

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
THE LAST WORD ON JERUSALEM—PT 2
ZECHARIAH 2:1-13

Introduction

This chapter answers the question...to whom does the city of JERUSALEM belong? The LORD will have the last WORD!

Understand that the **LORD'S WORD** is **PREEMINENT** over what the **UNITED NATIONS**, the **ARABS**, the **PALESTINIANS**, or **ANYONE** and **EVERYONE ELSE** in the world might say!

The answer is clear from the **BIBLE** here in **2:12-13!** **GOD'S WORDS** are vitally significant concerning a solution to the **MIDDLE EAST** question! It is absolutely clear that **THE LORD WILL HAVE THE LAST WORD ON JERUSALEM AND THE NATIONS WILL BE SILENCED!**

It matters not how many nations join in the discussion against **ISRAEL!**
It matters not how loud or how long they may rant and rave about **ISRAEL'S ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF JERUSALEM!**

The fact remains: JERUSALEM IS GOD'S CONCERN! The **LORD'S WORDS** in this chapter put an end to all speculation concerning the **FINAL DISPOSITION** of **ISRAEL** and **JERUSALEM!**

LAST TIME WE TALKED ABOUT THE MAN WITH THE MEASURING LINE AND THE MEASURING LINE ITSELF. (2:1)

Verse 2 shows the **MEASURING LINE** used to measure the future city of **JERUSALEM** to be restored with a view of completion of that task.

Verse 4 speaks of the **ENLARGEMENT** of **JERUSALEM** in that day!
No walls of protection will be needed in that day!

Verse 5 speaks of the **LORD HIMSELF** being **JERUSALEM'S PROTECTION!**

Now we move to *verses 6-7...*

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III. LET'S NOTICE ISRAEL'S GATHERING AND GOD'S JUDGMENT UPON THE GENTILE NATIONS!

(Zechariah 2:6-9)

A. The Two-Fold Meaning. *(Zechariah 2:6-7)*

First, it refers to **ZECHARIAH'S** time and offered a call to the **JEWS** who had not returned to **ISRAEL** from **BABYLON!**

BABYLON is called "*the land of the north*" because the **BABYLONIANS** and all other enemies of **JERUSALEM** most always attacked **ISRAEL** from the north.

Although the **PERSIAN** king **CYRUS**, made it possible for the **JEWS** to return to their land, many of them had not taken advantage of this opportunity!

They were to return because **MESSIAH'S FIRST ADVENT** would be to **ISRAEL**, not **BABYLON!**

The second meaning applies today, the **JEWS** are being led back to **ISRAEL** from their **DISPERSION** in **70 A.D.** with the same goal! The words, "*I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven, saith the LORD,*" seem to refer to this.

This time they are to be prepared to receive the returning **MESSIAH** at the end of the **TRIBULATION PERIOD.**

The **ROMAN EMPIRE** destroyed **ISRAEL** and **DISPERSED** the **JEWS** in **70 AD.** It is interesting to note that the first **JEWS** (and the greatest number of **JEWS**) to return to **ISRAEL** around 1870 came from the former **SOVIET UNION.** (*i.e. North!*)

Subsequently, they have come from all four directions.

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The **GENTILE NATIONS** have reacted to the **JEWS'** second homecoming with a continual antagonism of the **JEWS**. They have constantly contested the **JEW'S** right to the land of **ISRAEL** and they want to divide **JERUSALEM**. This will bring the judgment upon them, referred to in *vs 8*.

JESUS HIMSELF PROPHESED of that **WORLD-WIDE DISPERSION** of the **JEWS** that happened in **70 AD** in *Luke 21:24*: "*And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be lead away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*"

At the end of the "*times of the Gentiles,*" **GOD** will judge the nations, ending with the **GREAT TRIBULATION and ARMAGEDDON!** That is why *verses 6-9* refer beyond that time to the remnant of **JEWS** who have to flee from the **anti-JEWISH BABYLON** in the **GREAT TRIBULATION**.

This is written in *Revelation 18:4*: "*And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*"

GOD'S JUDGMENT will hit the nations of **anti-JEWISH BABYLON** with great severity because they have laid their hands upon **ISRAEL**.

They have plundered **GOD'S PEOPLE** and their **LAND** and, according to *Joel 3:1-2*, they want to divide the **LAND** in their arrogant quest for power.

