

35. Jesus in Zechariah - Part 2

April 6, 2017

One of the authenticating proofs for the absolute truth of the Bible, which at the same time authenticates the claims of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the only Savior of the world, are the many fulfilled prophecies which find their fulfillment in the person and the life of Christ, Jesus of Nazareth. We have in the Holy Scripture, an array of prophecies which extend over hundreds of years and yet find their complete fulfillment in the short thirty three year life span of one person, Jesus, many being fulfilled before His birth, on the day of His crucifixion, and even after His death and resurrection. These prophecies truly accomplish the purposes of the Gospel writers as they carefully pointed to the person, words, and works of Christ.

Tonight we are going to finish this great prophecy Book Zechariah. Until now, we've learned about the prophecies regarding Jesus and the events before His arrival on earth. However, as we are heading to chapter 14, we get to hear about what is happening and what will happen all the way to the Millennium period.

A. JESUS IN THE TRUE SHEPHERD

Zechariah 11:7-14 So I fed the flock for slaughter, in particular the poor of the flock. I took for myself two staves: the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bonds; and I fed the flock. 8 I dismissed the three shepherds in one month. My soul loathed them, and their soul also abhorred me. 9 Then I said, "I will not feed you. Let what is dying die, and what is perishing perish. Let those that are left eat each other's flesh." 10 And I took my staff, Beauty, and cut it in two, that I might break the covenant which I had made with all the peoples. 11 So it was broken on that day. Thus the poor of the flock, who were watching me, knew that it was the word of the Lord. 12 Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. 13 And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter. 14 Then I cut in two my other staff, Bonds, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

In the Middle East, as I mentioned previously, kings and rulers were called "shepherds", because they were supposedly to lead the people, protected them, and provided for them.

Jeremiah 25:34 "Wail, shepherds, and cry! Roll about in the ashes, You leaders of the flock! For the days of your slaughter and your dispersions are fulfilled; You shall fall like a precious vessel.

Zechariah acts out this prophecy, feeding a literal flock of sheep that represents the people of God, while the shepherd Zechariah represents the Lord who has appointed this flock for a season of judgment.

Zechariah carried the two tools of a shepherd as they are mentioned in Psalm 23:4. He named one "Beauty (Grace)" and "Bonds (Covenant)". He fed the flock and even got rid of three unfaithful shepherds in v8. Then one day he broke both of the staves. God's favor to His people had come to an end; the covenant union between God and His people was broken.

From v12, it becomes interesting. Thirty pieces of silver was not an insignificant amount, but it was the price of a slave. It was the lowest they could pay, and it said to Zechariah, "we think of you as a slave." This speaks prophetically of Jesus, who was betrayed for thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave.

Matthew 27:9-10 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, 10 and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

Did you notice author Mathew was quoting a portion of Scripture from the OT and he said it was spoken by Jeremiah. What happened here? Here are three explanations:

- Some think it is an error, but not by Matthew – an early copyist made a mistake. Perhaps Matthew wrote Zechariah, but an early copyist put Jeremiah instead
- Some think that Jeremiah spoke this prophecy and Zechariah recorded it.
- Some think that Matthew refers to scroll of Jeremiah, which included the book of Zechariah

So which one is it? Dunno. That is for smart people to figure out.

What happened in v13 is an exact fulfillment of what Judas did with his thirty pieces of silver in Matthew 27. A potter's field was a piece of useless land where he threw his broken, damaged, and rejected pots. Jesus purchased the potter's field with His life – the place where broken, rejected, and useless people like us are scattered.

After the exchange of the thirty pieces of silver the staff of Bonds (Covenant) is broken. This also was fulfilled when Israel was scattered by the Romans after their rejection of their Shepherd Jesus.

B. JESUS IN WHOM THEY PIERCED

Zechariah 12:10-11 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. 11 In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo."

After the abomination of desolation which will happen in the middle of the Great Tribulation, the Israelis will realize that they are deceived by the antichrist. Then, God will pour out the Holy Spirit upon Israel, and the Jews will realize their sins and call out to God for forgiveness. They will also see their Messiah Jesus whom the nation pierced corporately and will put their faith in Him. The nation will go into mourning of repentance.

Repentance isn't something we work up ourselves. It's a wonderful opportunity from God as we hear His Word and recognize His grace and our sins. Forgiveness comes to any believing sinner only through faith in the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

2 Timothy 2:25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

Unless mourning of repentance falls upon America, she will continuously show her attitude of pride against God. And we all know what God thinks about pride. He will bring America down to her knees one way or another as He has done to many other empires and nations previously.

