Zechariah 12-14 In that Day! (The Minor Prophets)

Introduction

A)We now look at the final prophecy or "burden" of Zechariah.

B)The previous "burden" in Zechariah 9-11 had much to do with the first coming of the Messiah 1)This Final one has much to do with the second coming of the Messiah.

Key Phrase: In that Day – mentioned at least 14 times in these three chapters.

A)The focus is on the day of the Lord – the 2^{nd} coming of Christ –

and what is going to be happening – primarily in the region of Israel leading up to that time.

B)As we move through this final message – we will see 6 lessons the Lord has for us.

C)Lesson #1 Remember how Big God is

The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him:

Before God tells His people about His promise to rescue them, He reminds them about just who He is.

A)Because Comfort and faith come when we realize how big God is.

B)Jesus taught us to pray: (Matt 6:9 NKJV)

"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

C)He is the God in heaven. Remember who you are talking to.

Hezekiah's prayer

A)Hezekiah was in a bad spot.

B)His little city of Jerusalem was under siege by the reigning army of the world, the Assyrians.

C)Look how his prayer for help starts ... (Isaiah 37:14-17 And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. 15 Then Hezekiah prayed to the LORD, saying: 16 "O LORD of hosts, (heavens armies) God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. 17 "Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God.

D)The outcome of Hezekiah's situation?

1)They went to bed that night and woke up in the morning to find the army of the Assyrians wiped out.

E)One angel had killed 185,000 Assyrians in a single night. 1)ISN'T GOD AWESOME!!!!!!!!!

David's courage A)The army saw a giant – David saw an uncircumcised Philistine..... living God

B)Why? According to the Chronological Bible – David wrote Psalm 19 right before his dad sends him on this errand to his brothers

C)Psalm 19 – The heavens declare the glory of God!

D)Importance of worship: See our God is bigger than our problems1)Our God is bigger than anything that this world can throw at us

E)That is the first lesson Zechariah wants us to remember in these closing chapters

Lesson #2 Jerusalem will be a focal point in the last days! V.2-3 Amazing Prophecy about Jerusalem Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. ³ And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

Zechariah says two things that will be true about the city of Jerusalem in the last days

A)# 1 It will be a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples.

B)Idea is Jerusalem will intoxicate and stupefy the surrounding peoples.

C)ESV – a cup of staggering – NIV a cup that sends the nations reeling

D)Obviously – He is telling us that there is going to be this abnormal preoccupation with this city.

#2 V.3 A heavy stone – that others will try to heave away OR divide.

A)It's interesting why anyone even cares about Jerusalem... Relatively small population of just over 800K – SD = 3.3 Million

B) It has little strategic value, no natural resources, no inherent riches, is far from a body of water.

C)Yet, it's the most hotly contested piece of real estate on the planet.

1)Every nation on earth has a position on Jerusalem. (Most talked about city in the news in the world)

Why would this city – no port – no real significance be such a focal point –

A)Nothing to do with politics or economics – everything to do with religion and Race.

B)The Arab nations especially those that are Muslim – despise the people of Israel and really refuse to acknowledge their right to exist as a nation.

C)Example: Map on Turkish airlines

The Arab peoples surrounding Jerusalem have a passion for possessing the city that is not justified by their history.

A)Muslims claim Jerusalem as their third-holiest city, but Jerusalem is not mentioned once in the Koran.

B)However – Jerusalem is mentioned over 800 times in the OT scriptures.

C)Also worth nothing: "During the centuries when Jerusalem was under complete Arab control, no Arab ruler or Islamic leader ever made it the object of a religious pilgrimage –

D)Again a strange indifference toward a city which is now considered to be the third-holiest religious site in Islam after Mecca and Medina."

1)And when they pray they pray with their back side – facing that city – great disrespect

Jerusalem's importance to Muslims comes from the belief that in the Dome of the Rock shrine there is a rock where two significant things happened – A)Where Abraham intended to offer Isaac as a sacrifice,

B)and according to tradition it is where Mohammed allegedly ascended into heaven.

