

"Zechariah's Second Burden"

Part 7

Zechariah 12-14

Introduction: Last week in our study of Zechariah we started into chapter 14 which is the pinnacle of the book as well as the pinnacle of the future. This chapter deals with the coming Kingdom of Jesus Christ. But before Zechariah gets to the details about the Kingdom, he teaches his readers about the Day of the Lord.

"The Second Coming of Jesus Christ"

Part 2

Notice Zechariah 14:1-3

Last week we looked at the crisis that God will create in the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord refers both to a period of time and also a day. This crisis is to bring discipline upon Israel in order to take away every crutch which they have so that they will turn to their Messiah and accept Him. We have considered how Israel must do two things in order for the Kingdom to come.

1. **They must be saved.**
2. **They must accept Jesus Christ as their King.**

Until both of these happen the Kingdom will not come. All Gentiles in the world could get saved but if Israel does not the Kingdom would not come. If all of Israel got saved and not one more Gentile then the Kingdom would come. It all hinges upon the nation of Israel.

Getting back to the verses, God will create the crisis in order to manifest His power and He will fight for the Jews against the nations when no one else will. He will empower the Jews to fight against their enemies.

Notice Zechariah 12:2-9

Here in these verses, we see that the Lord will empower the people of Israel.

Notice Zechariah 14:4-5

Most likely the valley formed here will be the Valley of Jehoshaphat that Joel speaks of.

Joel 3:1-2, 10-11

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

² *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.*

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

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

This is where the Battle of Armageddon will be fought.

This is where we stopped last week.

➤ **The Darkness**

Notice Zechariah 14:6-7

Verse 6 here means that the heavenly bodies will be darkened in that day. Verse 7 means it will be a unique day in the sense that it will be like no other. I want to put some thoughts together here. When this day comes the entire world will be in darkness.

Revelation 16:10-14

¹⁰ *And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain.*

¹¹ *And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.*

¹² *And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.*

¹³ *And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.*

¹⁴ *For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*

Matthew 24:29-30

²⁹ *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:*

³⁰ *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.*

Joel 2:1-9

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:

² *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.*

³ *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.*

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

⁵ *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.*

⁶ *Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.*

⁷ *They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:*

⁸ *Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.*

⁹ *They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the window*

Let me show you a parallel with what Joel describes.

Revelation 9:1-6

And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

² *And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.*

³ *And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.*

⁴ *And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.*

⁵ *And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.*

⁶ *And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.*

The Tribulation will be a time of thick darkness and especially right before Jesus returns. Now notice what the Bible says about Jesus.

Revelation 22:16

¹⁶ *I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*

The Bible tells us several times that Jesus is the Morning Star. If you do any research on the morning star you will find that it appears at the darkest part of the night which is right before the morning. This is when the Lord will show up to fight for Israel.

Notice Zechariah 14:1-3 again.

When all the nations are gathered against Israel the Lord will step up.

Application:

What does all of this mean for us? This is the way God often works in our lives. He allows us to go through times of darkness in this old world and then just as the situation looks to be at the darkest point, He shows up in one way or another.

Daniel

Psalm 30:4-5

⁴ *Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.*

⁵ *For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.*

Daniel 3:20-25

²⁰ *And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.*

²¹ *Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.*

²² *Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flames of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.*

²³ *And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.*

²⁴ *Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.*

²⁵ *He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.*

Conclusion:

Why does the Lord allow us to go through these periods of darkness and great trials? There are several reasons.

1. **So that our faith will be stronger.**

1 Peter 1:6-8

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:*

⁸ *Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*

2. To purge us of things which should not be in our lives.

John 15:1-2

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

3. To shape us into the image of His Son and prepare us to serve in the Kingdom.

Romans 8:

²⁸ *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

²⁹ *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*