



Gems From
ZECHARIAH

“Therefore thus says the Lord; I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it, says the Lord of hosts, ... My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the Lord shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.” (Zechariah 1:16)



The Golden Rule Of Interpretation

Created By Dr. David L. Cooper

Trying to understand what the Bible is saying can be difficult. Here is a way that has helped many people. It is known as *Dr Cooper's Golden Rule* and is reproduced below. It is the rule that we will follow in this series.

“When the plain sense of scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic (i.e. self-evident or unquestionable) and fundamental truths indicate clearly otherwise.”

“A. Seek the plain, literal meaning of the scriptures.

“B. Seek the figurative meaning only when the facts demand such an interpretation.

“C. Study every statement of the scriptures in context.

“Then study the facts of the context in the light of related passages and axiomatic (*i.e. self-evident or unquestionable*) fundamental truths.

“No prophecy of scripture is of private (special) interpretation (2 Peter 1:20)

“The sum of thy word is truth (Psalm 119:160)

“1. *The Golden Rule of Interpretation* is one of the most important principles governing us in our interpretation of the Scriptures.

“2. If we follow this rule, we shall never go very far wrong; **but if we fail to follow it, we shall never go right.**”

C. H. Spurgeon agrees,

“I wish never to learn the art of tearing God’s meaning out of His own Words. If there is anything clear and plain, the literal sense and meaning of (the) passage, (it’s) a meaning not to be spirited or spiritualised away. (C. H. Spurgeon Sermon No. 582 on-line source)

(“Cooper’s Golden Rule” source: <http://www.messianicassociation.org/ezine19-dc.hermeneutics.htm>)



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Gems From Zechariah

The Two Advents In One Verse

“From him (i.e. tribe of Judah) comes the cornerstone, from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow, from him every ruler together.” (Zechariah 10:4)

Zechariah 10:4 combines the first and second comings of the Lord in the single verse shown above. The symbolic language (cornerstone etc) is defined elsewhere in the Bible and this single verse is a remarkable revelation. The “him” is referring to the tribe of Judah as shown in verse 3. So we see that Someone is to arise from the tribe of “Judah” and that Person is described in His various roles. Those roles reveal Christ in His two advents.

“From him (Judah) comes the cornerstone.” Elsewhere we read of the Cornerstone who is clearly identified as our Lord ...
Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation...” (Isaiah 28:16)

*“Now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together grows unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom you also are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.** (Eph 2: 19-22)*

“From him (Judah) the tent peg (or nail)”
Some versions translate this to say “From him the nail.” If you compare various Bible translations you will discover that they variously translate this verse as “the nail”, “the peg” and “the tent peg.” This is a reference to Christ and, by comparing Scripture with Scripture, we find that it is confirmed as a reference to Him.

*And the key of the house of David will I lay upon His shoulder; so He shall open, and none shall shut; and He shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten Him as a nail in a sure place; and He shall be for a glorious throne to His Father's house. And they shall hang upon Him all the glory of His Father's house... **In that day, says the Lord of hosts, shall the nail that is fastened in the sure place be removed, and be cut down, and fall; and the burden that was upon it shall be cut off: for the Lord has spoken it.** (Isaiah 22: 22-25)*

Here we see many references to “the Nail” that can only apply to Christ, so Christ is “the Nail” or “the Tent Peg.”

As we see in the passage from Isaiah “In that day, says the Lord of hosts, shall the Nail that is

fastened in the sure place be removed, and be cut down, and fall...” and that is precisely what happened to our Lord and Saviour in His death on the cross for us. So we see the first two descriptions, “the Cornerstone” and “the Nail” apply to Christ in His first coming.

“From him (Judah) the battle bow”
We then read that out of Judah shall come the “Battle Bow.” This is describing the “Lion of Judah” (Revelation 5:5), the Lord in His role as the all conquering warrior when He comes destroy His enemies in His second coming.