C)Problem there is no historical proof that Mohammed ever came to Jerusalem 1)In fact there is more historical evidence that he never stepped foot in the city or Israel for that matter

So where did this idea come from?

A)It was invented by Yasser Arafat's uncle – Haj Amin el-Husseini, who was the past Grand Mufti of Jerusalem.

B)He promoted this myth in the 1920's and 1930's to arouse Arab passions against the growing Jewish presence in Jerusalem.

C)The whole fascination with Jerusalem and the temple mount is really meant to be an attack on the Jewish and Christian religion.

Inscriptions in the dome of the rock Mosque – Jesus is not God – Jehovah is not God – only Allah is God

A)The whole preoccupation with Jerusalem is racist and religious – hatred toward the Jewish nation

B)Abraham had two sons – Ishmael – Isaac – God blessed Ishmael – but He only recognized Isaac 1)Take now your son your only son....

C)Source of tension ever since. Demonic hatred in nature –

1)From the Jewish people would come the Messiah the one who would crush Satan's head D)The whole conflict is spiritual folks

Although Muslim passion for Jerusalem is a mystery, the Jewish claim to the city is entirely Scriptural.

A)The very fact that Jerusalem is mentioned more than over 800 times in the Bible makes it worthy of special attention.

B)Jesus picks this city to be his future headquarters – during the millennial reign

C)Just like the people of Israel are special to God – so is this city.

1)It's significance is purely spiritual

D)Lesson #2 Jerusalem will be a focal point in the last days

E)Lesson <mark>#3 God's Sovereignty is on Display</mark> Read v.4-

V.4. "In that day," says the LORD, "I will strike every horse with confusion, and its rider with madness; I will open My eyes on the house of Judah, and will strike every horse of the peoples with blindness.

A)In the last days – the Lord himself is going to intervene on Israel's behalf

B)We have already seen modern day examples of this type of intervention on the part of God – Israel's history

C)When we go to Israel we use a company called Coral travel – Boutique – family run 1)The owner is a man named Shalom Almog

D)Shalom is a believer in Jesus and he was a Colonel in the Israeli Armed Forces

One of the highlights of the trip is when we go up on the Golan Heights overlooking Syria – A)Shalom gives us his testimony and talks about the Six-Day War in 1967

B)As well as the war of Yom Kippur in 1973 – two battles where God intervened supernaturally on behalf of Israel

C) In 1967 – the Six-Day War – the Israelis were outnumbered 40 to 1

Ariel Sharon- was leading his tank battalion once again into the Sinai Peninsula and he writes in his autobiography there **appeared to be a flaming being telling them to turn right and go north** – they did, but one tank in the sand storm didn't get the message and was blown to bits in an awaiting minefield

And he was convinced for the rest of his life that God had intervened in the battles of Israel

Another such example was in the 1973 Yom Kippur War,

A)Yom Kippur – holiday – everything shuts down – the Syrians from the north – Egyptians from south – launched a surprise attack

B)When they knew all TV stations stop broadcasting, the phone systems go down, a day of fasting and prayer.

C)As Syria rode in from the North, there were only 160 men on duty to guard the border – 1)One tank commander nicknamed Ziggy rode his tank up one hill and fired and over the next and fired, and kept doing that over and over again –

D)the Syrians reported that the Israelites had over 500 tanks firing on them, they had one, soon Ziggy's tank became disabled and the Syrians rolled through to the Sea of Galilee, but then stopped, Haifa only 2 hours away, and from there a straight shot to Tel Aviv, what is happening??? – they stopped – what was reported later is they figured on 4 days to break through the northern border, and when it took only hours, they thought the Israeli troops were setting them up.

