

Life-Study of Zechariah – Messages 11-15

The Prophecies of Encouragement

The Prophecy Concerning the Living of Israel Under the Oppression of the Roman Empire (Zech. 11)

- Verses 1-3 reveal the destruction carried out in the neighbourhood of Israel by the Roman Empire.
- The children of Israel fell into their neighbor's hand (Herod and Pilate) and into the hand of their king (Caesar).
- In verses 7-11 and 14 Jehovah as Jesus shepherds the afflicted of the flock of Israel. Jehovah as Jesus brought **Favor** (grace) and **Bonds** (bound into oneness) as staffs.
- The Lord Jesus as the **proper Shepherd** was **rejected**, leaving the children of Israel as a flock without any shepherd.
 - He took away Favor and Bonds and **the grace and oneness of the children of Israel was taken away**.
- The Messiah came in a gentle, intimate way to visit His people Israel as their King and **the time of restoration should have come**, but because of Israel's rejection of Christ, it did not.

The Prophecy Concerning Israel's Destiny in the Great War of Armageddon in their Household Salvation, and in the Millennium (Zech. 12, 14)

- The war of Armageddon will be the **greatest war** among mankind terminating human government on earth at the end of the coming great tribulation.
 - Will take place at the end of the great tribulation of three and a half years.
 - Motivated by Antichrist to destroy Israel.
 - Waged by **Satan** through his human followers against **God** with His saints.
 - Fought by **Antichrist** with his followers directly against **Christ** with His overcomers.
 - Christ will **destroy** Antichrist "by the breath of His mouth" and bring him to nothing "by the manifestation of His coming."
 - Is the **great winepress** of the fury of God trodden by Christ at His coming back to judge the world.
 - The nations that will participate in that **international war** against Jerusalem will be gathered also by God.

- Jehovah of hosts will be the **strength of the inhabitants of Jerusalem** and will make the leaders of Judah like a fire pot under wood and like a torch of fire among sheaves, and they will **consume** all the surrounding peoples on the right and on the left.
- **Rom. 11:25** – “... that hardness has come upon Israel in part, until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in;”
 - The hardness of Israel will continue until the age of the Gentiles has been fulfilled.
 - When the **fullness of the Gentiles** comes in, all **Israel will be saved**.
 - It may be that this **household salvation** of Israel will take place while the great war of Armageddon is about the end.
 - Jehovah God will **pour out the Spirit of grace** upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem which will save the entire race of Israel.
 - The repentant Israel will wail over Christ as the **Son of God** and will cry bitterly over Him as the firstborn Son of God. They will realize that as the only begotten Son Christ has redeemed them and has brought them **eternal life** and that as the firstborn Son He has made them **heirs** to inherit the riches of the Triune God as their enjoyment.
 - After being touched by the Shepherd, every weak sheep will become a **horse of majesty**.
- Zechariah 13 is a chapter on the divine **provision** and the sovereign **preparation** for the household salvation of Israel.
 - This divine provision includes a Redeemer with His redemption.
 - The piercing of Christ has opened a **fountain for sin and impurity** which is a matter of redemption.
 - God will clear up the names of idols and will cause the false prophets and the unclean spirit to pass from the land so that the people of Israel might be **emptied to receive Christ**.
 - In the great tribulation at the consummation of the present age the remnant of the children of Israel will **call on the Lord's name** and the Lord will answer them. This is the household salvation to Israel.
- In the millennium there will be **no thirst**. **Living waters** will go forth from Jerusalem.
 - Christ will be King over all the earth, and He will be the one God and His name the one name.
 - Jerusalem will be raised up and will dwell in her place.

