

"Zechariah's First Burden"

Part 10

Zechariah 9-11

Introduction: The last time we were together in Zechariah we were looking at Zechariah 10 we looked at the promise of how Jesus will empower the Jews before His second coming.

Notice Zechariah 10:4-7

Jesus is presented here as the Cornerstone, the Nail, the Battle Bow, and the oppressor of evil. When He returns to the earth to set up His Kingdom, He will defeat the armies of the Anti-Christ in the Battle of Armageddon. Now when we think of Armageddon, we think of one intense battle but the truth is that Armageddon will be a campaign.

The campaign will begin before the return of Jesus Christy and it will be 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

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.*

Jesus will however clean up the campaign when He returns.

Revelation 19:15, 19-21

¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

²¹ And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Now as we move on in this chapter, we see another great event that will take place.

“The Gathering of the Nation of Israel”

Notice Zechariah 10:6-8

Here we see that God will hiss/whistle and He will call all of Israel back together. Judah in verse 6 refers to the southern kingdom and Joseph refers to the northern kingdom. I want to take a few moments and show you why the nation divided.

In Deuteronomy we the guidelines for anyone who was the king of Israel.

Deuteronomy 17:14-18

¹⁴ When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me;

¹⁵ Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother.

¹⁶ But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.

¹⁷ Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

¹⁸ *And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:*

After David was king his son Solomon became the king and when we look at his life it looks almost like he was determined to violate every guideline that God gave for the king.

1 Kings 11:1-6

But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites:

² *Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.*

³ *And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.*

⁴ *For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.*

⁵ *For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.*

⁶ *And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.*

Because Solomon became involved with foreign women and therefore brought into Isarel pagan worship leading the nation into apostasy, God would divide the kingdom.

1 Kings 11:29-33

²⁹ *And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field:*

³⁰ *And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces:*

³¹ *And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee:*

³² *(But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:)*

³³ *Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father.*

Now let me explain what was behind all of this. Satan was working through Solomon to lead the Royal line down a path of apostasy. He wanted to pollute the Royal line to stop the coming of the promised Redeemer who will one day establish His Kingdom. Satan became the god of this world when Adam sinned and Satan wants to continue to reign in his kingdom in this world. Jesus Christ is the One who will destroy Satan., So Satan does all he can to stop Jesus from coming. Now God divided the kingdom to separate the majority from the apostasy that Solomon brought in. The dividing of the kingdom was to be a warning to those in the Royal line/David's descendants of the consequences of apostasy. Two lessons to see here:

1. The coming of the Redeemer was more important than the unity of the nation.
2. The purity of the nation was more important than its unity.

This then is how and why the kingdom divided.

Today the Jews are scattered all over the world. The dispersion today is the result of what happened in AD 70 when the Romans attacked Jerusalem. This came as the result of disobedience.

Deuteronomy 28:15, 47-49, 64-65

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:*

⁴⁷ *Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;*

⁴⁸ *Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.*

⁴⁹ *The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;*

⁶⁴ *And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.*

⁶⁵ *And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:*

Notice Zechariah 10:8-10

There will come a day when God will gather all Israel back into their land. Let us notice what Ezekiel says concerning this.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

² *And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.*

³ *And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.*

⁴ *Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.*

⁵ *Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:*

⁶ *And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.*

⁷ *So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.*

⁸ *And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.*

⁹ *Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.*

¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

¹¹ Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

¹² Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

¹³ And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

¹⁴ And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

Ezekiel continues this thought.

Ezekiel 37:16-21

¹⁶ Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and for all the house of Israel his companions:

¹⁷ And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.

¹⁸ And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these?

¹⁹ Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.

²⁰ And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.

²¹ And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:

Conclusion:

Notice Zechariah 10:11-12

God will remove every obstacle that Satan places in the way of restoration.

Application:

What is the application for our lives? Maybe your life is "scattered" at this time. You have drifted away from the Lord and therefore you are unstable in all your ways. There are multiple problems in your life and deep down in your heart you know that it is because you are going in direction that is against the will of the Lord.

It will not be until Israel turns to the Lord that all of this will be fulfilled. In your life it is time for you to turn back to the Lord also. He can restore your fellowship and He can bless you with spiritual blessings. All your problems may not go away but you will have peace in the midst of the storms. There are two points I want you to keep in mind:

1. **God can do that which is humanly impossible.**

Matthew 19:26

²⁶ *But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.*

2. **God will strengthen you to face whatever has come before you.**

Philippians 4:11-13, 19

¹¹ *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

¹² *I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

¹³ *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

¹⁹ *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*