“From him (Judah) every ruler together”
The final reference is to “every ruler together” is quite obscure. Other versions translate it in various ways which indicates it is rather difficult to translate. One version “translates” it as “the Ruler over all the earth” but that is a paraphrase and not really a translation, but it does explain the idea that is being taught in this verse.

One Hebrew scholar writes,
It is not possible to speak with absolute certainty of the exact meaning of the last clause in the verse ... as the construction of the sentence in the original Hebrew is unusual and peculiar, and has led to conflicting translations and interpretations.

- *I am guided more by the context and obvious sense than by strict principles of Hebrew grammar.*
- **It seems to me that, as the first terms in this verse (cornerstone, nail, battle bow) undoubtedly refer to the Messiah in allusion to utterances about His person and mission ... so must this last clause also (refer to Him).**
- **Certain it is that the Messiah at His Second Coming shall gather up in Himself all authority and rule.** (Rev David Baron, *Commentary on Zechariah* pages 355-356)

The NIV puts it this way, “From Judah will come the cornerstone, from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow, from him every ruler.”

So in this last part of the verse we have Christ shown as the KING of all Kings and LORD of all Lords and the undisputed ruler of mankind. Thus, in this one verse, we see the first and second comings of Christ.

Gems From Zechariah

The Two Olive Trees And The Candlestick

And I looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold ... and his seven lamps thereon ... And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof ... I said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? ... Then he said, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth. (Zechariah 4: 2,11,14)



The National Emblem of Israel (pictured) is derived from the above verses in Zechariah. It features the seven branched Menorah surrounded by two olive trees. Israel's modern choice of this emblem shows that they are irrevocably linked to the Old Testament. The same image also appears in the New Testament and will prove to be highly significant to the Israelis when the following events occur. **This is the Lord at work as future Israel is ministered to by, in effect, the very symbols on their national emblem. Israeli's living at that time will recognise the hand of the Lord in this.**

Zechariah informs us that the olive trees and the two candlesticks are *"the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth."* Who are these *"anointed ones"*? Revelation gives us a partial answer, without naming them. They are mighty prophets who come to the earth in the first half of the Tribulation. This is the time when the Lord begins His work through Israel again as the true believers in Christ have been removed from the earth in the rapture. Revelation reveals these prophets in the latter days by using a direct quote from Zechariah ... ***"These are the two olive trees, and the two candle-sticks standing before the God of the earth."*** (Revelation 11:4)

Why do they suddenly appear on the earth? The Lord has removed all true believers in Christ by the rapture and is now calling out to His Chosen People. This is the beginnings of Israel being awaked to their Messiah, Jesus the Saviour. The two witnesses are special evangelists who proclaim the Gospel for the first 1260 days of the Tribulation. They oppose Antichrist. We read ...

*"And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore (1260) days, clothed in sackcloth. **These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.** And if any man will hurt them, fire proceeds out of their mouth, and devours their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will."* (Revelation 11: 3-6)

Under their ministry many are converted to Jesus, but Antichrist and the world hates them. We see

"And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them." (Revelation 11: 7)

Their death shall bring great joy to most of the world. There is such a celebration that their bodies are left in the street of Jerusalem and people even send gifts to each other. Here it is ...

And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not allow their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell on the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwell on the earth. (Revelation 11: 8-10)

This happens in the middle of the Tribulation and it is also the time that Antichrist sets himself up in the Temple *"so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."* (2 Thessalonians 2:4) This alarms the Jews and causes many to wake up as to whom Antichrist really is. To the world it seems as if the self-ordained Antichrist has won, but then

"And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up here. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them." (Revelation 11: 11-12)

This marks the beginning of *"the time of Jacob's trouble"* (Jeremiah 30:7) when Antichrist persecutes the Jewish people. It is the time that Jesus warned them about in Matthew 24. The believing Jews flee and are protected and sustained by God, but many Israelis are slaughtered.

Jesus warned about this dreadful time ...

