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## *War in Israel—A Biblical Perspective, Pt 8*

### **Selected Passages**

**Keywords:** Israel, Hamas, War, End Times, Eschatology, Salvation, Zechariah 13-14

**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. Zechariah 13.
- B. Last week we considered the promises of God given through Zechariah in what is an ignored book of the Old Testament that really should be understood by all believers.
- C. Review of chapter 12:
  1. The One speaking is identified as the One who set the heavens in place and has established the foundations of the earth. He is the One who places the spirit into the body of every person. His name is YHWH.
  2. Therefore it is important we not mistreat or diminish His words. And that is exactly what we do when we brush aside books like Zechariah because they seem to not be relevant to us.
  3. In short, we saw that God was going to flip the tables on the nations as they come to abuse and destroy Israel. Instead Jerusalem will become a cup of God's wrath to be poured upon their enemies.
  4. But all of this is because Israel will finally repent and be saved by God. In 12:10 we saw another statement that the New Covenant would be made with the nation.
- D. Today we will see even more details promised by our Lord to this hard-hearted nation. They are words of hope and salvation and not of condemnation.

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- E. So let us turn our hearts and heads to these final two chapters and see what it looks like when Jesus Christ returns and gathers this sorry, sinful nation to Himself as their Savior and King.

## **II. Zechariah and The Faithfulness of God.**

### **A. Chapter 13.**

1. Remember that in chapter 12 the Messiah, Jesus Christ, has returned. They are now born again, saved and forgiven. Now God turns His attention to the two besetting sins of this nation: Idolatry and false prophets
  
2. Vs 2a the destruction of idolatry.
  
3. Vss 2b-6 the destruction of false prophets and their message.
  - a. This is a brutal picture of how God views liars, especially those who claim to speak for Him but who are false prophets.
  
  - b. Vss 4-5 speaks of how those who would be a prophet (but for false reasons) are now avoiding being marked as one.
  
  - c. Vs 6 speaks about the fact that often those claiming to be prophets and diviners would wound themselves to move themselves into a state of ecstasy.
  
  - d. Then, in vs 7, we have a prophecy about Jesus Christ. He references this passage in Matthew 26 speaking of His impending crucifixion.

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- e. Here we have again a moment where in the prophets you have two key events that are side by side but are actually separated by a large amount of time. Vs 7 happened at Christ's death. Vs 8 will happen in the future when He returns. In between vss 7 and 8 is the time we live.
- f. Vs 8 speaks of what is often called the "remnant."
- g. If you want to have a fascinating study, though it is hard, follow the idea of a remnant throughout the bible. Zechariah has this in view in chapters 8-9 and here in 13.
  - (1) *"Then I Myself will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and bring them back to their pasture, and they will be fruitful and multiply. I will also raise up shepherds over them and they will tend them; and they will not be afraid any longer, nor be terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD. Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land"* (Jeremiah 23:3-5).
  - (2) Romans 9-11 speaks of this remnant.
  - (3) Revelation 7 and 14 speaks of this as well with the sealing of the 144,000 Jewish males.
- 4. So we have the promise that in the day of Christ's return that the idolatry and false prophets will be punished and done away. We have the promise of the death of Jesus Christ and the scattering of the people, both to punish some and to refine the others. We have the promise of a later regathering of the remnant who then call upon His name for salvation.

B. Chapter 14.

- 1. Again we have the declaration of a day coming and what happens when that takes place.

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2. Vs 1 All that was taken from Israel will be taken back by them. It is worth noting that the pronoun “you” is not a reference to the ones reading the prophecy in the time of Zechariah but of a future generation.
  
3. Vss 2-3, God gathers the nations to battle Jerusalem. Do not miss this, for the passage makes it clear Who is causing this to happen. In this battle we have Jerusalem falling but not totally (2b).
  
4. In vs 4 we have the picture of His return. He comes to the Mount of Olives and this moment is so extreme that it splits the mountain creating a place of refuge and escape.
  
5. Vs 5 shows the remnant fleeing to safety and then comes YHWH! And who is with Him? His holy ones.
  
6. And now we come to the aftermath of His return. Vs 6-8 speaks of a radical change in the topography of the world and the heavens.
  
7. Vs 9 tells us, YHWH is now king over the earth. He shall alone be King and no other. The King has come, not weak and lowly but in a explosion of glory and power. Full of wrath and full of grace.

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8. This affects everything so in vs 11 the curse is lifted and people have true peace and true prosperity.
  
9. Then Zechariah comes back to judgment in vss 12-15.
  
10. Vss 16-21 we see the establishment of true peace and worship.
  - a. Remember that the bible describes the false Antichrist, just prior to all of this, as forcing a false peace on the world. He is now destroyed and cast into the abyss to never come again.
  - b. And the True Christ is seated on the throne of David to rule with justice and righteousness.
  - c. Note that the reestablishment of the Feast days apparently will take place.
  
  - d. But we also see that sin still is present for in vs 19 we see feigned submission and if people refuse then Christ will strike them down. This is built into the idea of Jesus shall rule with a rod of iron in other passages.

### **III. Conclusion.**

- A. And so this wonderful prophet closes out the prophecy with the promise of abundance and goodness.
  1. Everything is now holy to YHWH. Nothing is common or simple; rather in everything and in every place YHWH is supreme.
  2. And this is the fulness of the gospel. That God not only saves us from sin and death, but that He shall bring life and joy and abundance.
- B. We need this for our souls today. We need to speak of this hope to others.

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**Benediction**

**May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you always. May you rest in the power of the Holy Spirit and may you rejoice in the love of the Father as it flows to you in every moment and in every way. Amen.**