

ZECHARIAH

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Zechariah is the **PROPHET OF RESTORATION AND GLORY**. No doubt but that he was born in Babylon. Began to prophesy a little after Haggai. His purpose was to **CHEER UP**.

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As we study the books of the Old Testament, we would like to point out the fact that the Church cannot be found in the Old Testament writings, yet many times we take a portion of the Old Testament and apply it to the Church. But the Old Testament 39 books as a whole have only Israel to consider.

We have found that Genesis 1-11 covers all nations at the time of writing. Genesis 12:1 - Malachi 4:6 plus Matthew 1:1 through the Gospel writings (John 21:25) covers Israel and the Gentiles as they come in contact with Israel.

But in Acts 1:1 - Revelation 22:21, we find the mentioning of the Church, and then Israel and the Gentiles as they come in contact with the Church.

The Bible is written for everybody, but the Bible doesn't speak to everybody. Always ask when reading the Scriptures, "To whom was this written?"

To verify these three classes of people, we read I Corinthians 10:32, "Give none offence, neither to the Jew nor to the Gentile, nor to the Church of God," which is made up of believing Jews and believing Gentiles in Messiah Jesus as to His death, burial, and resurrection for the payment of their sins.

Let us contrast between Israel and the Church, first as to their foundation:

Israel: Chosen from the foundation of the world. "Then shall the King (Jesus the Messiah) say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34).

The Church: Chosen before the foundation of the world. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy, and without blame before him in love" (Ephesians 1:4).

Now as to whom were Israel and the Church revealed.

Israel: to Abraham: "And the LORD appeared unto Abram (Abraham), and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him" (Genesis 12:7).

The Church: to The Apostle Paul: "How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery" (the truth that a mystery in the word of God is a truth revealed for the first time and this mystery Paul is speaking of the Church) "as I wrote afore in few words, whereby when ye read ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ. Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the Gospel" (Ephesians 3:3-6).

As we read the Scriptures, we note that God chose Israel for His earthly glory. "But thus saith Jehovah (the LORD) that created thee O Jacob...Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory" (Isaiah 43:1,7).

And He chose the Church for His heavenly glory.

We have been led by the Holy Ghost to give these words as preparation for this commentary on the book of Zechariah. There have been so many works on this book, such calling Israel to be the Church. When the Scriptures speak of Israel, it means Israel and no other; therefore, it will be a delight to see the glories of God's people the Jews to be there when all Israel (not the Church) shall be saved.

The Book of Zechariah

The meaning of the word Zechariah is "Jehovah Remembers" or "The Memory of Jehovah." We believe that this great book had for its human author Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, for the Bible states that fact. There is no doubt that he was born in the latter days of the 70th year of Judah's captivity and wrote "His" book some time after Haggai.

His message to Judah and Ten Tribe Kingdom of Israel was to give the whole twelve tribes in the restoration a "pep talk," to cheer up, for Jehovah is still on His throne, and the whole Twelve Tribes were still the people of God!

"Both advents of Jesus the Messiah (Christ) are in Zechariah's prophecy: (1) His birth to His death and resurrection (Zechariah 9:9):

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass."

and (2) His second coming (Zechariah 14:3,4):

"Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south."

This book was written in about 520 B.C.

Chapter 1

Verse 1

The time of the writing was the eighth month, in the second year of King Darius.

Verses 2 - 6

"Your fathers were contemptible in the sight of God, Jehovah. To these same Israelites who are living in these last days, "Turn to Me, and I will turn to you saith Jehovah Sabaoth (the LORD of Host)."

"Don't follow in the steps of unbelief as your fathers walked, whom their prophets warned to turn from their evil ways, but they would not hear nor obey Me. No, they did not want to hear nor to hearken unto Me, saith Jehovah.

"And your fathers, where are they? And the prophets? They couldn't live forever.

"The prophets were faithful to my command, but your fathers allowed not My word to take hold of them. They said that as Jehovah proposed to do to them, He did so, and faithful by His

Word did unto them what He said He would do should they not obey and repent of their evil ways."

Verse 7

On the 24th day of the 11th month, which is the month of Sebat, in the second year of King Darius came the Word of Jehovah unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet" — he is not boasting of his ancestors, but wrote the very word of god, word-by-word, God inspired (breathed).

Verse 8

"It was at night, and Zechariah saw a man riding upon a red horse and he stood among the myrtle trees, and behind him there were red, sorrel, and white horses behind him."

Verse 9

"Then Zechariah asked Adonai (spelled Lord, meaning master or owner) what are these?"

"And the angel that talked with me" — usually God when He speaks, speaks Himself, to the prophets, but here He speaks to angels who in turn speak unto Zechariah, "I will show you what these be."

Verse 10

"And the man that stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, `These are those whom Jehovah hath sent to walk to and from through the earth.'

Verse 11

"And this is our report: We have walked to and fro through the earth, and behold all the earth sitteth still and is at rest! No wars, for Darius has conquered all the warring nations.

Verse 12

"Then the angel of Jehovah spoke, `O Jehovah Sabaoth, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou has had indignation these 70 years.

Verse 13

"And Jehovah answered the angel that talked with me, with good and comfortable words.

Verse 14

"And the angel who had communed with me said unto me, "I am jealous for Jerusalem and Zion, with a great jealousy

Verse 15

"For I am displeased with the Gentiles that are at ease: for I was for a little displeased, and the Gentiles helped forward the affliction,

Verse 16

Therefore, thus saith Jehovah, I am returning to Jerusalem with mercies. My house shall be built in it, saith Jehovah Sabaoth, and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem.

Verse 17

"Cry aloud, saying, Thus saith Jehovah Sabaoth, My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad, and Jehovah shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.

Verse 18

"Another vision: I saw and behold four horns (horns are a symbol of power).

Verse 19

And I talked to the angel who had spoken to me before. What be these horns? And he answered me, These be the horns (power, nations) which have scattered Judah, so that no man did lift up his head: but these are come to fray them, to cast out the horns of the Gentiles, which lift up their powers over the land of Judah.

"Here are the Horn Nations that persecuted Judah: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome.

"And here are the nations that overcame them: Medo-Persia overcame Babylon, and Greece overcame Persia, and Rome overcame Greece, and it shall be Christ Jesus who overcomes Rome.

Chapter 2

Chapter two brings to us the vision of the Man with a measuring line.

Verse 1

"Zechariah lifts up his eyes again, and I looked, and behold a man with a measuring line in his hand.

Verse 2

"Then I asked where are you going?"

"And he said to me, `To measure Jerusalem, to see what is the breadth thereof, and what is the length thereof.

Verse 3

"And behold the angel that talked with me went forth, and another angel went out to meet him,"

Verse 4

Here, we find that in the days of Messiah's triumph against all Gentiles "Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns WITHOUT WALLS for the multitude of men and cattle therein."

Verse 5

"For I, saith Jehovah, will be unto her a wall of fire around about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.

Verse 6

"Ho, Ho" (Jehovah is speaking to His scattered people Israel) "come forth, and flee from the north, saith Jehovah, for I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven, saith Jehovah.

Verse 7

"Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon."