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. (Matthew 24: 21-22)

Gems From Zechariah

The Idol Shepherd

“For indeed I will raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for those who are cut off, nor seek the young, nor heal those that are broken, nor feed those that still stand. But he will eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces. Woe to the idol shepherd that leaves the flock!” (Zechariah 11:16-17)

Like many ancient prophecies Zechariah 11 tells of future events but, from our time point, some events have already happened, but all were future when the Prophet spoke of them. We will examine two aspects of the prophecy in Zechariah 11, the two shepherds: one has happened, one is future.

Firstly, the betrayal of the *Good Shepherd* is mentioned. As the sad history records, the “*good Shepherd*” was rejected by Israel and betrayed and His price was “*thirty pieces of silver.*” Zechariah 11 records. “*So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prized (valued) at. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord.*” (Zechariah 11: 12-13)

Secondly another shepherd comes into view. The “*idol shepherd*” and he is accepted by the Jews. (The word is “idol”, not “idle”, for he worships himself, and seeks the worship of others, as we will see.) Jesus warned of false Christs saying “*Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*” (Matthew 24:4-5)

But they won’t listen when these events come upon the world, as many won’t listen now. The man the world accepts is the *Antichrist*, the very expression of evil. He shall rule in Jerusalem as protector of Israel. However Israel will suffer much under his hand as Zechariah prophesied.

And the Lord said unto me ... For behold, I am going to raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for the perishing, not seek the scattered, heal the broken, or sustain the one standing, but will devour the flesh of the fat sheep and tear off their hoofs. (Zechariah 11: 15-16)

We move to Revelation 13 where this “*idol shepherd*” is also in view. In Revelation he is called the “*Beast*” and He appears right after the Rapture of the believers. (For more detail see <https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/the-rapture>) He steps into the scene, and initially brings peace to Israel and builds a Temple in Jerusalem. This convinces many Jewish people and they see him as the promised Messiah. But they are wrong for we are told in Revelation 13: 2-5 that he is of Satan ...

- “*The dragon (Satan) gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.*”
- The Antichrist somehow suffers a “*mortal wound*” but recovers.

- We read “*his deadly wound was healed.*”
- As a result of this amazing event “*all the world marvelled and followed the beast and they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”* (Revelation 13: 2-5)

Zechariah also spoke of this event when he speaks of the “*idol shepherd.*” Zechariah reveals that the “*idol shepherd*” received a dreadful wound,

- “*Woe to the idol shepherd, who leaves the flock!*”
- *A sword shall be against his arm and*
- *against his right eye;*
- *his arm shall completely wither,*
- *and his right eye shall be totally blinded.”*

(Zech 11:14)

Revelation 13: 3 confirms this when speaking of the Antichrist, described as “*the many headed beast from the sea*” in Johns vision “*And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.*” So we read ...

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: 5-8)

But the *Good Shepherd*, the *Lion of Judah*, shall destroy him.

“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 does judge and make war. ... And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army. 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 a lake of fire burning with brimstone. (Revelation 19:11, 19-20)

And that is the fate of the beast (Antichrist). All who oppose the Lord will similarly be cast out.

Gems From Zechariah

A Nation Converted In A Day

“I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day” says the Lord of Hosts (Zech 3:9)

Zechariah 3:9 declares that *“the sin of that land”* will be *“removed in one day.”* Specifically it is stating that the sin of everyone **then living in Israel**, man, woman and child, would be removed, that is forgiven, in a single day. **This is a miracle!**

Lest you should doubt that Zechariah is talking about national Israel, **and not the sins of any other nation, or of the whole world**, then please examine Zechariah’s prophecy. The entire prophecy is about Israel, it is not about any other entity, and it is certainly not about the Church, or the world at large. There is a total of seventy references to Israel in the prophecy of Zechariah. That’s an average of five times in each chapter.

When does this remarkable conversion of national Israel happen? The Psalmist, along with Zechariah, describes the build up to this event. These passages sound like the news today.