- People will dwell in Jerusalem, and there will be **no more curse**, for Jerusalem will dwell securely.
- Everyone left from all the nations will go up from year to year to worship the King, Jehovah of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

A Comparison of Two Main Categories of Things in the Books of Daniel and Zechariah

- Of the things concerning human government.
 - In the Book of **Daniel**:
 - The **great human image** signifies the entire human government on earth as a skeleton.
 - The **four beasts** from the Mediterranean Sea give a sketch of human government on earth.
 - The **seventy weeks** give a sketch of the destiny of Israel, from the return from their captivity to the consummation of the present age, ending with Antichrist.
 - In the Book of **Zechariah**:
 - The prophecy concerning the **nations around Judah** details the Grecian Empire's invasion into the holy land and the defeat of its successor by the heroic Jews.
 - The prophecy concerning the **living of Israel** under the oppression of the Roman Empire details life under the tyranny of the Roman Empire.
 - The prophecy concerning **Israel's destiny in Armageddon** details how human government will be destroyed.
- Of the things concerning Christ.
 - In the Book of **Daniel**:
 - Reveals that the **crucifixion** of Christ was the **termination** of the old creation and the **germination** of God's new creation in His resurrection.
 - We see the appearing of the **excellent Christ** as the centrality and universality of God's move on earth.
 - Unveils the coming of Christ as the **Son of Man**.
 - Finally, speaks about the appearing of Christ as the **stone cut out without hands** to strike the great human image and become a great mountain.
 - In the Book of **Zechariah**:

- Reveals that the redeeming Christ as a **man** and as the **Angel of Jehovah**, the embodiment of the Triune God, was sent by God to be with His **humiliated people** of Israel.
- Reveals Christ was the **Servant of Jehovah** and the **Shoot** to be the **stone with seven eyes** engraved by God for the removing of the iniquity of the holy land for the building of the temple of God.
- Christ was also the **topstone of grace** for the **completion** of the building of the temple of God.
- Christ as the **King of Israel** came into Jerusalem lowly and riding upon a donkey.
- Christ as the **Shepherd of God's elect** was rejected and sold at the price of a slave.
- Christ as **God's Fellow** was the God-sent Shepherd, but He was attacked unto death.
- At His coming, Christ will appear to the children of Israel as their **Redeemer and Savior**.

A Word Concerning the Human Spirit and the Christ Unveiled in Zechariah

Worshipping God in Spirit

- God has given us a spirit that we may worship Him by drinking of Him.
- In 2 Timothy 4:22 we see that the Lord is not with our mind or soul or heart, He is with our spirit.
- Christ, as the last Adam, has become a life-giving Spirit, even the sevenfold intensified Spirit.
- Christ today is the Spirit, and we have a spirit particularly formed by God to match Christ.

Visions and Details Concerning Christ

- In the first vision, **Christ is unveiled as the Man as the Angel of Jehovah** riding on a red horse and **standing among the myrtle trees**.
 - Christ the redeeming One **takes care** of His humiliated yet precious people with much expectation while they were in captivity as the Angel of Jehovah.

- In the second vision, Christ is the **last Craftsman** used by God to **break the four horns**—Babylon, Persia, Greece, and the Roman Empire—which damaged and destroyed the chosen people of God.
- In the third vision, Christ is the **One who measures Jerusalem** in order to **possess** it and become its **center as the glory** within her and the circumference of Jerusalem as the wall of fire round about her.
- In the fourth vision Christ is unveiled as the **topstone of grace** with **seven eyes** (sevenfold intensified Spirit).
- In the fifth vision, the **lampstand** signifies the nation of Israel as the **collective testimony of God** shining out all His virtues. This lampstand is a type of Christ, the embodiment of the Triune God.
- In His first coming, Christ came as a lowly King and Shepherd, shepherding in Favor (grace) and Bonds (binding).
 - Christ as the proper Shepherd was detested, attacked, rejected, and sold for thirty pieces of silver.
- In His coming back, He will be the King not only over Israel but also over all the peoples on earth.
- Christ will judge **stealing** (sins toward man), **swearing falsely by Jehovah's name** (sins toward God), and the **entire human government**.

(Life-Study of Zechariah messages 11-15)