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The things which will announce, accompany and follow the return of Christ

No 7. "Jerusalem besieged by Antichrist"

"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city,"
Zechariah 14:1-2.

Let me use a simple illustration to set forth the proper use of prophecy. When the wise men came to Jerusalem from the east looking for the "King of the Jews," Herod's advisers were able to consult the Word of God and tell him where Christ was to be born. "When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel," Matthew 2:3-6.

In like fashion, we are informed in the Word of God as to where Christ will return one day and the events that will precede His return. It is the believer's privilege and duty to study those prophecies and be as proficient in our knowledge of the second coming of Christ as Herod's advisers were of His first advent, or at least of where it was to happen.

JERUSALEM

I wish to consider the events that will take place in and around Jerusalem just before the Lord returns.

We considered in our last chapter the past, present and future destruction of the city of Babylon which will be the commercial capital of Antichrist's empire. News of the destruction of Babylon by the enemies of Antichrist reaches him while he is in Egypt. "He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many," Daniel 11:42-44. Notice what the next verse says. "And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him," Daniel 11:45 . He sets out to attack Jerusalem by way of revenge for what has happened to Babylon.

KEY CHAPTERS

The 10th and 11th chapters of Daniel are key chapters in understanding future events in Israel. Following earlier visions in chapters 7 and 8, Daniel states: "Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart," Daniel 7:28. "And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it," Daniel 8:27.

But following the vision given in chapter 10, we read: "And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

many days," Daniel 10:11, 14.

Understanding is granted to Daniel. He is told very clearly that the vision is all about "what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days," verse 14. Here are definite pointers to the precise meaning of the prophecy. It is about the Jews and what will happen them in the latter days, which, in Daniel's day, lay far ahead in the future. It was not a vision of a series of events taking place over a long period of time, but rather the concluding scenes of the history of Daniel's people just prior to the Saviour's return. What is revealed here was touched upon in chapter 8:19. "And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be." Daniel had not understood then what was being revealed to him but now, as the same ground is gone over in greater minuteness, he understands.

POINTER

A further clear pointer to the time of this vision is given us in chapter 12:1. Do not be confused by the commencement of a new chapter. We are still in the same vision recorded in chapter 11 at the end of which we have the Antichrist planting "the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain." Chapter 12 begins: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book," Daniel 12:1.

We can tie this terrible event down very precisely. In Matthew 24, the Saviour says: "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 suck 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," verses 15-21. There can be no doubt that Daniel 12:1 and Matthew 24:21 are referring to the same event - that which is commonly called the great tribulation, "the time of Jacob's trouble," Jeremiah 30:7.

Furthermore, the Saviour goes on then to say: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 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. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other," Matthew 24:29-31.

So, these events are on the very doorstep of Christ's return in power and great glory.

I. THE GATHERING OF THE ARMIES OF ANTICHRIST TO JERUSALEM

Please remember that in the actions of the Antichrist there is an outworking of God's sovereign, eternal purpose. Dear Christian, I wish you to get a firm hold upon this truth. Terrible times are coming upon the earth. Man will be in rebellion against God and God's Law will be trampled underfoot and utter lawlessness will abound on a frightening scale. I noticed a headline on the internet site of one newspaper just today. It read: "*Peace and Goodwill? Over Christmas, 14 people have met violent deaths in Britain. Could there be a sorer reflection of our 'civilised' society?*" The newspaper in question is not really concerned about falling morals as the usual content of its pages clearly testifies, but it is desirous of drawing attention to the increasing violence evident today. Such hor-



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rific events will get even worse and more common until we will see the fulfillment of the Saviour's words in Matthew 24:38-39. "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." What were the days of Noah like? "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. . . . The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth," Genesis 6:6, 11-12. That is what it was like! Corrupt, lawless, full of violence! Do we not see these trends developing today? No matter what governments do, the trends continue.

But in the midst of all this, please note that the grand and great purpose of God amongst nations is being inexorably wrought out. What God has planned and what He has revealed unto His people in prophecy will come to pass. Antichrist will come to his end as has been ordained of God. So we read in Daniel. "And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him," Daniel 11:45.

