12-13

¹² *So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped.*

¹³ *And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered it with a cloth.*

This "image/teraphim" she most likely took from her father's house. Her father was Saul. Now let us see something that Saul experienced.

1 Samuel 16:14-15

¹⁴ *But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.*

¹⁵ *And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.*

God does not cause people to be demon possessed but He does allow evil spirits to trouble people. Saul was the king God had chosen and because of the teraphim that Saul had, he

opened himself up to demonic influence and here it was a spirit that "troubled or tormented him".

Application:

What does all of this mean to me? Someone might say, "That is all Old Testament Israel and not the church". That is true but what Paul wrote to the Corinthians is for the church and that is that demons attach themselves to idols. So, what happened in Israel in the past still happens today and is still happening. I would say that much of what we see today is demonic influence. Let me give you an example. The teaching today that says there are more than two genders. That is straight from the pit of hell. There are two genders and that is the truth.

Mark 10:6-7

⁶ *But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.*

⁷ *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife:*

There is something else in the Word of God that we need to pay very close attention to.

1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils:

Consider here that Paul is writing to Timothy who is a pastor of the church at Ephesus. This may shock you but when Paul says in the latter times people will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, he is not talking about unsaved people. That has always been the case with the unsaved. Paul is talking about believers here.

So, what is going to happen is that believers will get caught up with idols and they will be exposed to demonic influence and will then get misled by false doctrines.

Let me remind you of what we looked at in the parables of Matthew 13 that pertain to the age we are in.

Matthew 13:24-30

²⁴ *Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:*

²⁵ *But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.*

²⁶ *But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.*

²⁷ *So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?*

²⁸ *He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?*

²⁹ *But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.*

³⁰ *Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*

Then there is the next parable that truly fits what Paul wrote to Timothy.

Matthew 13:31-32

³¹ *Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:*

³² *Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.*

Conclusion:

Let me pull some thoughts together to equip you for our day. No one speaks to the dead. If they claim to do that, they are connected with demons not the dead. You wonder if this happens around here? **Let me show you something that takes place in the little town of Everett.**

Let me give you one more point and that is no one dies and comes back and shares what they saw in heaven or hell.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4

² *I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.*

³ *And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)*

⁴ *How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*

Revelation 22:18

¹⁸ *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:*