Meanwhile in the south, Ariel Sharon, led a tank force again the Egyptians, but instead of engaging them went around them and headed for Cairo, but the Egyptians stopped and didn't proceed, thinking it was a trick and within days the Arabs were asking to end the war – when they had them – because the Lord was working, confusing as He spoke in Zechariah

D)That is going to happen again!

E)Though the nations come against Jerusalem with fury, God will protect her.

1)This will find an ultimate fulfillment in the Battle of Armageddon

Zechariah describes the scene:

^{V.5} And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem *are* my strength in the

LORD of hosts, their God.' ⁶ In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place—Jerusalem.

⁷ "The LORD will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not become greater than that of Judah.

⁸ In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David *shall be* like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them. ⁹ It shall be **in that day** *that* I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

In that day God will deliver Israel not only through His direct work,

A)but also through blessing and empowering both the governors and inhabitants of Jerusalem.

B)They will be supernaturally empowered by God to defend the city.

C)They will be like David: King David was renowned for his fighting ability, courage, and success.

D) God promises a day when the *weakest* in Jerusalem will be as mighty as David –

E)Through all of this the Sovereignty of God will be on Display.

Lesson #4 Israel's eyes are opened about Jesus

Zechariah 12:10 quotes God, "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..."

One day the Jews will admit their mistake. A)Once betrayed by the False Christ, Antichrist they'll realize they missed the True Christ.

B)And when Jesus appears at His second coming they'll be ready.

1)We're told, "*They will look on Him whom they pierced*."

C) The Jews alive at the time will repent and believe. In the end all Israel will be saved.

D)Jesus bears the Scars – Rev.5 – Lion of the tribe of Judah is worthy to open 1)Looked – saw a Lamb as though it had been slain

The Jewish people will see Jesus in that way

A)The Jewish people will turn to Jesus in repentance, mourning their past rejection of Him.

B)The mourning will be deep, as if for an only son, the firstborn.

.C)The great mourning of repentance is further described in V.11-14

"In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

And the land shall mourn, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves; all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves."

A great mourning in Jerusalem:

A)The repentance that comes to Israel in that day will be like a great mourning,

B)the ultimate fulfillment of the Day of Atonement, the day of national mourning over their greatest sin – rejecting Jesus.

C) Like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon: This refers to the mourning over King Josiah's death (2 Kings 23:29 and 2 Chronicles 35:20-25).

D)He was such a godly king that the whole nation wept bitterly at his death.

E)Fulfillment of (Rom 11:25-27 NKJV) For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. {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; {27} For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

The whole context of Zechariah 12 puts this radical conversion in the setting of miraculous deliverance from an attack from the nations

A)Ch.13 further describes the scene

In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.

B)Zechariah 12 ends with Israel's return to the Lord through the once rejected but now embraced Messiah.

C)Flowing from their embrace of the Messiah, they now enjoy **a fountain** that brings cleansing **for sin and for uncleanness**.

The cleansing comes after their mourning for the One whom they have pierced.

A)The idea of God being a fountain to His people is found frequently in the Old Testament, but Zechariah's treatment is possibly the richest of all.

B)The idea of the sin-cleansing fountain has also been a part of famous hymns:

There is a fountain filled with blood, Drawn from Immanuel's veins; And sinners, plunged beneath that flood, Lose all their guilty stains. (William Cowper)

C)According to the verse before us this provision is inexhaustible.

Note: There is a *fountain* opened; not a cistern nor a reservoir, but a fountain.

A)See, A fountain continues to still bubble up, and is as full after fifty years as at the first;

B)IN the same way: the provision and the mercy of God for the forgiveness and the justification of our souls continually flows and overflows.

C)It can never be exhausted!

² "It shall be in that day," says the LORD of hosts, "*that* I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered. I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land. ³ It shall come to pass *that* if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother who begot him will say to him, 'You shall not live, because you have spoken lies in the name of the LORD.' And his father and mother who begot him shall thrust him through when he prophesies.

