

**"Zechariah's Second Burden"**

**Part 2**

**Zechariah 12-14**

**"God's Mighty Hand of Power"**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of the book of Zechariah we started into chapter 12. This chapter is very important because it foretells of two significant events that will take place in the tribulation.

1. The end of the times of the Gentiles.
2. The salvation of the nation of Israel.

Both of these events are of great importance because they both must happen before the future Kingdom of Jesus Christ can come to the earth. In Zechariah 12:1-9 Zechariah tells us how the times of the Gentiles will come to an end. There are two points to see and understand here:

- It will happen in the campaign of Armageddon.
- It will happen by the power of God.

Last week we looked at how God will bring all the nations of the world against Jerusalem and He will do this in order to bring them to their end. Two verses in Zechariah 14 show us how this will happen.

**Zechariah 14:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

Today we are going to see the details as to how God will defeat the Gentile nations that come against Jerusalem.

**I. Israel's Physical Deliverance**

**Zechariah 12:1-9**

**Part 2**

**Notice Zechariah 12:1**

Let us notice that this is God's burden for His people. What we read in this chapter is what God desires to do for the Jews but it cannot happen until they repent. Today they run from Him and they reject His love.

**Application:**

We need to understand that God desires to bless us today as well. Not with material blessings but with spiritual blessings. He desires the very best for us.

**Ephesians 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

Let me give you a list of what the Lord wants to do for us if we will only seek Him and walk in His will.

- a. **He wants us to experience full joy.**

**John 15:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

<sup>9</sup> *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*

<sup>10</sup> *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

<sup>11</sup> *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

- b. **He wants to bear our burdens.**

**Matthew 11:28-30**

<sup>28</sup> *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

<sup>29</sup> *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

<sup>30</sup> *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

- c. **He wants to fill our hearts with peace.**

**Philippians 4:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> *Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.*

<sup>6</sup> *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

<sup>7</sup> *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

**d. He wants to bestow upon us His wisdom.**

**James 1:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

<sup>6</sup> *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*

**e. He wants to give us the desires of our hearts.**

**Psalm 37:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> *Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

<sup>5</sup> *Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

There is much more but from this we can see how the Lord desires to bless us. But the problem is that many believers do not desire what He offers. Instead of the spiritual blessings many believers have traded them for what the world has to offer. Let me just remind you of God's Words concerning the world.

**James 4:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

**1 John 2:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

<sup>16</sup> *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

Let us now get back to Zechariah.

**Notice Zechariah 12:2-4**

In the campaign of Armageddon God will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling and a burdensome stone.

**Isaiah 51:17, 21-22**

<sup>17</sup> *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.*

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

<sup>22</sup> *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:*

Israel had drunk from God's cup of trembling but when these verses are fulfilled the Gentile nations will drink of this cup of trembling. Israel will also become an immoveable rock to the nations. Let me paint a picture for you. First let us see what Jeremiah has to say about drinking from the Lord's cup.

**Jeremiah 25:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> *For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.*

<sup>16</sup> *And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them.*

<sup>17</sup> *Then took I the cup at the LORD's hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me:*

These nations that gather against Jerusalem will drink of the Lord's cup and become spiritually intoxicated to the point of being mad with their desires to exterminate the Jews. Let me show you a picture of what these people will be like.

**Revelation 18:1-6**

*And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.*

<sup>2</sup> *And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.*

<sup>3</sup> ***For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.***

<sup>4</sup> *And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

<sup>5</sup> *For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.*

<sup>6</sup> *Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.*

The people of the nations will be drunk on the wine of the commercial system/ Commercial Babylon and when it is destroyed in Revelation 18, they will weep.

#### **Revelation 18:16-19**

<sup>16</sup> *And saying, Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!*

<sup>17</sup> *For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,*

<sup>18</sup> *And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!*

<sup>19</sup> *And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.*

Their drunkenness caused by their drinking from the commercial system of the world will be so great that they will weep when it collapses but the other judgments of the Great Tribulation do not seem to impact them.

❖ **The details of God's mighty power.**

**Notice Zechariah 12:5-9**

God will empower His people to fight against the nations of the world.

**Notice Zechariah 12:8 again.**

God will make those who are feeble as David meaning they will be mighty warriors. This is amazing when we consider how few in number the Jews will be at this time. This is one third of them fighting against the world and doing really good by the power of God.

Application:

There are lessons in all of this for us today.

**1. The timing.**

The delivery of the Jews will come at the "eleventh hour." The entire world will be against them and it will appear as though all hope is lost. But at the last-minute God will step in and He will empower His people to fight against the nations.

**Ecclesiastes 3:1**

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

The situation in your life may look hopeless at this time but let me remind you that the Lord often waits until the last minute to step in. Why? It is then that all our resources are exhausted and He gets all the glory.

**2. The people.**

God will use ordinary people to fight off the nations because this too will bring Him all the glory.

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

*<sup>26</sup> For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:*

*<sup>27</sup> But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;*

*<sup>28</sup> And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:*

<sup>29</sup> *That no flesh should glory in his presence.*

<sup>30</sup> *But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*

<sup>31</sup> *That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.*

### **3. The power.**

It will be the power of God that will work in these people again so that God will receive all the glory.

#### **Ephesians 3:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

<sup>21</sup> *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

#### **Conclusion:**

God often allows His people to face high pressure situations so that He can be glorified through the situation and through His people.

- Joseph in the hands of his brothers.
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
- Daniel in the lion's den.
- Stephen before his accusers.