For, lo, your enemies make a tumult: and they that hate you have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against your people ... They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against you: (Psalm 83:2-5)

Those words could be describing the front page of *The Jerusalem Times* today. Zechariah also tells us *“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege against ... Jerusalem.”* (Zechariah 12: 2)

These Scriptures are alluding to the attack recorded in Ezekiel 38 and 39 where more detail is given. (See <https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/are-the-end-times-near>) Israel is under enormous pressure. It is being overrun in battle, two-thirds of Israeli’s will die, that means that over five million will be killed based on the 2017 population. All seems lost and defeat inevitable. **Israel then calls upon the Lord.**

Here is that wonderful “conversion” moment from Zechariah 13:8-9

- *And it shall come to pass in **all the land**,* says the Lord,
- *“That two-thirds shall be cut off and die,*
- *But one-third shall be left in it:*
- *I will bring the one-third through the fire,*
- *I will refine them as silver is refined,*
- *And test them as gold is tested.*
- **They will call on My name,**
- **And I will answer them.**
- **I will say, ‘This is My people’;**

- **And each one will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’”**

Listen to the following moving description of the national conversion of Israel given by Zechariah in chapter twelve. Note how it specifies that it is the Jewish people who are living in Israel. It even lists them tribe by tribe, leaving no room to doubt who the prophet is speaking about, and we have no reason, and certainly no licence, to apply it to any other group, or to other parts of the world.

- *“And I will pour on the **house of David** and on **the inhabitants of Jerusalem** the Spirit of grace and supplication;*
- **then they will look on Me whom they pierced.**
- **Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.**
- **In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem ...**
- *And the land shall mourn,*
- *every family by itself:*
- *the family of the house of David by itself,*
- *and their wives by themselves;*
- *the family of the house of Nathan by itself,*
- *and their wives by themselves;*
- *the family of the house of Levi by itself,*
- *and their wives by themselves;*
- *the family of Shimei by itself,*
- *and their wives by themselves;*
- *all the families that remain,*
- *every family by itself,*
- *and their wives by themselves. (Zech 12: 10-14)*

If the plain words of language have any defined meaning at all, then surely you may only fairly conclude that this describes the conversion of the Jewish people, the nation of Israel, just as Zechariah says. And it happens after

- all the survivors of the battle come to realise at last that Jesus, *“whom they have pierced,”* is **THEIR** Messiah,
- and they *“mourn for Him, every man, woman and child, by themselves.”*

Jeremiah 31:34 describes Israel after this event, *No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”* (Jer 31:34)

Israel finally recognises Jesus the Messiah. It has taken over 2000 years, but it does happen!

Gems From Zechariah

The Battle For Jerusalem

“In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem” (Zechariah 12:8)

Zechariah speaks of the dreadful battles that occur in the Tribulation period, just prior to the Lord’s glorious return. The background is that Israel has been deceived and has entered an Agreement with Antichrist. Under his leadership a new Temple is built.

Suddenly, to the dismay of the Jewish people, Antichrist enters the Temple and seeks to be worshipped by the Jewish people. This alarms them no end and they finally realise that he not the One they thought he was.

St Paul speaks of this enlightening moment for the Jews saying

*“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day (i.e the day of the Lord) shall not come, except there come a falling away first, **and that man of sin be revealed (i.e. Antichrist), the son of perdition; Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)*

This is that revealing moment for the Jews and is the moment when a very technical term is used to describe it. Jesus called this act by Antichrist *“the abomination that causes desolation.”* Jesus is answering the question *“... what shall be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the world?”* (Matt 24:3) Jesus said,

“When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso reads, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:... 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 selected)

This marks the moment when Antichrist is rejected by the Jews and he withdraws his protection of them. This will be a troubling time for Israel and they will be searching the Scriptures under the guidance of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists who are raised up by God. (Revelation 7) Thus many Jews will also be familiar with the words recorded in Matthew 24. They will recognise that this is **the moment** that Jesus spoke about.