ARMAGEDDON

It is at this time that a place with a familiar name features in events. It is a place that has often been mentioned by men whenever they think of the end of the world — Armageddon. It lies about sixty miles north of Jerusalem and it is a very large flat plain, ideal for the gathering of a great army. It is here that Antichrist gathers the armies of the ten kings who give their power and support to him, the confederacy of evil that will stretch from the borders of Scotland to present day Iraq, covering the territories of the old Roman Empire. "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful," Revelation 17:12-14. "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty," Revelation 16:13-14. The phrase: "kings of the earth and of the whole world" does not refer to all the kings or leaders and rulers of the whole earth. The word "world" here is to be understood as it is used in Luke 2:1. "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed," Luke 2:1. It was the Roman world that is referred to in both verses.

TRIBULATION

During the 1260 days or three and a half years of the tribulation, which commenced at the revealing of Antichrist in his true colours (2 Thessalonians 2:3-9), he has chiefly vented his spleen upon the Holy City and the Jewish people, though not exclusively so. All who profess the name of Christ within the territories of the ten kingdoms will feel his fury. Revelation chapter 13 gives us the clearest picture of the Antichrist and his activities during the days of his ascendancy. "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. 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. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast:



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

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 13:1-8.

DENIAL OF GOD

His time will be a time of utter denial of God! The world will be populated largely by those who will have the disposition and the stupidity of a Richard Dawkins, a Billy Connolly, a Christopher Hitchens and a John Lennon, to name but a few of those "whose glory is in their shame," Philipians 3:19. Atheism will be the norm and true Christianity even more of an anomaly than it presently is.

With this atheism will come anarchy and misery like that in Noah's day and in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah.

It will be seen then that abolishing God's truth will not bring peace and prosperity, a fact you would think was fully attested within the memory of this generation in the events in Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia!

Antichrist will assume the dignity and titles of God for a season and his brief reign will be centred in Jerusalem. Babylon will be the heart of his commercial empire but Jerusalem will be the seat of his defiance of God.

He will seek to make the "city of the great king" his city and citadel. "And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all," Daniel 11:36-37.

Is not the spirit referred to by Peter maturing and ripening in our day? "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation," 2 Peter 3:3-4.

Paul also paints an accurate picture of the spirit which is fast taking over society today. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away," 2 Timothy 3:1-5. The rise of Antichrist and the day of his focusing upon Jerusalem draws on!

ON TO JERUSALEM

After gathering his forces at Armageddon, Antichrist marches upon Jerusalem for his final attack upon it. "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt. For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction. And the LORD of hosts shall stir up a scourge for him according to the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb: and as his rod was upon the sea, so shall he lift it up after the manner of Egypt. And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

He is come to Aiath, he is passed to Migron; at Michmash he hath laid up his carriages: they are gone over the passage: they have taken up their lodging at Geba; Ramah is afraid; Gibeah of Saul is fled. Lift up thy voice, O daughter of Gallim: cause it to be heard unto Laish, O poor Anathoth. Madmenah is removed; the inhabitants of Gebim gather themselves to flee. As yet shall he remain at Nob that day: he shall shake his hand against the mount of the daughter of Zion, the hill of Jerusalem," Isaiah 10:24-32.

Men say that history repeats itself. It is most certainly true in the affairs of God. History is a means of prophetic warnings. God has often rehearsed, before the eyes of men, what will happen in the final apostasy in the earlier occasions of man's rebellion. Thus the Saviour says: "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all," Luke 17:26-29.

The march of Sennacherib's army upon Jerusalem is traced in these verses in Isaiah 10. I believe they foreshadow the march of Antichrist from Armageddon. The villages and towns mentioned lie in a direct line from the great plain to the city of Jerusalem. At Nob, Antichrist looks down upon the city and defiantly shakes his hand against "the mount of the daughter of Zion, the hill of Jerusalem." He thinks the city is within his grasp. How wrong he is! He is as wrong as was Pharaoh when he thought he had Israel within his grasp on the shores of the Red Sea; as wrong as Goliath when he sneeringly declared how he would make short work of the stripling shepherd boy, David. O yes, history will repeat itself and truth and righteousness will triumph.