⁴ "And it shall be in that day *that* every prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies; they will not wear a robe of coarse hair to deceive. ⁵ But he will say, 'I *am* no prophet, I *am* a farmer; for a man taught me to keep cattle from my youth.' ⁶ And *one* will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?' Then he will answer, '*Those* with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'

Idolatry and false prophecy were the two principle ways Israel was led astray from God.

A)God not only provides a fountain to cleanse, but He also promises to cut off the source of uncleanness – in this case, idolatry and false prophecy.

Speaking of the idols: They shall no longer be remembered:

A)God promises ultimately to take away even the *memory* of our sin.

B)Zechariah prophesies a coming day when public opinion will not tolerate false prophets.V.3 His father and mother who begot him shall thrust him through when he prophesies

C)In other words There will be such a commitment to the Lord and His truth

1)that even the family of a false prophet will condemn the false prophet.

Note there is an interesting phrase in V.6 ⁶ And *one* will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?' Then he will answer, '*Those* with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.' A)This verse has at times wrongly been associated with Jesus – because he was wounded in the house of his friends and this seems similar to 12:10 – see him pierced.

B)So although the idea is true the context here is speaking about the false prophet - he is the him

C)It wasn't unusual for false prophets to wound or mutilate themselves in the service of idols (1 Kings 18:28, Jeremiah 48:37).

C)The man accused of being a false prophet insists the scars on his body are not the self-inflicted wounds

1)but merely the result of a brawl in his friend's house. It will be an attempt to garner sympathy

But the context shifts in v.7 – New voice – the voice of God

V.7"Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against the Man who is My Companion," says the Lord of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; then I will turn My hand against the little ones."

#5 Lesson: Prophecy is Fulfilled!

This is clearly talking about Jesus – first coming – Jesus quoted this in Matthew 26:31 about himself A)So we understand that the **Shepherd** is Jesus the Messiah –

B)Interesting phrase: The Man who is My Companion:

1)The ancient Hebrew word for **My Companion** is used in Leviticus 6:2 and 18:20 to mean a "near neighbor."

C)This describes someone who is more than a *friend* of the Lord;

1)this **Shepherd** "dwells side by side with the Lord, His equal."

And note: it is God the Father Himself who calls for the Shepherd to be struck.

A)Zechariah here relates a thought also said in Isaiah 53:10: Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief.

Heavy thing:

A)The prophets Isaiah and Zechariah emphatically, state that the suffering of the Servant of the Lord was ordained by the Lord.

B)This was *God's doing!* He gave the command to **strike the Shepherd**.

1)Crucified from the foundation of the world – Revelation 13:8

C)The plan of God As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:19, *God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.*

The Father and the Son worked together at the cross.

A)Jesus was treated as if he had lived my life – your life – so that we could be treated as if we lived His!

V.8-9 are Heavy

- 8 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.' "

Yad Vashem: Heavy moving: 6 million Jews died in the Holocaust

A)All over Israel there are reminders – NEVER AGAIN – we will never allow that to happen again.

B)The sad thing according to Zechariah is it is actually going to happen again – in the Tribulation: 1)The time of Jacob's trouble

C)First 3 1/2 yrs Antichrist is at peace with Israel – middle point – Abomination of Desolation – 1)Daniel 9 and Matthew 24 - temple

D)Second 3 1/2 yrs he is at War! – 2/3 of the nation will die –

 Right now there are approximately 6 million Jews living in Israel – talking 4 million die –
 2) 2 million survive

E)But the 2 million that survive will be the ones who embrace Jesus when He returns and conquerors the Antichrist

F)Leads us to Chapter 14 and our final lesson

Lesson #6 – The Lord's glory and Power will be on Display! Ch.14

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.

It shall come to pass in that day *That* there will be no light; The lights will diminish.

- 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 Hananel 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.

Chapter 14 describes the battle of Jerusalem - the final battle when Jesus returns. A)Verse 2 says all nations will gather against Jerusalem.

