

**"Zechariah's Second Burden"**

**Part 6**

**Zechariah 12-14**

**Introduction:** In our study of Zechariah, we have now arrived at the last chapter of the book. In this 14<sup>th</sup> chapter we find culmination of all that God has been working toward since the fall of mankind in Genesis 3.

**"The Second Coming of Jesus Christ"**

In this chapter we find more of details on the return of Jesus Christ to the earth at the end of the Tribulation. But before we get to the details of his return Zechariah will take his readers back about 7 years before the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

**I. The Crisis**

**Notice Zechariah 14:1**

Zechariah starts by pointing to the Day of the Lord. Now the Day of the Lord can refer to a single day or it can refer to a period of time. Here in this verse, I believe it can refer to both. This verse points to a period of time that will begin after the Rapture of the church. The Day of the Lord will begin with the Tribulation period. It also points to a specific day in verse 4 when Jesus Christ will return to the earth. Both are mentioned elsewhere.

**Joel 2:1-6, 10-11**

*Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for **the day of the LORD cometh**, for it is nigh at hand;*

<sup>2</sup> *A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.*

<sup>3</sup> *A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.*

<sup>4</sup> *The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.*

<sup>5</sup> *Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.*

<sup>6</sup> Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.

<sup>10</sup> The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

<sup>11</sup> And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

### **1 Thessalonians 5:1-3**

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

<sup>2</sup> For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

<sup>3</sup> For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

### **2 Peter 3:10-13**

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

<sup>11</sup> Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

<sup>12</sup> Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Let me show you something that Amos wrote.

### **Amos 5:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light.

*19 As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.*

*20 Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?*

The people of Israel in Amos' day were looking forward to the Day of the Lord because they thought it would be a time when God would punish their enemies. They did not understand that the Day of the Lord would be a time of great trouble for Israel.

**Notice Zechariah 14:1 again.**

Zechariah makes it very clear that the Day of the Lord will be devastating for the Jews. He tells them here that their spoils, which are their possessions, will be divided among their oppressors.

**Notice Zechariah 14:2**

Here we see what is going to happen in the Day of the Lord. God will gather all nations against Jerusalem and it will be terrible for the Jews. The city will be taken, the houses will be rifled/plundered and the women will be violated.

**Notice Zechariah 14:3**

It will be then that the Lord will manifest Himself and He will fight on behalf of the Jews.

Now I want you to notice clearly that it is God who will create this crisis. He will create this crisis in order to show forth His power and His love to the Jews. Let us also understand that this crisis is created because of sin in the lives of the Jews. They will be in unbelief when the Day of the Lord begins and then God will show forth His power and then one third will turn to Him for salvation.

**Application:**

If we search the Scriptures, we can see that God has worked the very same way before in order to show forth His love and His grace.

**Jonah 1:**

*Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,*

*2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.*

<sup>3</sup> But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

**Jonah 1:10-17**

<sup>10</sup> Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him. Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

<sup>11</sup> Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.

<sup>12</sup> And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them.

<sup>14</sup> Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee.

<sup>15</sup> So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.

<sup>16</sup> Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows.

<sup>17</sup> Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

This all came about because of Jonah's sin. God sent the storm and God sent the great fish. He sent the storm to expose Jonah and to make Himself known to the mariners. Then he sent the fish out of love for Jonah.

When a believer goes down the path of sin they may encounter a major crisis that God sends into their lives. The crisis comes because of sin and the crisis is the love of God to get the believer back to where he or she needs to be.

**Hebrews 12:6-11**

<sup>6</sup> *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

<sup>7</sup> *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

<sup>8</sup> *But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*

<sup>9</sup> *Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*

<sup>10</sup> *For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*

<sup>11</sup> *Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

**II. The Return of Jesus Christ**

**Notice Zechariah 14:4-5**

The valley that forms here could be the Valley of Jehoshaphat which Joel speaks of.

**Joel 3:1-2, 10-17**

*For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,*

<sup>2</sup> *I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.*

<sup>10</sup> *Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.*

<sup>11</sup> *Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD.*

<sup>12</sup> *Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.*

*<sup>13</sup> Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.*

*<sup>14</sup> Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.*

*<sup>15</sup> The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.*

*<sup>16</sup> The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.*

*<sup>17</sup> So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.*

**Notice Zechariah 14:5 again.**

I want you to notice that when He returns, we will be with Him. We will witness these events as they unfold. Let me show you another view of this return.

**Matthew 24:29-31**

*<sup>29</sup> Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

*<sup>30</sup> And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

*<sup>31</sup> And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

**Conclusion:**

This is what the first century Jews were looking for. They were expecting the Messiah to come from heaven and destroy the Roman Empire. When the Romans surrounded Jerusalem in AD 70 the Jews expected what we read about in Zechariah. They had a false assurance because they did not fully understand the prophecies. There were prophecies that foretold of Jesus suffering, death, and resurrection but they were only focused upon what they wanted to happen.

Application: There are many people today who also misunderstand the Scriptures. They believe that they are good in God's eyes because of their good works. They have a false sense of security because they think they are good enough to get to heaven. They neglect to understand that Jesus is the Only Way and that NO ONE is good enough to earn forgiveness. They/you need Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 9:22**

<sup>22</sup> *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*