II. THE TAKING OF JERUSALEM

Antichrist is marching his army toward Jerusalem in order to destroy the city once and for all. The spirit of him and his army is prophetically recorded for us in Psalm 74 and 83. "They said in their hearts, Let us destroy them together: they have burned up all the synagogues of God in the land," Psalm 74:8. "Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. 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 thee," Psalm 83:1-5. The events that are now about to take place around Jerusalem are prophetically set forth in a number of places. The glorious purpose of God for His people Israel and for their enemies is about to reach its climax. "The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand: That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders. This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?" Isaiah 14:24-27.

VIVID

How vividly the Lord has portrayed these final scenes. I am sure that there are a number of reasons for such vivid and graphic details. They are to be a source of hope for Israel in her time of trial. God has clearly set forth the vengeance He will work upon His foes in response to their cruelties toward His people. Again, such an account of God's vengeance serves as a warning to the foolish and the careless. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap," Galatians 6:7.



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Revelation 14 has scenes of those terrible days of vengeance. "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs," Revelation 14:14-20. Note that the "great winepress of the wrath of God" was sited outside the city. That city is Jerusalem. That is made clear, in words which were a precursor of those we have just quoted from Revelation 14, by the prophet Joel. "For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. 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," Joel 3:12-16.

FEARFUL VENGEANCE

What horror awaits the Antichrist at Jerusalem! He will be unaware of it, as filled with pride and a burning hatred of the ancient people of God, he hastens to destroy them and, by so doing, embrace his own destruction.

"And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the LORD shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour," Zechariah 14:12-13.

This is that event of which Paul the Apostle speaks. "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders," 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9.

Note the use of the word "consume" in both Zechariah and 2 Thessalonians. Such is the fate of the Christ-defier!

III. THE DIRECT AND VISIBLE INTERVENTION OF CHRIST

Antichrist's rebellion will be the culmination of the working of the "spirit of iniquity" throughout the ages. As such, it will be dealt with by the personal intervention of the Lord Jesus. The scene is set forth most wonderfully in Revelation 19:11-21.



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"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.

And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

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. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."

PROMISED

As was promised to the disciples who watched the Saviour ascend into heaven, so it will be. "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey," Acts 1:9-12.

IV. IT WILL NOT ONLY BE A MILITARY VICTORY

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart; All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart. 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. And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, 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 to pass out of the land." Zechariah 12:9-13:2.

WHAT A DAY!

What a "day" this is going to be! Here is the military defeat of Israel's oppressors and here also is



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the conversion of Israel to faith in their long-rejected Messiah and the beginning of His Millennial reign. That which will be seen throughout the earth, the whole earth, will first be seen in Israel.

"And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins," Romans 11:26-27.

"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. 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 king's winepresses. And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited," Zechariah 14:8-11.

"And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts," Zechariah 14:16-21.

V. PLEASE NOTICE HOW GOD WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE

We have already quoted Zechariah 12 where the Lord speaks of Israel's spiritual regeneration, but we will quote it again in order to highlight just how God will work this miracle of mercy and grace.

"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart; All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart. 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 12:10-13:1.

God's ways never change. Christ was, is and ever will be the way to heaven.

Please consider:

1. The conversion of Israel begins with the moving of the Holy Spirit. "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications."

2. There is an opening of the eyes of the sinner to see Christ. "They shall look upon me whom they have pierced."

3. The conversion of Israel is marked by repentance. ". . . and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem."



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4. There is a seeking of cleansing from sin through the blood of Christ. "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."

This is the one and only pathway of salvation. It is the way you must come if you are to be saved and enter heaven.

In the light of that dreadful day of judgment on wicked men, may you seek mercy, that mercy extended to you in the glorious gospel of Christ.