

"Zechariah's Second Burden"**Part 5****Zechariah 12-14**

Introduction: Today we are going to continue of journey through the book of Zechariah. Before we get to the text that is before us, I want to give you some thoughts that will help us in a short review and it will set our minds for what we are about to look at. In our study we are looking at the second burden of Zechariah. The first burden is found in Zechariah 9-11 and it deals with the first coming of Jesus Christ. The second burden is in Zechariah 12-14 and it deals with the second coming of Jesus Christ. Not the Rapture but the second coming and I emphasize this because the two events are completely different. The Rapture happens before the Tribulation and the second coming happens at the end of the Tribulation.

In Zechariah 12 we looked at 2 of the most major events that are yet to happen in the world.

1. The physical salvation of Israel.
2. The spiritual salvation of Israel.

The 2 events **MUST** happen or God has been defeated.

We have looked at how the Jews are being gathered back into their homeland in great numbers today. This is particularly important because this is setting everything up for the Tribulation and before that we know that the Rapture **MUST** happen.

Isaiah 11:10-12

¹⁰ *And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.*

¹¹ *And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again **the second time** to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.*

¹² *And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.*

There are only 2 worldwide regathering's. One is unbeliev and it is happening today. The second is in believ and it will happen at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Now as we move into Zechariah 13, we are privileged to see what God will do as He deals with the nation of Israel.

1. The Fountain Opened.
2. The Idols Removed.

Notice Zechariah 13:1-6

"Refining the Nation"

Notice Zechariah 13:7

Why is this verse here? It is here to remind the reader as to why Israel will go through fires of the Tribulation.

Here we see that it is God who calls upon the sword to awake against HIS Shepherd and the Man that is His fellow/relation. This is a reference to the closeness between the Father and the Son and is ultimately a reference to the Deity of Jesus Christ. They are separate in their Persons but are both fully God.

The point I want you to see here is that it was God who called for the sword against His Son. Let me show you a few verses.

Revelation 13:8

⁸ *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

In the mind of God Jesus was slain from the beginning of creation. It was God's plan to provide a Savior.

Isaiah 53:6

⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Acts 2:22-23

²² *Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:*

²³ *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:*

God had determined that Jesus would die but that does not excuse the actions of the 1st century Jews. They were held accountable for their rejection of Jesus. This is the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man.

Notice Zechariah 13:7 again.

When the Shepherd was struck the sheep were scattered. This is pointing to how the disciples fled. But there is more. God would turn His hands against the little ones. This is a reference to how the Jews would come under attack by the Romans in AD 70 and would be scattered from that time until even today as they are now being gathered back to their land. This is what God said would happen if they lived in disobedience.

Deuteronomy 28:15, 49-50, 64-67

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:

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;

50 A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:

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:

66 And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:

67 In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

Notice Zechariah 13:8-9a.

This is the only place in the Bible where you get a fraction explained like this. In the Great Tribulation two thirds of the nation will die. Under Hitler one third died so what is yet to

come will be far more severe than the Holocaust. Let me show you some verses that speak of God's judgment during the Tribulation.

Ezekiel 20:33-38

³³ *As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you:*

³⁴ *And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, **and with fury poured out.***

³⁵ *And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.*

³⁶ *Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.*

³⁷ *And **I will cause you to pass under the rod,** and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:*

³⁸ *And **I will purge out from among you the rebels,** and **them that transgress against me:** I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.*

Jeremiah 30:7

⁷ *Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the **time of Jacob's trouble,** but he shall be saved out of it.*

The Tribulation period which will be 7 years will be a time when God uses the judgments that are poured out to turn the nation back to Him. This time for Israel will be so difficult and stressful.

Matthew 24:15-21

¹⁵ *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*

¹⁶ *Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:*

¹⁷ *Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:*

¹⁸ Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

¹⁹ And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

²⁰ But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

This is what it will take to get Israel to turn to the Lord. He will take away every crutch which they have and in the process two thirds will die.

Application:

God often works this way in the lives of individuals today. They have crutches and God will remove the crutches in order to get them to turn to Him.

Genesis 3:17-19

¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

God can take away people, jobs, money, and health. It is far better to lose these things and get saved than to have them and die in your sins.

Notice Zechariah 13:9 again.

It is interesting to note that God will bring the one third THROUGH the fire. He will not keep them from the fire. The fire will refine them.

Application:

It is important that we understand that God often allows us to go through the fire as part of the refining process.

1 Peter 1:5-7

⁵ *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

⁶ *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

⁷ *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

Conclusion:

Notice Zechariah 13:9 again.

The end result is they will turn to the Lord and accept Jesus Christ as their King and Savior.

Romans 10:13

¹³ *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

Romans 11:26

²⁶ *And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:*

God will fulfill His promises to the nation of Israel. He will also fulfill His promises to the church.

Titus 2:12-14

¹² *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

¹³ *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

¹⁴ *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*