Darius wanted all Israel to return to the Promise Land, Jehovah wanted them to return, but they wouldn't. Of all the millions who were taken into the Assyrian captivity, and all the millions who were taken into the Babylonian captivity, only 50,000 (fifty thousand) returned.

Verse 8

"For thus saith Jehovah Sabaoth: After the glory hath he sent me unto the Gentiles which spoiled you (took away their silver and gold) for he that toucheth you, toucheth the apple of his eye.

Verse 9

"For, behold, I will shake mine hand upon them, and they shall be a spoil to their servants:

and ye shall know that Jehovah Sabaoth hath sent me.

Verse 10

"Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith Jehovah.

Verse 11

"And many Gentiles shall be joined to Jehovah in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and those shall know that Jehovah hath sent me unto thee.

Verse 12

"And Jehovah shall inherit Judah his portion in the Holy Land, and shall choose Jerusalem again.

Verse 13

"Be silent, O all flesh, before Jehovah: for he is raised up out of His holy habitation."

There are thousands of Jews still living in Iraq (old Assyria). Their fathers would not go back when the Holy Land was offered, and not only were the Ten Tribe Israel taken to Assyria (now Iraq), but Iraq was conquered by the Babylonians and thus all the two Tribe nation of Judah could have gone back. But only 50,000 returned. So we see why the LORD is going to let them suffer one again — this time the Tribulation (seven years) and the last 3 1/2 years (intensive) Great Tribulation. It will take this terrible suffering to cause Israel to go back for good.

Chapter 3

Verse 1

As we begin reading the third chapter of Zechariah (Jehovah remembers), we learn that the rebuilt Temple of Zerubbabel is now being used, and Joshua the High Priest is performing the rites of the Day of Atonement as written in Leviticus 16:1-34; 23:26-32. The Day of Atonement was observed on the tenth day of the Jewish calendar month - the seventh month which is (Tishri) October; therefore, here we find Joshua in the holy of holies the tenth day of October.

Besides Joshua's presence, there was the angel of Jehovah and Satan (another angel called "the fallen into sin angel" resisting "the angel of Jehovah").

The angel of Jehovah is no one but the Messiah Jesus before He was born. He is spoken of

many times in the Old Testament, another which is found in Exodus 14:19 and 23:19. Thus the Angel of Jehovah went before Israel and led them through the wilderness for 40 years, and just before the Red Sea march, He went behind Israel and was a protection from the coming Pharaoh and his soldiers, causing the Egyptians to be buried by the waters of the Red Sea.

The word "angel" in the Old testament Hebrew means MESSENGER, and in the New Testament Greek means MESSENGER also.

So, the Lord Jesus the Messiah the Son of God manifest in the flesh was there to help Israel. He became flesh and went to Calvary to die for the sins of the world and was raised from the dead for the believer's sanctification.

We have recorded in Revelation 12:10 that Satan still accuses the saints of God, here the Church. We are accused of Satan every day, but we find victory over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

Verse 2

"And Jehovah said unto Satan, Jehovah rebuke thee, O Satan; even Jehovah that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?" The Jews here are small in numbers, but Jehovah is for them.

Sometimes we rebuke Satan by our own name hence no result, no leaving us! Reason: we should always call upon Jehovah to rebuke Satan; Jehovah Himself calls upon Jehovah to rebuke Him. There's always glorified results when we ask Jehovah to rebuke Satan.

Verse 3

"Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel." What a predicament. The High Priest should always wear clean clothes. He couldn't in this instance, for He, the High Priest, was the representative of Israel, and Israel was polluted with the filth of their sins, but praise the Lord, there is always deliverance and cleansing by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus the Messiah!

Verse 4

The angel of Jehovah then commanded, "Take away the filthy garments from him." Israel's sins that Joshua was carrying were to be washed away in one day.

How about us who are members of the Body of Messiah and our sins? Simple, "if we confess our sins" to Him "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

How about the Angel of Jehovah leading Israel through the wilderness? Well, that only 40 years, but He, the Lord Jesus said, "And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world (age)!"

Verses 5 - 7

And I said, Let them set a fair, clean mitre (turban) upon his head. So they set a fair, clean mitre upon his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of Jehovah stood by, and the angel of Jehovah protected (admonished) Joshua saying, Thus saith Jehovah of Sabaoth, "If you will walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt all judge (as a king) my house, and also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.

[Chapter 6:12,13 says:

"And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both."

This is still speaking of Joshua the High Priest, and He is called the Branch (a name given to the Lord Jesus Christ [Isaiah 11:1 **"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:"**]. He shall be the king over Israel by right of birth, of David; and a High Priest after the order of Melchizedek "Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek" (Ps. 110:4; Heb. 7:17).]

Another truth worth emphasizing is that this high priest's name is Joshua. This comes from the Hebrew word "Jeshua" meaning "Joshua", "Hosea", and "Jesus." This is prophecy enough — for the future King and the future High Priest is called Joshua, or better, JESUS!

Verse 8

Jehovah states that the one who shall rule as King and the One who shall mediate between God and Israel shall be called the BRANCH, God's SERVANT. A limb cut off a live tree. And in chapter 6:12 He is called the "Branch the man!"

We turn to Isaiah 4:2

"In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel."

and find that the Messiah Jesus is called the Branch, Jehovah, and in Jeremiah, He is called the BRANCH the King.

"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth." (Jeremiah 23:5)

"While He is servant, He is King. And while He is the perfect MAN, yet He is Jehovah manifest in the flesh."

Verse 9

Here Joshua in the future (manifest in the flesh - Jesus) shall be the stone (disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God and precious...the stone which the builders have rejected. The same is made the head of the corner [1 Peter 2:4,7]).

"Upon that stone shall be seven eyes" these are called the "eye of Jehovah" (4:10) showing His attribute of deity (belonging only to God), which sees everything that is occurring upon the earth.

Verse 10

In that glorious day of the Messiah Jesus the King and Great High Priest, shall every saved man and saved neighbor have their inheritance (claimed possessions) even as Daniel (Daniel 12:13).

Chapter 4

Here is the Vision of the Lampstand (Candlestick: for the candles were never used in the Temples, rather lamps whose number was seven) the lampstand was the candelabra which held the seven lamps.

Verse 1

I was awakened out of sleep by the angel of Jehovah.

Verse 2

He asked Zechariah what did he see. "I have noticed and saw a lampstand of gold, with a bowl upon the top, with seven lamps, and seven pipes (spouts) belonging to the seven lamps, which are on the top of it.

Verse 3

Two olive trees by it, one on the right side, and the other on its left side.

Verse 4

And I asked the angel who was speaking with me, "What are these, my lord."

Verse 5

Don't you know what these can be? No, my lord. (He called the angel "lord". This Hebrew word is Adonai, meaning "master" or "owner").

Verses 6 - 7

Then He answered and said to me, "This is the word of Jehovah to Zerubbabel saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith Jehovah (the LORD) Sabaoth (Host).

Verse 8

The Word of Jehovah came again unto Zechariah saying, The Temple began by the hands of Zerubbabel and his hands shall also finish it.