This is also marks the time when Israel is attacked by overwhelming armies. That is why the Lord told them to flee when they see *“the abomination”* and to stress its urgency Jesus said *“Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.”* The attacks are very fast and overwhelming. Zechariah

13 tells us that *“two-thirds shall be cut off and die.”* That equates to over five million Israeli deaths based on the 2017 population figure.

But then an amazing thing happens that is more fully described in **“A Nation Converted In A Day”** on page 4 of these *Single Paged Papers*. Under this enormous pressure Israel finally recognises just who Jesus is. We read that *“they look upon Him whom they have pierced and they mourn for Him.”* (Zechariah 12: 10)

This shows how hard our hearts are. Things have to be desperate before we turn to the Lord. That applies to all of us for we are just as hardened against God as the Jewish people are! The Jews are facing annihilation before they turn to Jesus, but they do finally turn. The Lord now fights for His redeemed people and empowers them in remarkable ways. We read...

And they shall be as mighty men, which tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the Lord is with them...” (Zechariah 10:5)

In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem;

- *and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David;*
- *and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the Lord before them.*
- *And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. (Zechariah 12: 8-9)*

The prophecy reveals more of this battle ...

In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem ... And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. (Zechariah 12: 6-9 selected)

So we see that the Lord empowers His now redeemed people and they fight valiantly. They are wonderfully victorious for the Lord is with them.

Hear the gracious words from Zechariah 10: 6

*And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph ... for I have mercy upon them: **and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the Lord their God, and will hear them.***

Gems From Zechariah

The Regathering Of The Chosen People

"I will whistle for them and gather them, For I will redeem them; and they shall increase as they once increased." (Zechariah 10: 8)

Here we have specific promises regarding the regathering of the children of Israel.

*"I will whistle for them and gather them, For I will redeem them; and they shall increase as they once increased. I will sow them among the peoples, **and they shall remember Me in far countries**; they shall live, together with their children, **and they shall return**. I will also bring them back from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon, until no more room is found for them."* (Zechariah 10: 8-10)

The so-called "lost tribes" of Israel have never been lost to God, as we see here. We are told that God, the *Master Gardener*, has "sown them among the peoples." If God "sowed them" then the *Master Gardener* has always known where they were. He further promises that "**they shall remember Me in far countries.**" This is an obvious truth for the Jewish people, scattered for 2000 years, have always remembered God and their origins. They have been endlessly persecuted, often and tragically by the Church, but their byword, in even their darkest days, has featured in every Passover Seder (celebration). The seder ends with the familiar words "L'Shanah Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim" - "Next Year In Jerusalem."

The Jewish writer Heinrich Heine in a book dated 1840 wrote: "Jews who have long drifted from the faith of their fathers are stirred in their inmost parts when the old, familiar Passover sounds fall upon their ears."

Meet Dvora Waysman who recollects her childhood Passover Seders in Melbourne in the 1930's and 1940's. She writes

"There is a special feeling about the snowy white tablecloth with new dishes, the big cup of wine for Elijah, the opening of the door for the prophet to come in, and sweet childish voices chanting 'Ma Nishtana'."

'Ma Nishtana' means "Why is tonight different from all other nights?" and it is traditionally sung by the youngest child. The question is always answered by telling the ancient story of the delivery of the Jews from Egypt by the Lord of Hosts. So these deep rooted traditions have reminded the Jewish people of their origins. God has used them so that they would "remember Me in far countries."

Dvora Waysman also said "I loved reading the majestic language of the prophets, and I even memorised Ezekiel 36:8: "And you, O mountains of Israel, you shall spread forth your branches and yield your fruit to my people Israel, **for they are**

soon to come." Such promises have sustained the Jews for millennia. This fact is also reflected in Israel's National Anthem, *Hatikvah*.

Here we see two simple examples that cover a time frame from 1840 to 1940 and show that God is true to His promise that "they shall remember Me in far countries" **and they have. God's record here about the Jews in exile remembering Him is beyond all challenge.** He has obviously reminded them over the last 2000 years ranging from Germany to Melbourne and everywhere else. They clearly do remember Him as they testify, and their "hymn" reflecting that promise has been consistent, "Next Year In Jerusalem."

