

Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

War in Israel—A Biblical Perspective, Pt 6

Selected Passages

Keywords: Israel, Hamas, War, End Times, Eschatology, Salvation, Zechariah 12

PowerPoint Presentation included: none

SermonAudio Blurb: In this series we explore the biblical theology behind the attack by Hamas upon Israel and answer the question of why it matters. Why is Israel so important in the flow of human events? How should we view Israel? Why do so many in the Church seem to dismiss the nation of Israel? Should we? All of this is driven by certain theological convictions of which most are unaware of. This is a rather technical series that seeks to explain and answer the whole issue of Israel and the Church. In this message we specifically see how God has promised a future restoration of Israel as part of His plan of redemption.

I. Introduction.

- A. Turn to Zechariah 1.
- B. The centrality of Zechariah in understanding the flow of history and the purposes of God.
 1. We only have had the time to work through the last part of this important and encouraging book. But the whole of Zechariah is worthy of your time and attention. Let me give you a glimpse of the treasures placed in this book.
 2. There is in 1:8-11 a reference to the secret work in the spiritual realm with angels.
 3. 1:16 the promise to rebuild the Temple and that God will save Israel in the future.
 4. 2:10-11 we see YHWH telling Israel to sing for joy because He is coming to dwell with them and in that day (key term) many nations will join with God. But also the idea of the plurality of the godhead is in vs 11. YHWH is speaking in vs 8 but notice He is being sent is YHWH as well. This is made even more plain in vs 11.
 5. 3:1ff we have the high priest standing before the angle of the Lord. Satan seeks to accuse him but YHWH rebuke Satan and we see such a beautiful picture of salvation.
 6. 3:8 is another promise of the coming of the Messiah. “Branch” or *Zemach* is a name for the Messiah and is mentioned in Isaiah, Jeremiah and here.

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7. In 6:13 we have the uniting of the offices of priest and king in the Messiah.
 8. In 8:3 YHWH will return to Israel, dwell in Jerusalem and Jerusalem will become known as the City of Truth.
- C. Last week we saw the faithfulness of God to Israel in chapters 9-11.
1. We saw the promise of the coming King, who we know is Jesus Christ.
 2. We then saw the very next verse speak about His second advent and how He will command peace to the nations and rule over the whole of the earth.
- D. Over the next two weeks we will go through the final three chapters.
1. Here we have Israel being sifted like wheat through a great, final conflict with Gentile nations and then Israel is redeemed and saved by YHWH.
 2. In this section we see how this prophet spoke of the grand events in the last days where He saves this sinful nation and uses it to punish the other nations. We see the glory of the rule of Christ and the grandeur of God's faithfulness.
- E. I asked you to do two things last week in preparation for this message. The first was to circle all of the times it mentions "In that day. . . ." and the second is the times it is written "I will . . ." in reference to what God shall do.
1. I wanted you to see how these two things are vitally connected. God's reputation and faithfulness is vitally tied to a specific time frame.
 2. And in doing this you are then able to ask yourself, when does this happen? Or, perhaps better, "Has this happened yet?" And the answer hopefully is, not yet.
 3. But it shall happen. And when it happens it is an earth-shattering series of events.

II. Zechariah and The Faithfulness of God.

- A. Chapter 12.
1. We move into a very powerful section of this book and it begin by a strong declaration of YHWH, who is describing Himself.
 - a. He is creator of the heavens and earth.
 - b. But as Creator, He also places the spirit into the body of each person.

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2. Vss 2-3: we have a description of what is coming in the future where vs 3 says, “All the nations shall be gathered against [Jerusalem]. This has yet to occur but gives you a glimpse of what is to come.
 - a. Note the gradation in thought in vss 2-3 and vs 9:
 - b. This cup is much like the cup of wrath God intends to pour out upon the nations and is used repeatedly in the bible.
 - c. If you have cross references you may find that in vs 3 that they suggest vss in New Testament that make Christ the stone of stumbling. But that is not what this vs is pointing to. This is the nation itself being raised up to punish the nations.
3. Who are these nations? Well, they shall be represented by all the nations of that time.
4. Vss 4-9 is simple expanding this initial prophecy showing how YHWH will stand against those who resist and seek to harm Israel.
 - a. In vs 5 the people of Israel will finally see that God is for them and not against them.
 - b. In vss 6-9 we see shadows of the Exodus event all over but now on a global scale. Those set against Israel are afflicted while Israel remains safe.
 - (1) This event is picked up in Ezekiel 39.
 - (a) *“And My holy name I shall make known in the midst of My people Israel; and I shall not let My holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel”* (Ezekiel 39:7)
 - (b) It says that in this great battle that Israel will not need to gather wood for 7 years because they will burn the weapons of the nations used against them.
 - (c) And the carnage is beyond our comprehension. *“And it will come about on that day that I shall give*