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However, the **ONE WHO** has declared **JERUSALEM** as **HIS POSSESSION**, will bring them into **JUDGMENT!**

Whoever attacks the **HONOR** of the **JEWISH PEOPLE** also attacks **GOD'S HONOR**, whoever touches **GOD'S PEOPLE** also touches the "*apple of His eye.*" The phrase "*apple of the eye*" (first mentioned in *Deuteronomy 32:8-10*) refers to the pupil, the center and most vulnerable part of our vision.

Can there be a more fitting example for **GOD'S** identification with **HIS PEOPLE?**

GOD'S PROMISES regarding **ISRAEL** are so closely united with **HIMSELF** that every blow against **ISRAEL** hits **HIM!**

The **NATIONS** have treated **ISRAEL** like a servant. At the time of the **LORD'S SECOND ADVENT** according to *vs 13*, they will become the spoil of this servant! The time will come when the relationships of power in this world are turned around! *See Isaiah 14:1-2*

ISRAEL, who was a servant to the **NATIONS** for thousands of years, will be exalted as the head of the **NATIONS** in the **KINGDOM OF CHRIST!**

It is similar with the **CHURCH: SIN** once ruled over us, but now that **JESUS** has redeemed us, we can rule over **SIN** (*Romans 5:21*). We were servants of **SIN**; now we are free.

The tables will be turned in the future **KINGDOM OF CHRIST**. The once persecuted, despised **CHURCH** of **JESUS CHRIST** will rule with **JESUS** as **KINGS and PRIESTS!**

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IV. LET'S NOTICE THE MYSTERIOUS SPEAKER.

(Zechariah 2:8-9)

Who is this mysterious person who lifts up his voice?

1. Who will appear in the "glory of GOD"?

Matthew 24:30—“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

2. Who allowed HIMSELF to be sent to the NATIONS for the sake of GOD'S glory? Luke 2:32—“A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.”

3. Who is made a JUDGE over the NATIONS?

John 5:22—“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.”

Matthew 25:32—“And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:”

4. Who should they recognize as the ONE GOD sent?

Luke 10:16—“He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me. “

This is JESUS CHRIST! And as our text points to the **MESSIANIC AGE**, no one but the **MESSIAH HIMSELF** could be meant here. **GOD** knows the day in which **HIS PEOPLE** will finally realize **WHO HE** sent to them!

The LORD is also the "...LORD of hosts" (vs 8) and speaks here many times in the first person.

This is the **MESSIAH'S** self-confession to **HIS PEOPLE!**

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V. LET'S NOTICE THE LORD WILL HAVE THE LAST WORD CONCERNING JERUSALEM! (Zechariah 2:10-13)
CHRIST will return and will turn again to **JERUSALEM!**

HE calls the city "*...daughter of Zion,*" expressing **HIS** compassion for **HIS PEOPLE**.

HE will arise in **HIS HEAVENLY** abode to enter into the **TEMPLE** of the earthly **JERUSALEM**. **HIS PROMISE**, "*...lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD" (Zechariah 2:10)*, will be realized in **five stages**:

1. **The LORD** dwelt among **HIS PEOPLE** through the **TABERNACLE** and later in the **TEMPLE**.
2. **GOD** dwelt among men at **CHRIST'S FIRST ADVENT!**
John 1:14— And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."
3. Through **CHRIST'S** death, resurrection and ascension, and since Pentecost, the **HOLY SPIRIT** lives in the hearts of all born-again believers! (*John 14:23 and 1Corinthians 3:16*)
4. Following the **RAPTURE**, the **LORD** will dwell in **SPIRIT** among a **REMNANT** of **HIS PEOPLE** by sealing them!
(*Revelation 7:1-8*)
5. Finally, the **LORD** will return visibly, and in glory, to live in the midst of **HIS PEOPLE!** (*Zechariah 2:5, 13*)

Conclusion

There is no greater joy and no more meaningful a life than the life containing the presence of **JESUS CHRIST**. The **LORD** will dwell beyond **ISRAEL** and **JERUSALEM**, amongst all the nations (*Zechariah 2:11*).

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Many nations will be joined to **HIM**. Then, *Revelation 21:3* will be fulfilled: *"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."*

As a result, all men will become silent and not be able to say anything negative about **ISRAEL** or **JERUSALEM**. Her greatest **ADVOCATE**, will take a seat and will have the last word! (*Zechariah 2:12-13*)

By the way, this is the only text in the **BIBLE** describing **ISRAEL** as the *"holy land,"!* Remember what "holy" means: *"Set apart unto God for His particular purpose!"*