

"Zechariah's Second Burden"

Part 1

Zechariah 12-14

"The Danger of Rejecting God's Grace"

Introduction: In our study of the Kingdom on Sunday evenings we are considering how the story of the Bible is all about God setting up His Kingdom which had existed with Adam and Eve but was lost due to sin. In order for the Kingdom to come there are several major events that **MUST** take place. I want to give you two of them because our text is going to deal with these two.

1. The Times of the Gentiles must come to an end.

Daniel 2:31-44

³¹ *Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.*

³² *This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,*

³³ *His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.*

³⁴ *Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.*

³⁶ *This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.*

³⁵ *Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.*

³⁷ *Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.*

³⁸ *And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.*

³⁹ *And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.*

⁴⁰ *And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.*

⁴¹ *And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.*

⁴² *And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.*

⁴³ *And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.*

⁴⁴ *And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.*

2. The Nation of Israel must be saved.

Zechariah 13:8-9

⁸ *And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.*

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.***

Right now, both of these events seem to be far from reality. There does not seem to be any possibility of either of these happening. The Gentile nations rule over the world and there is an ever-growing antisemitism in our society. Then there are the Jews who are living in unbelief and many are atheists so for them to come to Jesus Christ is going to take a miracle.

This now brings us to Zechariah 12 because in this chapter we are going to see how both of these events are going to transpire.

I. Israel's Physical Deliverance

Zechariah 12:1-9

Notice Zechariah 12:1

This verse is very important because it sets the stage for what we are about to see. This verse points to the One who will bring about the events in this chapter. He is the God of Creation.

1. He stretched forth the heavens.
2. He laid the foundations of the earth.
3. He created man and gave him life.

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

² *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

³ *And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*

⁴ *And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.*

⁵ *And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*

Genesis 2:7

⁷ *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

Let us notice the details as to how God will deliver the Jews from the nations.

Notice Zechariah 12:2-4

There will be a day when the nations of the earth lay siege to the city of Jerusalem. This will happen in what is known as the Campaign of Armageddon. If we notice verses 3-4, we can see that this will happen "IN THAT DAY". This again is the time of Armageddon. It will be God who will gather the nations against Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:2

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.*

I want to take some time and show you why and how God will bring these nations.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12

⁸ *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

⁹ *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*

¹⁰ *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

¹¹ *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*

¹² *That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

These people will have rejected the Gospel. It will be proclaimed in the Tribulation by God's 2 witnesses.

Revelation 11:3-7

³ *And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.*

⁴ *These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.*

⁵ *And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.*

⁶ *These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.*

⁷ *And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.*

The 144,000 missionaries will preach the Gospel.

Revelation 7:4

⁴ *And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.*

The Gospel will also be proclaimed by an angel that will fly over the earth.

Revelation 14:6-10

⁶ *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,*

⁷ *Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*

⁸ *And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.*

⁹ *And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,*

¹⁰ *The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:*

These people will have many warnings and many opportunities to be saved but they will reject the love of the Truth and God will send them a strong delusion and they will follow after the Anti-Christ and come against Jerusalem. Now let us notice what will happen.

Notice Zechariah 12:2 again.

As these nations surround Jerusalem with the intention of slaughtering the Jews, the Jews will be made a cup of trembling to them. The "cup of trembling" is a reference to judgment.

Isaiah 51:17, 21-22

¹⁷ *Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem, which hast drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of his fury; thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling, and wrung them out.*

²¹ *Therefore hear now this, thou afflicted, and drunken, but not with wine:*

²² Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again:

As these nations gather around Jerusalem they will be struck with fear and trembling.

Notice Zechariah 12:3 again.

Jerusalem will become a burdensome stone to these nations. This speaks of the fact that Jerusalem will be immovable. The nations who gather to attack Jerusalem will be like a drunk man who tries to lift something that is impossible to move.

Notice Zechariah 12:4 again.

The horses here need to be seen as literal horses.

Revelation 14:17-20

¹⁷ And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

¹⁸ And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

¹⁹ And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

²⁰ And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

Getting back to Zechariah 12, the horses and the riders will be struck with madness. These armies will be in total chaos.

Application:

What does all of this mean to us? From this I want you to see the danger in rejecting the Truth of God. You can be sure that God will be glorified through your life whether you are saved or lost. If you are saved God is glorified in that you become one of His children.

If you are lost God can use you to glorify Himself in judgment.

Do you remember the Pharaoh in the days of Moses?

Exodus 5:1-4

And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

² *And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.*

³ *And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us: let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the LORD our God; lest he fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.*

⁴ *And the king of Egypt said unto them, Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, let the people from their works? get you unto your burdens.*

Now let us notice what Paul wrote in Romans about Pharaoh.

Romans 9:17-21

¹⁷ *For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.*

¹⁸ *Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.*

¹⁹ *Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will?*

²⁰ *Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?*

²¹ *Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?*

If you are not saved you are walking on dangerous ground.