

OT-OV

Lesson 140

1. Last week I continued our overview of the book of Zechariah. We need to review some of that learned and then pick up with new material at point 8.1 below.

1.1 Zechariah: The prophet wrote of the future restoration of Israel and the wonders of the Messiah's Kingdom. He was a contemporary of Haggai and spoke primarily to Judah after their return. He was specifically called to get the people to rebuild the Temple.

2. Haggai and Zechariah awakened the nation from its indifference. The people responded, and the building was completed in 516.

3. Although Zechariah begins with the theme of the restoration of the sanctuary, he touches upon many phases of the spiritual life of the nation, and he treats with remarkable fullness the prophetic events leading up to the Messiah's return and reign.

4. Last week I taught the questions and Zechariah's answers concerning fasting.
Zec 7:1-14

5. We also reviewed the promises of blessing for Israel in the future. Zec 8:1-23

6. We next began a study of the burdens of Zechariah. Zec 9:1-11:17. The first burden involved God's judgment of Tyre, Sidon, and Philistia, three of Israel's most hated enemies. Zec 9:1-8

7. In Zec 9:9 through 11:17 we studied the coming of Zion's King.

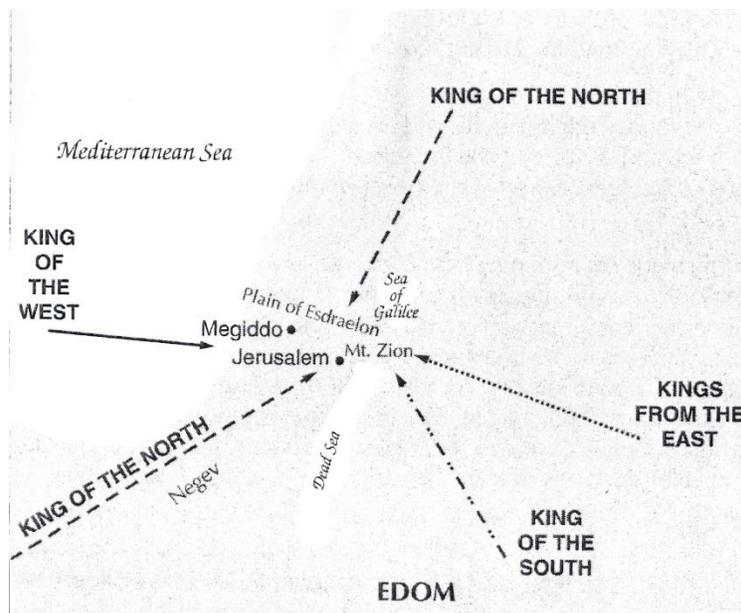
8. When time expired last week I was teaching the second burden of Zechariah. Zec 12:1-14:21. Now let's see what we can learn from Zec 12:1-9 and the prediction of destruction for Jerusalem's enemies.

8.1 Zec 12:1-9

Zec 12:2 "I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem.

Zec 12:3 On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves.

Zec 12:4 On that day I will strike every horse with panic and its rider with madness," declares the LORD. "I will keep a watchful eye over the house of Judah, but I will blind all the horses of the nations.



Zec 12:5 Then the leaders of Judah will say in their hearts, 'The people of Jerusalem are strong, because the LORD Almighty is their God.'

8.2 Israel Shall Mourn For the One They Pierced > 12:10-14

Zec 12:10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

Zec 12:11 On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great, like the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

8.3 Israel Is Cleansed > 13:1-9

Zec 13:1 "On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

Zec 13:2 "On that day, I will banish the names of the idols from the land, and they will be remembered no more," declares the LORD Almighty. "I will remove both the prophets and the spirit of impurity from the land.

Zec 13:3 And if anyone still prophesies, his father and mother, to whom he was born, will say to him, 'You must die, because you have told lies in the LORD'S name.' When he prophesies, his own parents will stab him.

Zec 13:4 "On that day every prophet will be ashamed of his prophetic vision. He will not put on a prophet's garment of hair in order to deceive.

Zec 13:5 He will say, 'I am not a prophet. I am a farmer; the land has been my livelihood since my youth.'

Zec 13:6 If someone asks him, 'What are these wounds on your body?' he will answer, 'The wounds I was given at the house of my friends.'

Zec 13:7 "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!" declares the LORD Almighty. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones.

Zec 13:8 In the whole land," declares the LORD, "two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it.

Zec 13:9 This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'"

8.4 The LORD Comes and Reigns > 14:1-21

Expanded Translation

Zec 14:1 Note well Israel, God's judgment day for you and your countrymen is on the way. Plunder will be piled high and handed out to the nations, particularly destructive will be the forces of the King of the North.