Verse 10

For who hath despised the days of small things. Great things are better things when they were small things. "The substitutions of man are inferior. The substitutions of God are superior" (Mark G. Cambron).

It is to God who sees all and knows all that we place our faith and trust, for Jehovah "knows them that trust in Him" (Nahum 1:7).

Verses 11 - 14

Going to the New Testament, we read of these same two men which preach in the first half of the 70th Week of Daniel known as the Tribulation found in Revelation 11:3-12. How do we know who they are? Revelation 11:4 says "There are the two lampstands (candlesticks) standing before God of the earth" — the Two Witnesses.

The rapture has already occurred and they must get saved immediately by believing the Word of God (John 3:16 would be plenty), or else they would go up at the rapture. No believer is going to be left behind. It's going to be a Rapture and not a rupture!

Someone may ask, "Is it true that the Bible, in speaking of the saints meeting in the air, does not say rapture — for the term rapture cannot be found in the Bible. That is so, but the truth of the rapture can be found in 2 Thessalonians 2:1, "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our

Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him."

Power is given to the two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and sixty days (1,260) — around 3 1/2 years. Verse 3: if anyone tries to hurt them, fire comes out of their mouths to destroy these enemies.

They have power to shut the heavens that it rain not in the days of their prophecy as Elijah did. And they shall be able to turn water into blood, the same as Moses did.

But (verse 7) when they have finished their testimony, God allows the Beast — the antichrist — to kill them. And their bodies shall lie in the streets of Jerusalem for 3 1/2 days. People who were affected by their preaching shall rejoice and give presents one to another. And after 3 1/2 days, the spirit of life enters them, and they stand upon their feet. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying, "Come up hither." And they ascended into heaven.

We learn that man is immortal until he has finished his testimony. No one can kill us until our work is done.

These two men, seemingly are the only two saved people on the earth. They are the first two saved, anyway.

There shall be a new temple built and used by permission of the ruler in Jerusalem.

There is the lampstand standing and the only fuel they get is from these two newly saved witnesses. They are the two olive trees. (We know that olive oil comes from the berries, but here is a picture of a new way the olive oil has as its source — that's the two witnesses). They have oil in themselves and from their bodies, pipes come from them carrying oil to the lampstands seven lamps. Each man feeds oil to the seven lamps. The only source of oil (symbol of the Holy Spirit) comes from these two men. They preach the Gospel, and we know that 144,000 Israelites are saved by the Gospel the two witnesses preach in the first half of the 70th week of Daniel known as the Tribulation.

Untold numbers of Gentiles are saved during the last half of the tribulation (known as the Great Tribulation) by the preaching of the 144,000 Jewish believers:

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered,

saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Revelation 7:9-14)

Chapter 5

Verses 1 - 4

This fine chapter reveals "The Flying Scroll" and the Ephah.

The flying scroll was 30 feet by 15 feet, the exact measurement of the Temple's Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. And this portion of the Word (Zechariah 5:1-4) can be said that God is showing to the earth as it flies over the nations of their sins as well as Israel's of breaking the eighth commandment: "Thou shalt not steal," and the third commandment "For taking Jehovah's name in vain" swearing falsely by the name of Jehovah.

This scroll, written on both sides, as the tablets of Moses, God wrote on both sides, comes to all nations and convicts them of their lack of holiness and for want of the true sacrifices which will remove all sins. The world shall be judged by Messiah Jesus when he returns and sets up the Kingdom. He is the only holy one who can stand apart from the sins of all nations and condemn them. And He only has the power to judge and carry out the sentence, God's degree of death.

Verses 5 - 10

The second vision in this chapter is the Ephah. A measurement known to the Orient amounting to a little over a bushel.

Its misuse is noted by what follows: the measuring ephah contains a woman, and the Scriptures say that "This is wickedness." And it is lifted up after being sealed, by two women with wings of a stork, and they lifted up the ephah between earth and heaven.

Verse 11

Zechariah asked the angel, where are these flying to and for what purpose? "To build it an house in the land of Shinar (Babylon), and it shall be established, and set there, upon her own base.

Zechariah was living in the Medo-Persian Empire. This nation defeated Babylon, but we see by this verse Babylon shall be rebuilt.

But doesn't the Scriptures say she shall never be built again? It is true that after the city of Babylon would be destroyed, then she shall never be rebuilt. But the city has never been destroyed.

Oh, I've seen the ruins of Babylon. You say her in her ruins, but she has never been destroyed. Captured, yes, but has never been destroyed.

When the Medo-Persian Empire captured Babylon, they never destroyed her.

Then when Greece captured the Persians, the city was still beautiful, for Alexander the Great, King of Greece, died in a drunken debauchery in King Belshazzar's (king of Babylon) palace.

The city of Babylon was existing during the years of the Roman rule. Even Peter wrote his first epistle of the Bible in the city of Babylon.

Babylon continued to exist until 600 A.D. It was by-passed on the merchants and then fell apart into ruins. But when Babylon is destroyed after this rebuilding, she shall not be built again.

Chapter 6

Verses 1 - 8

These eight verses speak of another set of horses and could be the same as written in chapter 1:7-11, but this set of horses have no drivers. These horses are pictured as coming out from between two mountains of brass (bronze). What is the difference between bronze and brass? "Bronze is an alloy of copper and tin, while brass is an alloy of copper and zinc."

These go out for Jehovah (the LORD); the black horses go to the north country; the white horses go after them; while the grisled horses (dapple horses) go toward the south country. The bay horses (strong horses) go to and fro through the earth. Red, in both Testaments speaks of war, white speaks of salvation, black speaks of death, while the other speaks of famine. Then he cried to me, those who are going to the north land have appeased My wrath in the land of the north.

Verses 9 - 11

Then Jehovah spoke unto me (Zechariah), and urged me to contact the new arrivals from Babylon, (Heldai, Tobijah, and of Jedaiah) and on the same day, go into the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah, and take silver and gold and make two crowns (two kinds of metals: gold and silver) and set them upon the head of Joshua (the son of Josedech) the high priest.

Verse 12

Right here Jehovah speaks of the end time after the Tribulation (70th week of Daniel). We point again to this man who is the high priest of Israel, Joshua, as a type of the Messiah (for the word Joshua is also translated as Hosea, even JESUS).

He that is called Joshua (Jesus) is a type of Jesus the Messiah who will build the Millennial

Temple after the Tribulation is over and the thousand year reign of Christ begins. Here He is called the Branch. the man (as also we have pointed out that prophetically Jesus is called: Branch the King, Branch the Servant, Branch the Man, Branch the Lord.)

And that is just the way Christ is presented in the Gospels: In Matthew as the King, the Lion. In Mark as the servant, the Ox. In Luke as the perfect man, the Man. In John whose emphasis is deity, God, the Eagle.

Verse 13

Now the coming Messiah's name is Jesus, and in the Millennium He shall sit in the Holy of Holies as King and High Priest. He receives the reign as king from David and David's son Nathan (Luke 3:31) — [this is Mary's, the mother of Jesus, genealogy], but where did Jesus get the office of High Priest? There is nothing in the Bible that states that the priesthood belonged to Judah; then where did He receive the priesthood?