His "reminding" ministry is not finished yet for God promises that "they shall return" and there will be so many that the land will strain to hold them viz ...

- *I will also bring them back from the land of Egypt,*
- *And gather them from Assyria.*
- *I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon,*
- *Until no more room is found for them.*
- *they shall live, together with their children.*

Multitudes of the Chosen Race will return to Zion for He will personally "whistle for them and gather them, For I will redeem them..."

So when does this happen? It happens after the surviving families within Israel recognise Jesus as their Messiah as discussed earlier. It happens after the most severe trial that the Chosen People have ever faced. It is so fierce and terrible that Jesus said,

*"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. **And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.**"* (Matthew 24: 21-22)

But the Lord fights for Israel as He promises in Zechariah 10:3 "..." *for the Lord of hosts has visited his flock the house of Judah, and has made them as his goodly horse in the battle.*" In other words the Lord overthrows the attacking armies by means of the people of Israel "His goodly horse." Then comes the promise that closes this chapter ... "And I will strengthen them in the Lord; and they shall walk up and down in His name, says the Lord." (Zechariah 10:12) **Finally every man woman and child in Israel will truly know Jesus as their Messiah and they will be His people.**

Gems From Zechariah

The Lord Returns To Jerusalem

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. (Zechariah 14: 4)

In these few verses we see described the cataclysmic moment when our Creator God sets His blessed feet on the earth again. This is the climax of the Great Tribulation. Here we see that the whole mount of Olives, until then immovable, splits in two: and why wouldn't it? Here the KING of Kings and LORD of Lords is fulfilling His momentous promise to Return, and the whole earth is shaken and erupting in many ways.

The above is the culmination point of many of the terrifying events happening on the earth. We read *"... and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. ...and the cities of the nations fell... And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: (said to be about 25kg) and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great."* (Rev 16: 17-21 selected)

The world is being destroyed, but what of unbelieving mankind? We read ...

"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb..." (Revelation 6: 15-16)

The great tribulation is upon mankind and everything that they know and depend upon is being destroyed. It's worse, for the Lord Himself is revealed to wicked mankind, and they fear Him. It is not a "holy fear" for they "blaspheme God" as we see in the Revelation 16 passage above.

The topography of Israel is completely changed by these events viz ...

*"And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the eastern sea (the Dead Sea), and half of them toward the western sea (the Mediterranean) in summer and in winter shall it be... All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: **and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner***

gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the kings winepresses" (Zechariah 14: 8-10)

This is quite a remarkable topographical change. This plain to be created from Geba to Rimmon will be about 60kms long and, based on the topography that exists now, it means that Rimmon will be "lifted up" something like 500 metres. Why is this change happening to the Holy Land? The plain reading of the words of Scripture reveal that there will be a remarkable Temple built in Jerusalem (Ezekiel 40 onwards), and it will be built under the supervision of Jesus Himself as shown in "the Branch builds the Temple" that follows on the next single page.

And so we see that the Temple, to which all nations will flow, will be raised up. Hear the word of Isaiah.

"The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2: 2-3)

Zechariah gives detail of this time:

- *Thus says the Lord; I am returned unto Zion,*
- ***and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem:***
- *and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth;*
- ***and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain.*** (Zechariah 8:3)

Here are simple words that even a child could understand. They are plain words, but not all recognise their simplicity. If you are looking at the Scriptures through the distorting lens of some sort of a *replacement theory* you may see these words quite differently. Quoting exactly the same words this commentator says...