Zec 14:2 I'm bringing all the godless nations to war against you and Jerusalem - your houses will be plundered, your women will be raped; half of the population of the city will surrender and be killed or enslaved and half will be left in Jerusalem to defend it.

Zec 14:3 But then the Messiah will return, with His heavenly angelic army, His church age saints and the saints who will populate His millennial kingdom; Christ will destroy the godless nations and fight on your behalf, just as He has done so often in the past.

Zec 14:4 Jesus Christ will return at His 2nd Advent to the Mount of Olives and when His foot touches earth an earthquake will occur splitting the mount.

Zec 14:5 When the Lord returns, all those trapped in the city will flee to the east using the great valley caused by the earthquake. The Mount of Olives will split making a huge valley and a way of escape. The valley will extend all the way to Jericho a city located some 25 miles east of Jerusalem. Then the Lord God will move out and destroy the armies of the world.

Zec 14:6 On that day there will be no light from the sun because all the light needed will come from the Supernatural Aura of the Light of the World. That Light will be so special it defies human description.

Zec 14:7 It will be a unique day-- a day known only to the LORD. Christ as the Light of the World will always shine, there will be no night, no darkness and no need for rest in perfect environment.

Zec 14:8 During the Millennium there will flow from the Throne of God in Jerusalem, living water, half to the Dead Sea and half to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter.

Zec 14:9 When the Messiah returns He will be King over the whole earth, not just the Holy Land. All other so called religions will vanish. There will be no more Islamist, Hindu, Buddhist, Mormon, Christian Scientist etc. He, the Christ will replace them all and each will be shown for what they were: impotent, worthless and silly attempts on the part of man to make themselves right with God.

Zec 14:10 The hill country of Benjamin and Judah will be leveled; the country around Jerusalem will become a level plain. Jerusalem will be raised up from the Benjamin Gate to the site of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses.

Zec 14:11 Jerusalem will be inhabited by the saints of God during the Millennium; never again will Jerusalem be destroyed. Jerusalem will be safely inhabited.

Zec 14:12 After the deliverance of the remnant in the city; the Lord Jesus will strike the armies of the nations with a terrible plague, a divine concoction which will rot their flesh, their eyes will even rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths; they will be standing erect as strange skeletons amidst a war torn terrain.

Zec 14:13 After the remnant escapes from Jerusalem, the Lord will strike the attacking nations with a great panic. The attacking armies will turn against one another each destroying the other.

Zec 14:14 After the ghastly plague and confusion ... the Lord Jesus will order forth the small but dedicated military remnant of Judah and they shall march out of the city in force. Israel will strip their enemies of all their gold, and silver and apparel even unto Megiddo where the Armies of the Antichrist, Pan Arabic Block, Orient and remnant of the Army of the North are suffering; there Israel's finest will continue to take the wealth of the nations.

Zec 14:15 Upon arriving at the respective encampments of their enemies the forces of Israel are surprised to find not only a suffering army but even the donkeys, camels and horses have been consumed by the terrible plague; the hand of the Lord has destroyed all human and animal life.

Zec 14:16 When the Messiah makes His home with man on earth, the remnant of nations who had attacked Israel will annually travel to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles and there they will worship the King, the Lord of the Armies.

Zec 14:17 Should any nation not send delegates to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of the Armies will cause a drought in their land.

Zec 14:18 Now if Egypt does not send a delegation to Jerusalem to worship the King and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, the nation will get no rain and God will bring them a special plague to punish the entire nation.

Zec 14:19 Yes this shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that do not send a delegation to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

Zec 14:20 During the millennial reign of Christ everything in the land shall be pure, sacred and set apart, even the horses and the pots and pans used for cooking will be as sacred as the utensils used in the Holy of Holies.

Zec 14:21 Yes, every pot in the city of Jerusalem and in all of Judah shall be Holy to the Lord: and all they that sacrifice shall come and cook and eat from them; and in that day there shall be no more error in the house of the LORD of the Armies for sin and evil shall be no more in the land of Judah.

9. This ends our overview of Zechariah.

Book of Malachi

1. Malachi closes out the Old Testament in about 440 by urging Judah to return to the Lord or suffer a great period of tribulation. There are many rebukes in the book for Israel's failure and there are specific prophecies about our Lord.

Author:

1. The name Malachi appears nowhere else in Scripture, thereby leading critical scholars to surmise that the term Malaki, which in Hebrew means "my angel or messenger" simply describes God's messenger.

Mal 1:1 The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.

2. As an appellative and not a proper name the book might better be simply an anonymous prophecy, i.e., that which is written by an anonymous writer.

End Lesson