Now when we think of Joseph, the husband of Mary, we think of Joseph as being a poor carpenter in Nazareth. Indeed He was, but Joseph was a Prince in Israel! Joseph was a direct descendant of David and Solomon, and the Messiah King was to come through David and Solomon. But we find that that line was cursed, and no one of that line could be king.

"Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not? O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah."
(Jeremiah 22:28-30)

Thus Joseph was a descendant of Coniah who had the curse upon him. And the future Messiah King had to come through him, but couldn't come because that line was cursed.

So we see why the Virgin Birth was necessary. By blood, the Lord Jesus came from another son of David, Nathan! That's the genealogy of the Virgin Mary, so when Mary gave birth to Jesus, her first son became the property of her husband Joseph who married her. Therefore, as we read the genealogy of Jesus through Joseph, we find when the genealogy traces itself through Coniah, (the curse is there), but Joseph did not beget Jesus but made him his son by adoption. So by blood (Mary, descendant of David and Nathan) Jesus traces His genealogy to David, then as the adopted son of Joseph He claims the throne through his adopted father Joseph (Matthew 1:6).

Christ had to have a Virgin Birth! Amen. Hallelujah!

Then where did the Lord Jesus get His priesthood?

"Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec." (Hebrews 6:20)

Melchisedec was not of the Aaronic priesthood (Hebrews 7:11). Then what about Hebrews 7:3? **"Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually."** By this verse many have stated Melchisedec must have been Jesus Christ whom Abraham honored.

But let us examine it correctly. "Without father, without mother" — but Jesus had a mother. What the Scriptures are saying, it was the Priesthood it is speaking about. Melchisedec did not get his priesthood from his mother (neither did Jesus) not from his father (neither did Jesus); Melchisedec did not leave his priesthood to his children (neither did Jesus). The priesthood began and ended with Melchisedec. So Christ's eternal priesthood begins with Jesus and shall continue with Jesus forever.

Yes, Messiah Jesus shall build the temple at the beginning of the millennium and bear all the glory, and he shall sit and rule upon his throne, and He shall be a priest upon his throne - complete harmony between them both. At last, Church and State cooperating with each other.

These two crowns, together, shall be to Helem, and to Jedaiah, and to Hen, the son of Zephaniah as a memorial of that which is to come in the Temple of Jehovah (the LORD).

Verse 15

The Lord Jesus shall engage the workmanship of many throughout the world to build in the temple.

"You shall know that Jehovah Sabaoth (LORD of hosts) has sent me, Zechariah, to you." This has been over 2000 years, but the hope is eternal, and to us who are born again Christians, Jew as well as Gentile, are looking to the second coming of Messiah in our day. And of course all these things predicted by the prophets shall come to pass.

Chapter 7

Verse 1

As to God's time table, Israel's 70 year Babylonian captivity was over. Most of the twelve tribes remained in Babylon after the king of the Medo-Persian kingdom's King Cyrus gave command of Israel's release to return back to the Holy Land. While millions were taken captive, first of the Ten Tribe Northern Kingdom (Israel) by the Assyrians, and later the Kingdom of Judah (and Simeon) Two Tribe Kingdom by Nebuchadnezzar, yet only 50,000 of Israel returned to the land of Promise.

Verse 2

The 70 year captivity was now over, and as the most of the deported Jews remained in Babylon there was a fast day set by the Israelites mourning the day when Jerusalem fell, and the people plundered — even losing many of their lives.

Now that the captivity was over would they still have to observed that day. They who still lived in Babylon sent several people to ask that question while they prayed before Jehovah in the new Temple, pitiful thou it was.

Verse 3

These Jews from Babylon were to speak to the priests which served Jehovah and also to the prophets there in Jerusalem to get their attitude on fasting that fifth month, (which was the destruction of Jerusalem),

Verses 4 - 7

and the seventh month (observing the death of Gedaliah governor of Judah who was appointed the political appointee over those remaining after Babylonian siege (Jeremiah 40-43)

Whether they kept such fast days or not, who in heaven cared? It was not Jehovah who had commanded such fasts in the first place. These two fast days were man-made to begin with, and should be stopped anyway. Jehovah asked the question "when you fasted the fifth and seventh month, did you fast unto Me your God? And when you mournfully feasted, did you feast unto Me? You should read My Word, saith Jehovah, that I gave to the former prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited and in prosperity. In these words I warned my people to obey my Word, but they would not."

Verses 8 - 14

The word of Jehovah came unto Zechariah saying, listen to me, even if you are still in Babylon and have tasted the joy of being in the land I promised you

"Execute true judgment, and show mercy, and compassion every man to his brother.

"Oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the gentile, nor the poor. And think not in your heart to do evil to your brother.

"This did your kinsmen, your father, they refused to do what I demanded — they shrugged their shoulders, stopped their ears so they would hear not.

"Yes, they hardened their hearts as an adamant stone lest they should hear God's divine law,

and because they refused they cried, and I would not hear saith Jehovah Sabaoth (the LORD of Host).

"But I scattered them as a whirlwind among all nations of the world, the nations they knew not nor their languages.

"Thus the Promised Land became desolate after them, and no man passed through, nor returned; their sins caused the land laid desolate."

This desolation of Israel lasted seventy years, but they pulled away their shoulders at the time of Jesus the Messiah. That blast of God lasted, now, nearly 2000 years. Right now some of Israel are back in the land, yet there is still no peace.

Israel now has no temple, and that for nearly 2000 years, no priest, no sacrifice, no blood can be applied except the precious blood of Christ by faith!

It will not be much longer until Israel will return unto Jehovah, and as God has said, "I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day" (Zechariah 3:9d)

Chapter 8

Verses 1 - 3

The third answer of Jehovah Sabaoth to the question of verse 7:3 is found in chapter 8 verses 1-17.

"And to speak unto the priests which were in the house of the LORD of hosts, and to the prophets, saying, Should I weep in the fifth month, separating myself, as I have done these so many years?" (Zechariah 7:3)

The Word of God came to Zechariah stating His jealousy for Zion (another name for Israel's twelve tribes), which was full of fury.

Verse 4

"Right now I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And of all things, Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth, and the mountain (God's reign the Kingdom of Heaven shall be called the Holy Mountain).

"Again Jerusalem shall be populated with old men and old women leaning upon their staffs.

Verse 5

And the streets shall be filled with boys and girls playing in its streets.

Verse 6

"If this pictures a marvelous scene, should it not also be marvelous in Jehovah's eyes?"

Verse 7

"My salvation shall deliver Israel from the east country and from the west country — in other words, the whole world shall be defended by Jehovah from wrecking my people.

Verse 8

"Oh, for their faith and trust be exercised. I am waiting for that decision by Israel. I am ready to forgive, and they shall be people again, and again I will be their God in truth and righteousness.

Verses 9 - 10

"This temple is indeed a work of My grace and toward Israel, my people. Oh, listen to my prophets Haggai and Zechariah.

"Years ago before the foundation of this last temple was laid - just a few years ago - hardly a people could be counted, for there was no hire for man, nor a hiring for beasts. There was a spirit of fear toward their fellow man.

