

**"Zechariah's Second Burden"**

**Part 4**

**Zechariah 12-14**

**Introduction:** Today as we continue our journey through the book of Zechariah, we have now come to chapter thirteen. Last week we looked at chapter twelve and, in that chapter, we saw two of the greatest events that are yet to come in the future.

**Zechariah 12:1-9**

1. The physical salvation of the nation of Israel.

**Zechariah 12:10-14**

2. The spiritual salvation of the nation of Israel.

These are the two of the most important future events that are yet to come to pass. Why? Israel must be preserved because the second coming of Jesus Christ is promised to them. If they are exterminated then Jesus would not return and Satan would forever rule as the god of this world. God also promised that Israel would forever exist.

**Jeremiah 31:33-37**

*<sup>33</sup> But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

*<sup>34</sup> And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

*<sup>35</sup> Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:*

*<sup>36</sup> If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.*

*<sup>37</sup> Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.*

The reason why it is so important for Israel to be saved by accepting Jesus as their Messiah is because they MUST accept Him in order for the Kingdom to come.

**Deuteronomy 17:14-15**

*<sup>14</sup> 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;*

*<sup>15</sup> 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.*

Now we enter into chapter thirteen, but before we do let me just say that the chapter division is out of place here.

**Notice Zechariah 13:1-2, 4**

Notice the phrase, "IN THAT DAY" because it is used three times. It is referring to what we just looked at in chapter twelve and that is the day of Israel's salvation.

**I. The Fountain**

**Notice Zechariah 13:1**

After they accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah there will be a fountain opened and it will be a fountain of cleansing. Let us notice what Ezekiel says.

**Ezekiel 36:24-29**

*<sup>24</sup> For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.*

*<sup>25</sup> Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.*

*<sup>26</sup> A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*

*<sup>27</sup> And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

*<sup>28</sup> And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers: and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.*

<sup>29</sup> *I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you.*

**Notice Zechariah 13:1 again.**

This verse is so important because it tells us that Israel will be converted and then she will be cleansed. Notice the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus.

**John 3:1-10**

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

<sup>2</sup> *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.*

<sup>3</sup> *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.*

<sup>4</sup> *Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?*

<sup>5</sup> *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

<sup>6</sup> *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

<sup>7</sup> *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

<sup>8</sup> *The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*

<sup>9</sup> *Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?*

<sup>10</sup> *Jesus answered and said unto him, **Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?***

What Jesus says here ties back to Zechariah 12-13. Nicodemus needed to be born of the Spirit and then cleansed. This is what happens when a person is born again. Nicodemus being THE teacher in Israel should have known this. The water which Jesus speaks of here is not water baptism it is the cleansing that is connected with salvation. The moment we accept Jesus Christ as Savior we are born again and instantly, we are cleansed.

Nicodemus struggled with this because he was a Pharisee. You see the Pharisees were so legalistic. They were so fearful of what happened in the Babylonian Captivity and they did not want that to happen again so they made up hundreds of man-made rules to guard against falling back into sin and another captivity. But Jesus expected him to know this because of what Ezekiel and Zechariah both taught.

**Application:**

Getting back to Zechariah I just want to remind you of the order here. We are saved and then cleansed from our sin. This is contrary to what many people teach today. They encourage people to clean up their lives and then come to Jesus. That is known as WORKS SALVATION. No where in the Bible are we called to clean up our lives and then come to Jesus. If we could clean up our lives, we would not need Jesus.

Now as we move on, we will see that God will remove two things from the land.

**II. Idols Removed**

**Notice Zechariah 13:2**

The idols are mentioned here for several reasons.

**1. Idols take the place of God in an individual's life.**

This was the reason why Judah was sent into the Babylonian captivity.

**2 Kings 17:9-12**

*<sup>9</sup> And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.*

*<sup>10</sup> And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree:*

*<sup>11</sup> And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the LORD carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger:*

*<sup>12</sup> For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.*

Idolatry was the violation of the first two commandments.

**Exodus 20:1-4**

*And God spake all these words, saying,*

<sup>2</sup> *I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

<sup>3</sup> *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

<sup>4</sup> *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*

The idols that the Jews had took the place of God in their lives.

**Application:**

We tend to think idolatry existed in the Old Testament only. But we need to know that it is everywhere today. We too can fall into idolatry. An idol can be money, a hobby, a job, a child, a spouse, or a sport. It is anything that takes God's place in our lives and it is anything that makes a person feel secure apart from God.

**2. Idols are used by demons to influence people.**

**1 Corinthians 10:19-20**

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

<sup>20</sup> *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.*

Demons work through idols to lead people away from God and to lead people down paths of destruction. This is exactly why we see people doing things today that are completely against common sense. We are in a society of idolatry and many people are under the influence of demons and many are possessed by demons. Idolatry has brought upon our society a great amount of demonic influence.

When this day comes that Zechariah speaks of here God will destroy every idol that exists. Not only will He remove the idols but He will remove their names and they will never again be remembered.

**III. False Prophets Removed**

**Notice Zechariah 13:2b-3**

God will also cause every false prophet to pass out of the land. Those who are false prophets will be killed by their own parents. This reflects what Moses recorded in Deuteronomy.

**Deuteronomy 13:1-10**

*If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,*

*<sup>2</sup> And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;*

*<sup>3</sup> Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

*<sup>4</sup> Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.*

*<sup>5</sup> And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.*

*<sup>6</sup> If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers;*

*<sup>7</sup> Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth;*

*<sup>8</sup> Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him:*

*<sup>9</sup> But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people.*

*<sup>10</sup> And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.*

**Notice Zechariah 13:4-6**

These prophets who were so proud and outspoken will try their best to hide their identity. They will be exposed by the cuts on their hands.

**1 Kings 18:27-28**

*<sup>27</sup> And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.*

*<sup>28</sup> And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.*

**Conclusion:**

Let us be very careful in our world today. There are many things that can be idols. Make sure that God has His place in your life.

We need to also be careful of false teachers.

**1 John 4:1**

*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*