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*Gog a burial ground there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea, and it will block off the passers-by. So they will bury Gog there with all his multitude, and they will call it the valley of Hamon-gog. For **seven months the house of Israel will be burying them** in order to cleanse the land” (Ezekiel 39:11-12).*

- (2) As vs 8-9 says, YHWH is defending the people and therefore, whoever is against Israel shall find themselves under that wrath of God.
5. In vs 10 we have the same event that Ezekiel and Jeremiah spoke about. This is the New Covenant and it is finally applied to the fulness of Israel. Note that this pouring out of the Holy Spirit results in two things.:
 - a. First:
 - b. Second:
6. Note the “so that” in vs 10. This is a huge point that you cannot miss.
 - a. Who is the One whom they pierced?
 - b. Since that time, has any of what we have read happened?
 - c. In John 19 the whole reason Jesus was pierced with the spear on the Cross was because of this verse. So it literally happened.
 - d. So when might we expect this? Listen to the words of Jesus Christ, *“But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory”* (Matthew 24:29-30).
 - e. This whole thing is connected not to the present age but to the time of Christ’s second advent.
7. Now there are some more gems to see in vs 10.

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- a. God acts on behalf of Israel to save her. But note the use of the pronoun “I” in vs 10. Who is speaking? It is YHWH.
 - b. Also, why do they mourn and not rejoice?
 - c. It speaks again to the sovereign nature of salvation.
 - d. And how does this work? Hear the prophet Ezekiel on this same event, “*According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I dealt with them, and I hid My face from them. Therefore thus says the Lord God, "Now I shall restore the fortunes of Jacob, and have mercy **on the whole house of Israel**; and I shall be jealous for My holy name. And they shall forget their disgrace and all their treachery which they perpetrated against Me, when they live securely on their own land with no one to make them afraid*” (Ezekiel 39:24-26).
8. Vss 11-14 again with that phrase, “in that day” and it develops vs 10 for us. The point is that this is not a select few of the Israelites.
- B. Chapter 13.
1. Continue unbroken on this flow of thought about the saving of Israel. There is a fountain opened for sin and iniquity.
 - a. What is that fountain? Well some will think of the hymn *There is a fountain filled with blood:*

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel’s veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains
 - b. But that is not the point here. Take note of the flow of events we have seen so far.

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- (1) The nations gather against Israel and yet God turns the tables upon them and it is Israel who become the weapon of God against them.
 - (2) From there we have the coming of their Messiah, Jesus Christ, whom they will look upon and realize Who He is and what their fathers did in rejecting Him.
 - (3) The Holy Spirit will be poured out upon them that they might mourn and repent for their sin as a nation and as people.
 - (4) And now, brought to this state of repentance and grief, they will then find that God has provided for them, not a moment of final judgment, but of salvation. Their sin shall be washed away.
- c. Can not this move your hearts today? Is this not the mercy we too seek?
- (1) You may say that your sin is too great. You've sinned that same sin so many times. Surely there is no hope for change. Surely you are too far gone.
 - (2) And yet this nation spurned their God for almost three thousand years. Think of the sheer volume of sin piled high across the ages. And yet grace triumphs over it all.
2. This is found for us in Ezekiel 36:21-29.
- a. Do you see how this parallels our passage?
 - b. And again we see the "I will" of YHWH over and over in these verse. And the confidence of God is saying "and you will . . ."

III. Conclusion.

- A. We end here today with the rest of 13 and 14 to see next week.
1. This section deserves our attention and if I gloss over it then when we see the New Testament passages that relate to it we will miss how consistent the prophetic message of the bible is for us.
 2. As I have said repeatedly, to understand the relationship of YHWH with Israel is to understand the biblical teaching on the plan of redemption.
 3. If you miss it, then you end up making salvation something less or different from what the bible makes it.

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Benediction

May our God cause you to rejoice in the Lord, to be made complete in all aspects, and to be comforted by the Spirit. May He move in and among us to be like-minded in the Word and to live in peace with one another. Amen