Verse 11

"I shall change my dealing with the residue of the people left.

Verse 12

"For the seed, I shall bless, the same as with the vine, the tree, and the ground. For all shall produce and increase. The heavens shall again provide dew, and the residue of the people shall possess these things.

Verse 13

"Instead of being a curse among the Gentiles, Israel shall be a blessing for I will save you; so, strengthen your hands, for thus saith Jehovah Sabaoth (the LORD of Host)." (Oh, if Israel had followed through!)

Verse 14

"I thought to punish you, when your fathers provoked me to wrath, and I did not change my mind. That generation died in unbelief and perished.

Verse 15

"So I thought to do well to the house of Judah," (those of the ten tribe Israel kingdom who returned to the Promise Land numbered only about one thousand of the 50,000. The Kingdom of Judah numbered about 49,000 of the 50,000 who returned. Thus the LORD directs His attention to the Two Tribe Kingdom of Judah).

Verse 16

"Here are explanation of the Law you should do: `Speak to your neighbor in truth; execute the judgment of truth and peace shall be in your gates.

Verse 17

"Imagine no evil toward your neighbor; love no false oath. I hate such conduct."

Verses 18 - 23

We now come to Jehovah's fourth answer to their question of Zechariah 7:1-3:

Again the word of Jehovah of Host (LORD Sabaoth) came to the prophet Zechariah:

"Now as to the fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth month, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth month — "

These fasts were never given to Judah to observe. They did it on their own — trying to pass as religious — "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof."

Verse 19

"However, I will turn these days of fasting which you set up for yourselves, to be days of feasting, of joy, of gladness, and cheerfulness.

"Therefore love the truth and peace."

Verse 20

What a change shall overcome Judah and all Israel, and why didn't it? Israel returned not in faith, thus God has waited on them to demonstrate their love and trust — so these joyous days have

been postponed until the return of Messiah Jesus to this earth.

Israel has much suffering yet to endure during the Tribulation of seven years.

But the following joyous demonstration will be held back until all Israel turns to Messiah Jesus. All these blessings are in the future, yet can be experience by the few.

Verse 21

"The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, Let us go quickly to pray to Jehovah and seek Him, and they shall go!

Verse 22

"Yes, many Gentiles shall seek Jehovah Sabaoth and pray to Him.

Verse 23

"In those beautiful days that ten Gentiles shall take up the skirt of one Jew saying "We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you."

(But suppose if one Gentile takes up the skirt of ten Jews?)"

Chapter 9

Verses 1 - 2

"The burden of the word of the LORD in the land of Hadrach" (or the burden of the word of the LORD is against the land of Hadrach is the meaning of the beginning of this chapter).

"A burden" you find in many places of the Scriptures which actually means as it is a Hebrew word "Marsa", a heavy, weighty think, is a message or oracle concerning Babylon, Assyria, Jerusalem, etc. It is "heavy" because the wrath of God is in it, and grievous for the prophet to declare" (Scofield Study System, Oxford, New York Press, Isaiah 13:1).

Those the of conservative persuasion teach that the first eight verses of this chapter is a prophecy of Alexander the Great of the coming Kingdom of the Grecian Empire. Which is true.

Hadrach was a city lying north of Hamath, and Damascus was the capitol of Aram (Syria). Hamath was a Syrian city north of Damascus on the Orontes River. Tyre and Sidon were Phoenician cities situated westward on the coast. The very words describe the salvation to many Phoenicians along with Israel because they witnessed the power of the Grecians under Alexander the Great. For Israel escaped being delivered by God who let Alexander the Great pass Israel and

Jerusalem and caused no destruction to them.

Verse 3

(To see how Tyre, ruled by Tyrus, read Ezekiel 26-28 in the book by Dr. Cambren on the book Ezekiel Made Plain.)

Yes, Tyre was the center of trade for the near East. It was a market that sold ships, its oars and sails, clothing, food, even slaves. Tyrus traded intensively that made it necessary for him to have a paid army which was to deliver and protect his city from invasion. But he looked to himself and not God for his deliverance.

Verse 4

But Tyre was destroyed by Alexander the Great after a five-year siege. It was the LORD that destroyed Tyre through Alexander the Great.

Verses 5 - 7

Four of the five Philistine cities were then the following conquest by Alexander. In the sixth verse, the word bastard has been translated as a mongrel race, or foreigners.

The blood of heathens' sacrifices were to be taken out of the Philistines mouths, showing that many were turning to the God of Israel as we learned of the Jebusites (who lived in Jerusalem and were defeated by David and his soldiers. Complete salvation for Israel's enemies shall be fulfilled when Jesus the Messiah returns at the end of the Tribulation).

Verse 8

When Christ comes, He guarantees that Jerusalem shall never be invaded, even the sinners (Gentiles) who band together at the end of the Millennium to take the City of God will fail. This completes the last attack of Satan (Revelation 20:7-9).

Verse 9

This great verse is found to be completed (Matthew 21:2-11) — the riding of Christ Jesus upon a donkey. Mighty men such as kings when presented to the people usually rode upon a donkey. Christ, the King, did so!

He rode upon a donkey at His first appearing. He shall ride upon a white horse at His second appearing (Revelation 19:11-16).

Verse 10

Just look at what Messiah Jesus the LORD is going to do!

Ephraim is a word which encompasses the Twelve Tribe Kingdom of Israel, while Jerusalem speaks of the Two Tribe Kingdom of Judah.

Messiah Jesus shall heal the breach between Israel and Judah - no more warfare - the chariot and horse, and the battle bow shall be taken away from all twelve tribes, and because of this peace, Jehovah shall bring peace to the Gentiles - the whole world shall learn war no more.

Verse 11

The covenant can mean the Abrahamic and Mosaic (Law) covenants, but the Mosaic covenant is void "**For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth**" (Romans 10:4), therefore, the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

Verse 12

All prisoners kept in dungeons are set free. They become prisoners of hope! Israel shall be granted double blessings than before. Oh, how Jehovah shall bless Israel and she trusts the LORD for everything!

Verse 13

Here are blessings of victory God shall grant Israel over Greece all these blessings as God bends Judah as a Bow, and Ephraim, His arrows has He set to conquer Greece. All Israel was demonstrated by God as a sword over Greece. This was fulfilled in the time of the Macabees, but demonstrated fully as described by Zechariah 14:12-14.

Verse 14

It shall be known that Jehovah shall fight for His people.

Verse 15

Yes, Jehovah shall defend them, and all Israel shall become adept marksmen with the sling and stones.

Verse 16

What a glorious day it will be when Israel as a whole trusts their God Jehovah and shall be saved. Israel, His people, shall become as priceless stones fitting in a crown, and lifted up as banners upon His land.

Verse 17

What beauty and comeliness will be all Israel's. Yes, the Creator shall cause the land to produce its crops, and the youths shall produce their young!

Chapter 10

Verse 1

The cause of Israel's rebellion against her God and Creator was the false shepherd that Satan had planted among them, and they walked from hither and yon without any guidance or direction. Of course these false teachers were false shepherds — even denying the Lord that bought — and this acceptance of the doctrine of devils them to miss the true revelation of Jehovah and believe Satan's instructions which were lies and not a truth among them.

