

**"Zechariah's Second Burden"**

**Part 8**

**Zechariah 12-14**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Zechariah we looked at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the darkness that will exist in that day. Jesus is the Bright and Morning Star and He will return when the world is in the greatest darkness it has ever known. That is both physical and spiritual.

**Revelation 16:10**

*<sup>10</sup> 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.*

**Matthew 24:29-30**

*<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.*

**Revelation 9:1-3**

*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.*

*<sup>2</sup> 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.*

*<sup>3</sup> 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.*

It is against this backdrop that Jesus will return.

**Revelation 22:16**

*<sup>16</sup> 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.*

Today as we move on, we are going to look at the Kingdom.

**"Kingdom Conditions"**

**Notice Zechariah 14:8**

Here we see that there will be a fountain of living waters that will be opened in the Kingdom. This fountain will produce a river that will flow to the former sea/Dead Sea and to the hinder sea/Mediterranean Sea. This will flow all year for 1000 years or for the time of the Kingdom. To get more details on this fountain/river we need to turn to Ezekiel.

**Notice Ezekiel 47:1-12**

This is the River of Life. It will bring life to the Dead Sea and to the desert places.

**Application:**

What does this mean to me?

**1. The Source of the River.**

**Notice Ezekiel 47:1 again.**

This River flows out of the temple.

**1 Corinthians 6:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> *Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*

<sup>19</sup> *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

<sup>20</sup> *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

Today we who know Jesus Christ are the Temple of God because He dwells within us. Now let us notice another thought.

**John 7:37-38**

<sup>37</sup> *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.*

<sup>38</sup> *He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*

Jesus made this declaration at the Feast of Tabernacles. What was He saying? "If you are thirsty come to me!" That offer is still available today. Are you thirsty for God? Many believers drink from the cisterns of the world and it robs them of a thirst for God. Jesus offers living water that produces a spring within us and it then flows outwards into the lives of others as is pictured in Ezekiel 47.

The river that flows in Ezekiel 47 flows to several places and does many things that are a picture of what our lives should be like as believers. You see, from each believer there should flow a river of grace, love, compassion, and power.

**a. It is a holy river.**

**Notice Ezekiel 47:1 again.**

Notice closely that the river flowed by the altar. This is a holy place and a place of sacrifice. If this river is going to flow from our lives, we must be living separated, holy lives. We cannot live for the flesh and the world and expect this river to flow from us.

**2 Corinthians 6:14-17**

*<sup>14</sup> Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

*<sup>15</sup> And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?*

*<sup>16</sup> And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

*<sup>17</sup> Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*

**2. The Path of the River**

**a. It will flow to desert places.**

This river will bring life to the dry and barren desert in the Kingdom. The world will return to what it was in the Garden of Eden.

There are people around us in our everyday lives that are living in desert barren places.

**2 Samuel 9:1-5**

*And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?*

<sup>2</sup> *And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he.*

<sup>3</sup> *And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.*

<sup>4</sup> *And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.*

<sup>5</sup> *Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar.*

Lodebar means "dry and barren." This is where many people live today. Our responsibility is to be a river of life to them. This means to be a river of life to family members, neighbors, coworkers, and friends.

**b. It will flow to dead places.**

#### **Zechariah 14:8**

<sup>8</sup> *And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.*

This river will flow to the Dead Sea and it will bring life to the Sea. In our lives we know people who are unsaved and therefore they are spiritually dead. It is for us to live so the River of Life flows from us for them to see. **That would be a river of love, compassion, sacrifice, and righteousness.** In other words, our lives should be a testimony that cause others to want what we have.

#### **Philippians 2:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> *Do all things without murmurings and disputings:*

<sup>15</sup> *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

<sup>16</sup> *Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.*

**c. It will flow to depressed places.**

Both the sea and the desert are geographically lower in altitude than Jerusalem. So, the river will reach these depressed areas.

In our lives and especially in our day there are many people who battle with depression and discouragement. It is our responsibility to live in a way that a river of joy flows from our lives.

**John 15:15, 7, 11-2,**

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

<sup>2</sup> *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.*

<sup>5</sup> *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

<sup>7</sup> *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

<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.***

**3. The Nourishment of the River.**

**Notice Ezekiel 47:7, 12**

The riverbank is lined with trees and these trees produce an abundance of fruit.

**Application:**

This is a picture of what happens in the life of the believer when the River of Life flows from our lives.

**Psalm 1:1-3**

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

*<sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

*<sup>3</sup> And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

**Jeremiah 17:5-9**

*<sup>5</sup> Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.*

*<sup>6</sup> For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.*

*<sup>7</sup> Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.*

*<sup>8</sup> For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.*

*<sup>9</sup> The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

**Conclusion:**

What kind of river is flowing from your life?

**James 3:10-11**

*<sup>10</sup> Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*

*<sup>11</sup> Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?*