

"Zechariah's First Burden"

Part 9

Zechariah 9-11

Introduction: Today we return to our study of Zechariah and as we do, we are stepping back into chapter 10. This is still part of the first burden of Zechariah. The first three verses of this chapter contained a challenge and a warning. Then in verse 4 we looked at a description of Israel's King who would come from the tribe of Judah.

Notice Zechariah 10:4

- **He is the Corner Stone**
- **He is the Nail/Tent Peg**
- **He is the Battle Bow**

Now as we continue, we see what it Zechariah means when he points to the King of the Jews as the Battle Bow and the Oppressor of the wicked.

I. The Jews and the Power of the Lord

Notice Zechariah 10:5

This is what the Lord would have done for the 1st century Jews had they accepted Him as their Messiah and King. He would have strengthened the Jews with His power and might and with Him as their King they would have conquered the Romans.

Matthew 12:10-14, 22-24

¹⁰ *And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? That they might accuse him.*

¹¹ *And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?*

¹² *How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.*

¹³ *Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other.*

¹⁴ *Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.*

²² Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.

²³ And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?

²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

This is when the offer of the Kingdom was pulled back and the Kingdom was then postponed. There were no more offers after this. Their King had come but they did not want Him. They were looking for a political ruler which they would have seen, but Jesus called for their repentance first and they refused.

John 3:1-3

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

² *The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.*

³ *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

This is what was required of the Jews, the new birth, but they were not interested so the Kingdom was postponed. Getting back to Zechariah, there is coming a day when the Jews will receive Jesus as their Messiah and King and then He will empower them to fight against their enemies. This will be at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Let me show you some of what will unfold in the tribulation.

Revelation 12:1-14

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

² *And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.*

³ *And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.*

⁴ *And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.*

⁵ *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

⁶ *And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*

⁷ *And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,*

⁸ *And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.*

⁹ *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

¹⁰ *And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

¹¹ *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

¹² *Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.*

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.*

The persecution will be very severe for the Jews in the second half of the tribulation. God will preserve one-third of them in the midst of this.

Zechariah 13:9

⁹ ***And I will bring the third part through the fire**, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.*

This one-third will be the ones who are strengthened by the Lord's power and might which Zechariah writes about. There will be a war at the end in which the Jews will be given the Lord's strength to fight.

Revelation 16:12-14

¹² *And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.*

¹³ *And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.*

¹⁴ *For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*

This WAR/CAMPAIGN of Armageddon will begin before Jesus returns and it will be a war that is fought from house to house.

Zechariah 14:1-3

Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

² *For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*

³ *Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.*

Let us understand that the Lord will not do all the fighting Himself, but He will empower His people to fight.

Zechariah 12:6-8

⁶ *In that day will **I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left:** and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem.*

⁷ *The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah.*

⁸ *In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them.*

II. The Restoration of the Nation

Notice Zechariah 10:6-7

Judah here refers to the southern kingdom and Joseph refers to the northern kingdom. There is coming a day when the divided nation of Israel will come back together. Many people refer to the northern tribes as "the lost tribes of the nation of Israel." But they are not lost, God knows exactly where they are and one day, He will bring the northern and the southern kingdoms back together. The end of verse 7 tells us their hearts will rejoice.

Notice Zechariah 10:6 again.

Notice closely why the Lord does this. It is because He has compassion for His people.

Deuteronomy 7:7-8

⁷ *The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:*

⁸ *But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

Application:

Why does God work in our lives to bring us blessing? Not because we are better than others but because He loves us and He desires the best for us.

Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

³⁶ *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

³⁷ *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

³⁸ *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

³⁹ *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Overview application:

When Zechariah penned this letter, the nation was in a dark season. The temple was not finished and the walls around the city were nothing but burned rubble. Some of the Jews were still in Babylon in the captivity. These prophecies must have seemed so far away but we know that one day they will be fulfilled. God had a covenant and He remembers. There is coming a day when everything will turn around for the nation of Israel. God's blessings will be poured out in abundance.

Jeremiah 29:10-13

¹⁰ *For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.*

¹¹ *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

¹² *Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.*

¹³ *And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

How does this apply to us? Possibly you are in a season of darkness at this time. Please know that God has a plan in all that we go through. He may be refining us so that people can see the life of Jesus in us even more so. Possibly He is training you for a ministry and in the future, you will be able to use what you are learning in this season. There is an end result that God has planned.

Ephesians 2:6-7

⁶ *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

⁷ *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

Just as creation shows His amazing power even more so will we show forth the riches of His grace for all eternity as the wife of Jesus Christ. For all eternity we will be seen as trophies of His grace.

There will be a day when the season of darkness is turned around and it will be over.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

² *A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;*

³ *A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

⁴ *A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

⁵ *A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;*

⁶ *A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;*

⁷ *A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;*

⁸ *A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.*