All these sins will be forgiven and erased in one day (Zechariah 3:9). How easy it is to believe a lie and not the truth. It takes more faith to believe the false than the truth. It is easier to preach a lie than the Truth.

Unbelief is manufactured in the heart of an unregenerated being, and the effect of the lies are thoughts which are considered through a fallen mind that proposes that the sinner thinks his philosophy is high than God's. So, he doesn't need God and falls into the snare of thinking He is as great or greater than God. This when sin is committed it is forgiven (the unregenerated proposes) when the sinner forgives himself. The sinner is worse spiritually than at the beginning. "Your thoughts are not my thoughts, nor your ways, my ways" saith the Almighty God. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thought, and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" Isaiah 55:7.

What a day when all Israel stops, and realizes that she has forsaken her God and fully trusted His Word for the cleansing she needs and shall have.

The first step of Israel is back to her God. A simple request: "Ask ye the LORD rain in the time of the latter (spring) rains." And Jehovah shall answer by sending clouds filled with water to fall upon the fields and cover the fields with grass.

Verse 2

Israel shall find that their false shepherds have spoken vanity. The word idol is "teraphim", idols such as Rachel stole from her father and denied the act. Why was her father so anxious to regain possession of them? The "teraphim" were idols kept by the sons of a family which guaranteed them possession of their father if he should die.

Now how did the idols speak? Through the teaching of these false holy men. The claim they see visions and didn't see a thing. False dreams they made up, and they contained no comfort. So the people just wandered around without any peace, hoping that the next time the false prophet would tell them the truth. But the false shepherd had no truth, and thus could give none.

Verse 3

Jehovah's anger was kindled against these shepherds, and He shall punish them. Now the Messiah Jesus shall visit His flock, Judah, and shall make him as a glorious steed in the Battle.

Verse 4

This verse contains the presentation of the Messiah Jesus who is described as the cornerstone, the Nail (tent peg), the battle bow, and the establisher of mighty men.

Verse 5

Israel shall tread down her enemies in the mire of the streets. They shall fight victoriously because Jehovah is with them, and their enemies shall be put to shame.

Verse 6

What a future for all twelve tribes — the house of Judah shall be strengthened by Jehovah as well as Joseph (the ten tribe kingdom of Israel) shall be saved.

Jehovah shall again set His people in the promise land, for He has shown (or will show) mercy upon them; and they shall appear as though I had never cast them off — for I am Jehovah (the LORD) their Elohim (God), and will hear them.

Verse 7

And those of Ephraim (the ten tribe kingdom of Israel) shall become like a mighty man, and their hearts shall be thrilled as by wine. The children shall witness Israel's jubilation and be glad. Their hearts shall magnify Jehovah.

Verse 8

I will hiss (whistle, call) and gather them! For I have redeemed them (by the blood of the lamb); and they shall increase in numbers for they have an inheritance for them to fill: from the Mediterranean to the River Euphrates!

Verse 9

The dispersion of Israel is here restated, and today it is a fact that they have been scattered as a sower scatters his seed among the nations of the world. the nations shall live with them, and make them prosperous with their children.

But Israel mourns for the Promise Land. God has planted that desire for their inheritance.

But — praise the Lord!

Verse 10

But I shall regather them again out of the land of Egypt and out of Assyria, and bring them (all of them) to the land of Gilead and Lebanon, and so many that there is no place for them.

Verses 11 - 12

For Messiah shall "bring His people through the sea of distress,
"And strike the waves in the sea,
"So that the depths of the Nile will dry up,
"And the pride of Assyria (Iraq of today) will be brought down.
"And the scepter of Egypt will depart
"And I shall strengthen them in Jehovah
"And in His name they will walk," declares Jehovah.

Chapter 11

Verse 1

Israelites were known to be farmers and shepherds. In this chapter we see the comparison between the good shepherds and unfaithful shepherds in Israel. As a rule, because of gifts receiving and favors bestowed, Israel chose the idle and fearful shepherds, especially the Antichrist who, at first, seems to be a true shepherd who loves the sheep (Israel) — even making a covenant of peace and provision for Israel, even honoring this covenant for 3 1/2 years — then breaking His Covenant in the middle of the 70th Week of Daniel, he shows his true worth of compromising with rulers of power, and hatred of those who love Messiah Jesus. This false Messiah is the antichrist of course.

Let us now return to the first verses of this glorious and precious book of Zechariah.

Verse 2

God's wrath against ungodliness and unbelief is demonstrated against His enemies such as Lebanon — those of the north, and Bashan — those who dwell in the middle of Israel, and those

who live in the lush of Jordan.

Verse 3

The work of these unfaithful shepherds has caused the unproductivity of the sheep.

Verse 4

God says to the Shepherd "feed the flock, whether it be animals or saints in the Church". Pastors, your congregation of human sheep must be fed the Word of God.

Verse 5

But the unfaithful shepherds haven't loved Israel nor the God of Israel. They that sell them have one object in view, only the price they might bring. False shepherds among the prophets and among the priests are in a species of their own.

Verse 6

The people of Israel have been easily led astray from God, until the wrath of god is demonstrated and He states He will not deliver His people out of the tangle they have set themselves to do. The land of Israel shall be smitten, and no deliverance shall come from god.

Verse 7

God is seen as taking two shepherd staves usually to guide His sheep, but Jehovah has delivered them to the slaughter: one of the staves He calls BEAUTY and the other BANDS (union).

Verse 8

Three shepherds God destroyed — for God loathed them — they were not of God nor for God.

Verse 9

To you who are dying, I will not feed you, let it die! And that which is to be cut off, let it be cut off. I did not come to the aid of Israel when Nebuchadnezzar and Babylonian army made siege of Jerusalem — until man ate his neighbor, mothers ate their children. Sin in the life of Israel caused such treatment.

Verse 10

And I took my staff, even Beauty, and cut it asunder — broke it as God was going to break His covenant (the LAW - Old Testament [covenant]). (In Jeremiah 31:32 says that Israel broke this Mosaic Covenant first).

Verse 11

"I broke that covenant that day." And the people knew it!

Verse 12

And to put anguish upon God's broken heart, He asked "What is the price you will sell my Messiah?" And the answer came, "thirty pieces of silver" — the price of a slave, or 30 days wages! This was fulfilled when Judas sold Jesus to the enemy of God, selling Him for 30 pieces of silver whom he would betray (Matt. 27:9). [A contradiction between Matthew 27:9 and Zechariah 11:12? No. For some prophecies were said, and written, some prophecies were written and not spoken; some prophecies were said and not written. Matthew 27:9 declares that Jeremiah spoke, but did not write, the prophecy of the betrayal of Christ for 30 pieces of silver.]

Verse 13

And the priests took the 30 pieces of silver and gave them for the potter's field as written by Zechariah here in the 13th verse.

Verse 14

Thus Jehovah cut the other staff bands (union) that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Ten Tribe Israel.