"City of truth... The Holy mountain etc.' All such expressions refer to the church of Jesus Christ, exclusively, as ... the custodian of the "word of the Lord" going forth from Mount Zion." (Coffman Commentary Zechariah 8)

Not one in a million would ever conclude that from reading verse 3. **God reveals Truth. He does not confuse us with riddles.** If "Your guess is as good as mine" then the Word of God only brings confusion and God is "not the Author of confusion." (1 Cor 14:33)

Gems From Zechariah

“My House Shall Be Built In Jerusalem”

“Therefore thus says the Lord; I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it, says the Lord of hosts, and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem. Cry yet, saying, Thus says the Lord of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the Lord shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.” (Zechariah 1:16-17)

Many Jewish people today have a natural desire to rebuild the Temple and to recreate the Temple worship of old. Some believe that this will hasten the arrival of the Messiah and consequently there are many projects underway. Already

- the temple foundation stones have been cut
- the sacrificial vessels have been made
- the High Priests’ garments now exist at a cost of \$150,000
- the golden Menorah is now on display and contains forty five kilograms of pure gold
- and that is but a fraction of the achievements so far. For more detail see <http://www.templeinstitute.org/>

Many Christians support this idea, and do so with donations and goodwill, whilst also adamant that Jesus is the Messiah and has already come. **Is it right to support the Jewish people in this type of project?** Let’s see. In the passage above the Lord plainly says

1. “I am **returning** to Jerusalem with mercies
2. **My house shall be built in it,**”
3. “My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad;
4. “The Lord will again comfort Zion,
5. “And will again choose Jerusalem.”

In this series we are simply taking the plain words of the Bible at face value. So we read that “the Lord is **returning** to Jerusalem with mercies” and so the only fair conclusion is that Jesus will return to Jerusalem, for that is what it plainly says. Thus this prophecy can only be referring to our Lord’s second coming when He indeed **returns** and comes “with mercies.”

What will He do then? The plain words tell us “My house shall be built in it.” Here’s why this is a future event. In Zechariah 6: 12-13 we read that it is the Lord Himself who builds the Temple viz.

- *Thus says the Lord of hosts, saying: “Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH!* (the Branch is a title of Christ)
- **He shall build the temple of the Lord;**
- **Even He shall build the temple of the Lord.**
- *He shall bear the glory,*
- *And shall sit and rule on His throne;*
- *So He shall be a priest on His throne ...”*

This passage alone defines who “The Branch” is for He “bears the glory and sits and rules on His throne” and is thus worshipped, so it can only be Jesus the Messiah Himself.

Therefore this prophecy cannot be referring to Zerubbabel’s Temple or Herod’s Temple (destroyed by the Romans), as some insist, because it is a new construction built by “the Branch” **Nor can it be referring to the Temple plans that the Jewish people are currently pursuing, for it is the Lord Himself who will build it.** This does not mean that the Lord will build it by some miraculous means. As far as we are told it will be constructed by the normal means of human labour.

Ezekiel speaks much of this Temple and gives precise details of its construction from Ezekiel 40 onwards. He then explains “and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house... where **I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and the house of Israel shall no more defile my Holy Name...**” (Ezekiel 43: 4-7)

This prophecy is also confirmed in Acts where some Jewish believers wanted the Gentile Christians to observe certain parts of the Law. In opposing this James paraphrased this exact passage from Zechariah 10 saying “And after they had stopped talking, James answered, saying, ‘Men and brethren, listen to me. Simeon has declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, **After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up’...** (Acts 15: 13-17)

So here we have, confirmed in both Testaments,

- the fact that Jesus is coming again
- that He will come to Jerusalem
- He will oversee the construction of a new Temple
- that He will dwell there and rule from there.

As it is the Lord Himself who will build the Temple is it wise for believers to be funding the current effort?

Footnote: The Temple mentioned in paragraph one is NOT the Temple described on the next page.

Gems From Zechariah

Living Waters

Flowing From Jerusalem

And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and His name one. (Zechariah 14: 8-9)

This rather unusual pronouncement, “*living waters flowing continuously from Jerusalem,*” will happen once Jesus the Messiah reigns from that Holy City. Zechariah’s prophecy is not the only one to mention these flowing rivers of water in the Holy Scriptures. Other passages tell of the reasons for it and how it benefits the Nations.