B)They'll have the upper hand. *Until the Lord comes to the rescue*, verse 3, "The LORD will go and fight against those nations..." And they'll be no match for Jesus.

C)At His second coming Jesus isn't on a donkey, but on a white war-horse.

1)He comes with a drawn sword, and a robe splattered with the blood of His enemies.

D)Jesus came to earth the first time to save souls and heal broken hearts,
1)but He'll come the second time to conquer and break some kneecaps.

Verse 4 adds "In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives..." In the spot where Jesus ascended into heaven He'll return to earth. A)Interesting to me –Several yrs ago Sheraton Hotels were looking at the Mount of Olives to put in Israel a flagship hotel.

B)but as they did their environmental studies they found that there is a huge fault line, the flows right under the Mount of Olives – AMAZING

C)They ended up building further south - away from the fault line. The hill is unstable.1)It's waiting on the pressure of one foot.

D)Jesus' big toe will cause it to split in two, and the whole topography of Jerusalem will be altered.

The Lord parted the red sea in Moses day, in this day, He will part a mountain

A)And water will flow from it to the dead sea to the East, and the Mediterranean Sea to the West

B)The same geologists that advised Sheraton not to build on the Mount of Olives,

1)also found large amounts of water under the Mountain that would be realized if the earthquake was severe enough

C)JESUS STEPS ON THE MT OF OLIVES – BOOM – IT HAPPENS – IT IS ON!

Verses 8-9 tell us a river will flow from Jerusalem to the Mediterranean –

A)and from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea – thus, connecting the two bodies of water.

B)This will bring life to the Dead Sea, and turn Jerusalem into a port. Verse 9 declares, "And the LORD shall be King over all the earth..."

C)GLORIOUS DAY!!!!!!!!!

¹² And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem:

Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet,

Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.

- ¹³ It shall come to pass in that day *That* a great panic from the LORD will be among them.
 Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor, And raise his hand against his neighbor's hand;
- ¹⁴ Judah also will fight at Jerusalem.
 And the wealth of all the surrounding nations Shall be gathered together: Gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance.
- ¹⁵ Such also shall be the plague On the horse *and* the mule, On the camel and the donkey, And on all the cattle that will be in those camps. So *shall* this plague *be*.

Zechariah 14:12 is a provocative verse.

A)When God strikes down the armies that fight against Jerusalem here's what happens, "Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths."

B)Some have suggested that this sounds like some sort of nuclear explosion.

1)It doesn't have to be, it could be simply that God speaks, and they melt.

C)EYES like a flame of fire!!!!

¹⁶ And it shall come to pass *that* everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

¹⁷ And it shall be *that* whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain. ¹⁸ If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they *shall have* no *rain;* they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. ¹⁹ This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

After the Tribulation God is going to set up 1,000 year reign from Jerusalem

A)And righteousness during this time is enforced

B)One of the rules is going to be that you come once a year to worship in Jerusalem

C)People living all over – come worship – not forced but there are consequences for those who don't 1)it doesn't rain where you are –

God is so wise I love the picture –

A)Because if we refuse to worship – the same thing develops in our lives

B)No rain – no refreshment –

1)Worship is refreshing – eyes off of me and on to Jesus

²⁰ In that day "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" shall be *engraved* on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD's house shall be like the bowls before the altar. ²¹ Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts. Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them. In that day there shall no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.

The end of the book describes life when Jesus establishes His Kingdom on earth. A)He'll rule the world from the Temple in Jerusalem.

B)His throne in the Temple becomes the center of the universe.

C)And His motto is engraved everywhere – it's all over the Temple. It reads, "HOLINESS TO THE LORD." – Minute things – horses – vessels – etc.

D)Holiness = set apart - That's the motto of God's Kingdom... 1)Everything set apart for Him and to Him

What is your motto?

A)Until it becomes Holiness to the Lord – you are missing it big time

B)Mark everything: Set apart – My life – my house my car – my funds – that is living 1)Exist to glorify God