This will fulfill the amazing promise of Romans 11:26 and many other passages that tell us that before the Second Coming of Jesus to this earth, the Jewish people – as a whole – will welcome Him as their Lord and Savior. The whole context of Zechariah 12 puts this radical conversion in the setting of miraculous deliverance from an attack from the nations.

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

C. JESUS IN STRIKING THE SHEPHERD

Zechariah 13:7c "Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered; Then I will turn My hand against the little ones.

In the context, and especially in light of the quotation of this passage in Mark 14, another prophecy was fulfilled:

Mark 14:27 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered.'

Mark 14:50 Then they all forsook Him and fled.

We understand that the Shepherd is Jesus the Messiah – and it is God the Father Himself who calls for the Shepherd to be struck.

Isaiah echoed on this:

Isaiah 53:10a Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief.

The prophets Isaiah and Zechariah gloriously and emphatically state that the suffering of the Servant of the Jesus was ordained by the Father. This was God's doing! He gave the command to strike the Shepherd.

Jesus was no victim of circumstance or at the mercy of political or military power. It was the planned, ordained work of the Lord God, prophesied by Isaiah hundreds of years before it happened. This was God's victory, not satan's or evil men's triumph.

D. THE NATION WILL BE REFINED

Zechariah 13:8-9 And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the Lord, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: 9 I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The Lord is my God.'"

Only one-third of the Jewish people will survive the Great Tribulation. No wonder these years are called the time of Jacob's trouble.

Jeremiah 30:7 Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

E. JESUS IN JERUSALEM UNDER SIEGE

Zechariah 14:1-5 Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst. 2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. 3 Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. 4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a

very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south. 5 Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the Lord my God will come, And all the saints with You.

Obviously this attack against Jerusalem was not the Roman's siege in 70 A.D., because there was no deliverance from the Lord for the Jews at that time. Though the attack against the city will be severe, they will not be overthrown. Just when it seems that all hope is gone for Jerusalem and the people of Israel, then the Lord will fight for them.

Some would think that this is the time Ezekiel 38 and 39 that Magog, Rosh, Meshech, Tubal, Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya will invade Israel. These are the modern day Russia, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. They will join their forces against Israel to invade this little nation. But the Lord is the Protector of Israel.

But before Gog's coalition force will start to destroy Israel, the Lord will intervene in His jealous wrath and faithfulness to protect His own people Israel and wipe out the invading forces with the divine arsenals that no human military can fight against – earthquake, plague, flood rain, great hailstone, fire, and brimstone from the sky. If that is not bad enough, the Lord will put panic in the minds of the invading soldiers that they will begin to kill one another in suicidal strife. There will be so many dead bodies that it will take 7 months to bury them all according to Ezekiel 39.

Do I think that this is the time for Ezekiel 38 and 39 to happen? No, I believe that this is the Armageddon. Because in Ezekiel 38 and 39, the battle will happen before the coalition force gets to Jerusalem. Again, the Bible doesn't specify the timing of the event of Ezekiel 38 and 39. It means everyone has an opinion like everyone has two cents and a nose.

But in v5, we find ourselves coming to the earth with our Savior in the front of the marching column from heaven. This is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The Jews during the time of Jesus on earth were expecting this, so when they met Jesus, naturally they rejected Him.

F. JESUS IN THE LIVING WATERS

Zechariah 14:7-11 It shall be one day Which is known to the Lord– Neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen That it will be light. 8 And in that day it shall be That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea And half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur. 9 And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be– “The Lord is one,” And His name one. 10 All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be raised up and inhabited in her place from Benjamin's Gate to the place of the First Gate and the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananeel to the king's winepresses. 11 The people shall dwell in it; And no longer shall there be utter destruction, But Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.

Now Zechariah looks forward to the glory of Jerusalem in the Messiah's kingdom. The lights we have to depend on for our lives will diminish, because God will bring His own light. In v4, as the Lord Jesus set His feet on the Mount of Olives, the ground splits in two east to west and the living waters will start to flow – one to the Dead Sea and the other to the Mediterranean Sea.

For the first time, Jerusalem will be a safe place to live permanently.

For the rest of the verses, Zechariah prophesied that the nations will come to Jerusalem not for a war, rather to worship God. Those who do not, God will deal with them promptly.