The prophet Joel also wrote of these momentous apocalyptic days. God says

I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will enter into judgment with them there for My people and for My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land ... Behold, I will raise them out of the place where you have sold them ... The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall you know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy ... And it shall come to pass in that day, a fountain shall come forth out of the house of the Lord, and shall water the valley of Shittim ... Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. (Joel 3 selected verses)

The above ties together the earthquake and the fountain of living water showing that it is all to do with Israel and Jerusalem. Then we come to Ezekiel who also speaks about these amazing events. The latter chapters of Ezekiel give great detail of the Millennial Temple that our Lord Jesus Christ (the Branch) builds. He is the Overseer of the construction as the Temple is not built in a miraculous way, but by means of human labour. Ezekiel is shown this remarkable building in his vision and here we read of the “living waters.”

“Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house (Temple) ; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. Then he brought me

out of the way of the gate northward, and led me (to) the way that looks eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.” (Ezekiel 47 selected verses)

Then Ezekiel is led by the “man” in his vision and is shown how the waters flow and are distributed ...

And then the man ... went eastward, (and) measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins. Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.” (Ezekiel 47 selected verses)

This is not some sort of *babbling brook*, rather it is a mighty river and its healing powers are remarkable for it is of God and stems from His Throne. Ezekiel is then taken to the riverbank.

“... at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other. Then he said to me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea (the Dead Sea) and the waters (of the Dead Sea) shall be healed. And it shall come to pass, that every thing that lives, which moves, wherever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these (Temple) waters shall reach there and they shall be healed; and every thing shall live wherever the river reaches... and there shall be a very great multitude of fish.” (Ezekiel 47 selected verses. Click here for more <https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/ezekiel-s-temple>)

This is a forgotten message in the modern Church and you will never hear it preached, but it remains a part of the Word of God. Many object to the latter chapters of Ezekiel **because it conflicts with their pet theological theory.** However it remains a fascinating fact of the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. He comes to “*heal the nations*” and to heal a world that has been ruined by sin. The Millennial Reign of Christ really is “**Coming, ready or not!**”



Gems From Zechariah

Addendum

Hatikvah (The Hope)

Israel's National Anthem

“I will sow them among the peoples, and they shall remember Me in far countries; they shall live, together with their children, and they shall return.” (Zechariah 10:9)

The promises of God are faithful and true. In the above verse God is promising the Jewish people that they will “remember Me in far countries” and they have done so for millennia. And they have “returned” as well, as yet in unbelief, but that will change. We have seen this prophecy being fulfilled.

This ancient yearning of Jewish hearts is well and truly reflected in the “Hatikvah,” their rather beautiful and haunting National Anthem. Here are the words...

Hatikvah

As long as the Jewish spirit is yearning deep in the heart,

With eyes turned toward the East, looking toward Zion,

Then our hope - the two thousand year old hope - will not be lost:

To be a free people in our land, The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

To hear this moving tune please click on this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMwSlp7I7IQ>

Glossary Of Terms Used

Replacement Theology aka Supersessionism

This is a doctrine that promotes the idea that God is now and forever finished with Israel. They claim Israel has been "*replaced by the Church*" and so the promises to Israel now devolve upon the Church. It is the basis of the doctrines of the Anglicans, the Roman Catholics, the Presbyterians, some Baptist Churches, the Uniting Church and others. This whole subject is dealt with in another series of "*The Single Paged Papers.*" (Please click here: <https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/replacement-theology>)

The Great Tribulation also known as "The time of Jacob's trouble." (Jeremiah 30:7)

The above two terms are used in Scripture to describe this period of turmoil and destruction that comes upon the whole of the earth. It is "*a time of great fear and trembling*" when "*men's hearts fail them for fear.*" It is a time when God's wrath will be poured out on wicked mankind. It leads to the glorious moment when Israel at last recognise Jesus as their Messiah. From that moment on the Lord fights for Israel.