For a time Israel's two divisions were together after the 70 year Babylonian Captivity, but their disunion brought about the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus in 70 A.D.

Two thousand years have passed, and Israel is now recognized as one nation, but there is no Israelite today who knows by record what tribe he's from. (Levi, by mouth to mouth handed down from generation has preserved the identity of their Tribe. And as well as the Cohens (priests), they were of Levi, and their identity has been preserved by fathers revealing their identity to their sons.)

Just before the Rapture, the temple will be rebuilt, and they must have some priests — they have over 200,000 men today who claim they are Cohens (priests).

However, there is no one today who by record can show is a descendant of David, thus no king. Yet, there is ONE whose record has been kept, and He can prove that He is a descendant of David, and that Person is no other but Messiah Jesus — for the record of His decendancy is found in Matthew 1:1-17 and in Luke 3:23-38.

Verses 15 - 17

Here we have the denunciation of the False above all False shepherds, the antichrist!

He is not of God, therefore, Israel and all people can be on their guard concerning this evil person.

Of course, the Rapture of the church occurs before he is revealed. It will not be possible, therefore, that He will nor can he seduce the saints of the Church, we won't be here.

However, we know by a sign for the Israelites who are left here on earth who are not part of the body of the Messiah, watch out for a near east person who claims to be the Messiah, who makes a seven year treaty with Israel, but who breaks it after 3 1/2 years. He it is, who turns out to be the false Messiah.

"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give such in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." (Matthew 24:15-21)

Chapter 12

We are now focusing our attention upon the battle of Armageddon. All during the Tribulation and the Great Tribulation (which is the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation), there shall be wars aplenty, but these wars are not Armageddon. We read in the 9th chapter of Revelation verses 13-18 of the soldiers of the east under the antichrist which destroys one-third of the earth's population. But what we read in Zechariah 12 - 13 we find that the world is at war against Israel and Jerusalem.

To think of the armies of the world armed with her atomic bombs and her armies composed of millions of solders, taking their vengeance against little Israel! to think of all the forces of the antichrist joining forces with the armies of Magog to put away, they think, the nuisance of the people of Israel once and for all.

Oh, yes, Israel shall fight. She already has the atomic bomb for in chapter 14:9-14, she

explodes it, but Israel has Messiah Jesus on her side. for Messiah Jesus shall return with His armies from heaven. Just read Revelation 19:11-16.

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

But there is another army that joins the army of Messiah, and it is composed of great and mighty men of Israel who have died throughout the world, and are raised from the dead (and they can't die again). Look at Ezekiel 37:9,10:

"Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, thus saith the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

"They stood upon their feet, an exceeding great army."

Messiah appears upon earth, Israel believe in Him. Israel's sin is removed that day, and under the command of Messiah attacks the world.

Now we return to our text, the 12th chapter of Zechariah.

Verse 1

Israel in her sinful and losing condition is heavy upon the heart of Jehovah and His Son Israel's Messiah Jesus.

"Listen to Me, the Creator" saith Jehovah . It is I who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundations of the earth, and forms the Spirit of life within man.

Verse 2

"I am going to make, to the surprise of the world's ungodly, a cup filled with ingredients that cause people to reel, for when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will be against Judah also. This is

not the siege of Babylon, but that during the time of antichrist.

Verse 3

This battle though contained against Judah, yet the whole earth will participate in Judah's destruction, the world's desire.

Verse 4

While Israel remains a people in the flesh, now we find that the Almighty God enters into the defense of Israel.

Verse 5

All the clans of the Tribes of Judah will acknowledge the power of their God.

Verse 6

What unearthly power is going to be demonstrated through Israel.

Verse 7

Jehovah will save the tents of Judah first in order that the glory of the house of David, and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be magnified above Judah.

Verse 8

Oh, what might and strength shall Messiah do through the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for the one who is feeble in that day shall be like David of old, and the house of David will be like God even like Jehovah's angel before them.

Verse 9

On that day, plans and orders to shall be given to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Verse 10

And I, Jehovah, will pour out on the house of David, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication so that they will look upon Me, Messiah Jesus, whom they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son [what sorrow could be greater?], and Israel shall weep over Him.

Verses 11 - 12

In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddon when all Judah mourned the death of King Josiah, in the time of Jeremiah. He was like David, appreciated and loved, but taken in death by a foolish combat against Pharaoh Neco II. Here is when the final outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurs.

Every family shall mourn by itself, the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Nathan (the prophet) by itself, and their wives by themselves.

Verse 13

The family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the wives of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves.

Verse 14

All the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves. Representatives of the King of all Israel, the Prophet of Israel, and the Priest so Israel shall lead in this great mourning of past unbeliefs of Israel which them not only to reject their Messiah but to cause Him to be crucified. Through His blood which was shed upon Calvary, all Israel is cleansed and saved.

Chapter 13

Verse 1

"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness." (Zechariah 13:1)

"There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins, and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains."

Verse 2

Jehovah Sabaoth, saith "And it shall come to pass in that day that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered, and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean Spirit (Satan) to pass out of the land." This occurs just at the end of the 70th week of Daniel (Great Tribulation) just before Messiah Jesus returns to earth. There shall be a great forsaking of Satan's idol gods.

Verse 3

Even the parents of an idol worshipping son shall say to him, "Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of Jehovah; and his parents shall thrust him through when he prophesies.

Verses 4 - 5

In that great day of Israel's cleansing, that the false prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies and they will not put on a hairy robe to deceive (Many of the Old Testament prophets did speak as they prophesied wearing hairy garments as did Elijah and John the Baptist), and the false prophet shall leave his false teaching and he will say "I am a farmer of the soil, for a man sold me into slavery when I was only a youth."

Verse 6

[Many ascribe this verse to Messiah Jesus, when asked "what are those wounds in thy hands?" Then he will say, "Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends" upon the cross. And it is accepted], but here it is speaking of past false prophets who have changed the garb of a prophet to the clothes of the farmer. The past false prophet shall answer when asked "what are those wounds between your fingers (your arms). Here we see that they may have been self-inflicted, but no false friend did cause the whelps; however, we do now go to Messiah Jesus when He was attacked in the garden.

Verse 7

"Awake, O sword, against my Shepherd, and against the Man my Kinsman," declares Jehovah Sabaoth (the LORD of Host).

"Strike the Shepherd — no other Shepherd but Messiah Jesus. Here God Almighty declares the death of His Son, one so close to Me. Here is the answer to the Lord Jesus commitment to take upon Himself the sins of His people Israel and of the World. "Not my will, but Thine be done."

Thus became sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God.

Verses 8 - 9

These two verses show the hatred of the Roman State, and the organized religion pounding out their hatred against the Holy One.

But these two verses look full into the future, and declares of Israel 2/3 of them living in Jerusalem (Promised Land) shall be slain by the antichrist. Leaving 1/3 in the Land. While 9/10 shall be slain of Israel during the Great Tribulation leaving 2/4 in the rest of the world (Isaiah 6:13; Amos 5:3).

Verse 9

"I will bring the third part through the fire" refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested.

"They will call upon my name
"And I will answer them
"I will say, These are my people;
"And they will say, Jehovah is my God."

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD, Jehovah, shall be saved" (Joel 2:32).

Chapter 14

Verse 1

Although Zechariah was written much later than other books of the Old Testament, yet we find the key that unlocks the knowledge of when the great wonderful Day of the LORD begins. Another way of saying it is "the Day of Jehovah!" All together we know that the Day of the LORD shall speak of Jehovah, times of punishment of the enemies of Israel, thus of the LORD, also. "Behold the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee."

[Thus the Day of the LORD (Jehovah) shall begin in the middle of the Tribulation of seven years — thus it lasts 3 1/2 years and as 2 Peter 3:10 states that the day of the LORD lasts on through the Millennium, making altogether it last at least 1003 1/2 years — unto the Judgment of the great white throne.]

Verse 2

"For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken, and the houses plundered and the women of Israel raped."

For 3 1/2 years the antichrist with the False Prophet under the direction of Satan, the Devil, shall demand to be worshipped as God by the world.

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." (Daniel 9:27)

That 3 1/2 years above the reign of the Antichrist : Rev. 13:3a, when he dies by a sword

stroke (Revelation 13:3; then has a resurrection, Revelation 13:12), God gives the antichrist and the false prophet power that spreads all over the world.

"And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men," (Revelation 13:12,13)

The Lord Jesus has warned the saints of this fact, and when they see that the antichrist dies and is then resurrected, they are to flee to the mountains (Matt. 24:15, 16) where they shall be fed for 3 1/2 years.

The false prophet constructs an idol of the likeness of the first beast (antichrist) demanding that all people worship the idol of the antichrist, and if not they are beheaded.

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." (Revelation 20:4)

No one can buy or sell, legally, without taking the mark of the beast either in their palm of the hand or in the forehead.

God gives power then to the devil, the antichrist, and the false prophet.

"And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." (Revelation 13:4-8)

All this satanic rule comes to its end, when Messiah Jesus comes to earth with fight against the armies of the antichrist.

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written,

that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." (Rev. 19:11-16)

Satan and the false prophet are cast into the lake of fire.

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone." (Rev. 19:20)

Verse 3

Then the LORD manifest in the flesh who is Messiah Jesus shall fight against those nations remaining.

Verse 4

Where shall the Lord Jesus descend to the earth? Just what the men in white clothing said, "This same Jesus which is taken up from you shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11b). He went away from the Mt. of Olives. He shall return to the Mt. of Olives.

When He sets His feet upon the Mt. of Olives, the earth shall be opened and a very large valley shall be opened from Mt. of Olives to the Mediterranean Sea.

Verse 5

The saints shall immediately flee to the Valley of the Mountains which shall reach Azal. Israel shall flee as when the earthquake hit Jerusalem in the reign of Uzziah. Then the Lord Jesus descends to a ruined city of Jerusalem, for the antichrist has destroyed the Temple in which he declared He was God, and the city itself.

Some have envisioned that the Lord Jesus will march through the Eastern Gate — no, it more likely that the antichrist shall march through the Eastern Gate, for he immediately destroys the temple and its gates and the city of Jerusalem.

Then the Lord Jesus builds a new Temple

"And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." (Zechariah 6:12,13)

and marches through the new gates of the new Eastern Gate which he builds (Ezekiel 43:2). Then, throughout the Millennium, David shall come to the Eastern Gate by the way of the Porch.

"Then he brought me back the way of the gate of the outward sanctuary which looketh toward the east; and it was shut. Then said the LORD unto me; This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the LORD, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut. It is for the prince; the prince, he shall sit in it to eat bread before the LORD; he shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate, and shall go out by the way of the same." (Ezekiel 44:1-3)

The Prince is no one else but King David **"But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them"** (Jeremiah 30:9).

Verses 6 - 7

The long days and nights shall at first be ushered in by the LORD (Jehovah).

Verse 8

Here we find "living waters" again mentioned. Living waters, spiritually speaking is speaking of the Gospel's saving power during the millennium, especially for those born of Christian parents.

Literally speaking, it is speaking of an immense regular waters which shall flow from the sanctuary's threshold into two rivers: one toward the (former) Mediterranean Sea, and the other to the (hinder) Dead (Salt) Sea. The water shall flow as it did in the desert when Moses struck the rock, and out came such water that it flowed for 40 years before stopping.

Now this supply shall continue for at least a thousand years. Its flow shall never stop.

This same account is given in Ezekiel 47:1-12. Where trees are planted along these two water ways. They shall bear fruit each month, and the leaves shall be used as medicine for the Gentiles.

Verse 9

Jehovah shall rule by His Son Messiah Jesus, throughout the earth.

Verse 10

All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba a city of Benjamin, to Rimmon, a city of Simeon's lot. Here we are seeing the effects of the great quake during the doom of Sodom and Gomorrah. The Dead Sea at one time was not dead, but when the judgment of God fell, the land of Promise was shaken, and by earthquakes, the land fell until the dead sea then became dead, and it was 1300 feet below sea level. But that condition is going to change, and the land shall be raised up by He Who lowered it. [By the way, the Sea of Galilee is 500 feet below sea level.]

Because of the waters flowing into it from Jerusalem, the salt waters of the Dead Sea shall be healed, and shall be the place for fishes (read Ezekiel 47:1-12).

Verse 11

Men shall dwell in it.

Verse 12

Here is the punishment God metes out to those who fought against Israel. This plainly reveals the effect of the explosion of an atomic bomb by Israel in her fight against the nations.

Verses 13 - 14

This describes the effect of Israel's fight against her enemies. Israel shall gain as a spoil the wealth of the heathen as it took it away from Israel to begin with — gold and silver, and wearing apparel in abundance!

Verse 15

God shall send the plague upon the beasts left after the battle. Both man and beast shall suffer in their defeat to Israel.

Verse 16

After Jerusalem becomes secure, and Messiah Jesus' world-wide reign has been established, then the survivors of the nations will worship in Jerusalem on the feast day of Tabernacles.

While the Gentiles' armies under the antichrist shall be destroyed, yet their people will not be, and thus provisions are made for the families of the nations to worship the Lord Jesus the Messiah.

Verses 17 - 19

Should a nation not send its family to Jerusalem, then no rain shall fall upon them that year, even if Egypt (who is now called "My People" in Isaiah 19:25) does not send its family then no rain shall fall upon them. What a punishment: no crops that year, and the disobedient Gentiles will have to bow their heads in shame as they have no crops that year and must, therefore, buy their supplies from other Gentiles.

Verse 20

But oh how beautiful the Gentiles shall be who love the Lord Jesus. How God Jehovah shall be exalted through His Son Jesus the Messiah.

Even upon the horse's harness shall be the inscription HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD, and even the cooking vessels of the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem shall like the bowls before the altar.

Verse 21

Yes, all the pots in Jerusalem and Judah shall be dedicated unto the holiness of Jehovah Sabaoth: and all that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and see them therein [as at the Sacrifice of the Peace or Fellowship offering].

No more shall the Canaanites be in the house of Jehovah Sabaoth (LORD of Hosts).