


ARAMAIC BIBLE COMPANION

ZECHARIAH

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CHAPTER 1

IN THE EIGHTH MONTH OF THE SECOND YEAR OF DARIUS THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ZACHARIAH THE PROPHET SON OF BERACHIAH SON OF IDDO [*“Whom the LORD remembered” “The LORD blessed” and “sorrow (or)”seasonable” (or) “loving” respectively-as if to show that the family story went through phases-a season of sorrow where love held fast and then a time of blessing*] saying, “The LORD strove in strife or anger with your fathers. So say to them “Thus says the LORD of hosts ‘return to Me’ whispers the LORD of hosts “and I will return to you’ the LORD of hosts promises. *The date of this first oracle is 520-the second year of Darius 1* Do not be like your predecessors whom the former prophets called (to the LORD) saying “Thus says the LORD of hosts return NOW from your evil ways and evil deeds but they did not listen and obey nor attend carefully to me whispers the LORD” “Where are your fathers?” and “Do the prophets live for an age? *The reference may be to the former prophets who succeeded the patriarchal era-Samuel and Elijah and Elisha and the like-mighty figures of the distant past-days 500years gone by. Did not my word and my ordinance which I commanded my servants the prophets reach your fathers? They turned and said “As the LORD purposed or intended [mmz] to deal with us in accordance with our ways and deeds in exactly this manner He has dealt with us!” Zechariah is using prophecy to show that the LORD is active in respect of disobedience even when no special blessings attend our ways on account of obedience. The disobedient may feel their lack of happiness or peace or simply not recognise their root where it is “God’s withholding” and God’s promise of “cursing” experienced Deuteronomy 30 1-14 is a comprehensive example of such curse as came upon the people through war and exile.*

THE FIRST VISION-THE FOUR HORSEMEN 8-10

In the twenty fourth day belonging to the eleventh month which is **Shebat** [*fbv-a root word with the same stem is “Shepherd’s crook” or “sceptre”-as if to say that God is king and guides His people*] in the second year of Darius the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the prophet son of Berachiah son of Iddo for promise [*ama-the prophetic or promissory infinitive is used*]

I looked at night and behold **a man** –a rider upon a red horse and he was standing or ministering between the myrtles. [*sdh The myrtle was a tree from which the branches of which the victory garland was made by the Romans and one of the trees used by the Jews in constructing the wilderness booth at the feast of tabernacles. In Isaiah 41.19 and 55.13 we may understand Isaiah to associate the myrtle with the transformations associated with Messiah and emergence of the blessing of Christ among Jew and Gentile in the church. Israel’s celebration of “Tabernacles” at harvest time can be taken as predictive of the church and of a great harvest of souls*] He (the man) was standing among myrtles in the shadow. *This horse and its fellows through their history symbolise a ministry during the church age and by their presence an additional ministry of which the prophet is about to speak.* And behind him were red horses, reddish-brown or tawny bay horses and white horses.

And I said “What are these, my **Lord?**” [*ynca-used of the rider-who is identified as ADONAI-either one of high esteem or the LORD*] And the messenger who talked with me said “I will show you what these are. The man standing or ministering among the myrtle trees answered and spoke with promise “These are the ones the LORD has sent that have been walking in the earth.” *The phrase declares these horses which had an earth-wide role in judgments of different sorts had their station among the myrtles-signifying the peace and prevailing rule of the LORD among His people. This can mean nothing other than that God stables his angels among his people whom He is committed to defend and visits temporal judgment on those who oppose His purpose of righteousness.*

THE HORSES ANSWER 11

They answered the messenger (or) angel of the LORD who stood among the myrtles and said, “We have been constantly moving in the earth and behold all the earth is restful or settled and inhabited and not **harassed**. [*fqv*]

THE MESSENGER ANGEL ANSWERS 12

And the messenger of the LORD answered and said “O LORD of hosts how long will You not be merciful to Jerusalem and the cities of Judah with which You have been indignant this seventy year span?

THE LORD ANSWERS 13-17

(1) And the LORD answered the messenger who spoke with me in good comforting words. *The idea of divine kindness and of “comfortable words” is inspiring.*

(2) As a result the messenger spoke with me saying “Call out saying “Thus says the LORD of hosts ‘I am jealous with great zeal or jealousy for Jerusalem and for Zion. I am provoked greatly –breaking or splintering in wrath on account of the nations that are tranquil or careless. When I was a little angry these helped to make it worse or towards calamity.

(3) For that reason thus says the LORD of hosts “A measuring **cord** [*hwq*] will be stretched out or expanded like the bounds of a tent “over” or “by the side of” or “because of” Jerusalem.

(4) Call out **repeatedly** or again saying “Thus says the LORD of hosts ‘**Again and again** my cities will overflow or “pour out” from very prosperity and the LORD will **repeatedly** comfort Zion and make his choice or **select** Jerusalem **as that in which is His repeated desire and delight** [*rj b*] *The four “repeats” of this final verse of the chapter could not make more emphatic that the LORD will “continually” over the millennium bless this great city of Jerusalem and even through eternity a new city of that name will be the abiding place to which the life of the saints of God will be transferred and conducted.*

CHAPTER 2

*In this chapter we hear the still small voice of God speaking with Zechariah in what I have termed “whispers” in accordance with the meaning of the word *sal*. The chapter becomes vital for the prophetic hermeneutic-giving notice that Jerusalem shall be the centre of an international storm or more properly an international controversy and latter day war. The Chapter also houses a most vivid depiction of the glory of the*

cross-work of Christ and of evangelism among the Gentiles and the work of the church.

A SECOND VISION 1.18 (Hebrew 1)

And I lifted up my eyes and I saw and behold four horns. *The three actions introduce us to something of a surprise. We would say “What is this?” or “What next?”*

Question 1 1.19-20 (Hebrew 2-3)

And I said to the angel-messenger who spoke with me “What a these?” and he said to me “These are the horns which as strangers are pushing /have constantly pushed Judah Israel and Jerusalem. Then the LORD let me see four men with cutting instruments. *The men would be better termed de-horning men rather than carpenters. They could be called craftsmen.*

Question 2 1.21 (Hebrew 4)

And I said “What are these coming to do? And he said “These are the horns which were/ are as strangers continuously pushing Judah” *rather like a strange woman breaking the nation’s reliance on and intimacy with God.* As soon as the command of man or warrior (was issued) he did not lift his head but these have come to harass or strike terror into them-to accuse object or throw out the Gentile horns that lifted up their military might over the land of Judah to turn her aside or press her.

A THIRD VISION 2.1 (Hebrew 5)

And I lifted up my eyes and saw prophetically and behold a man and in his hand there was an extended measuring cord.

Question 3 2.2-4 (Hebrew 6-8)

And I said “Where are you going? And he said to me “To check the extent of Jerusalem –for sightings as to what is the width and as to what the length (of Jerusalem). And behold the angel-messenger that talked with me went forth and another angel-messenger was going out to meet him. And he said to him “Run and continue to speak to this young man to tell him that Jerusalem shall be a habitation of un-walled or scattered townships [*xrɪp*]from the sheer number of men and animals therein.

WHISPER 1... 2.5 (Hebrew 9)

And I, **whispers (Sāll) the LORD** will be to her walls of fire around and I will belong to her- the glory at her very heart. *This whisper declared that the “angel of the LORD” was speaking with Zechariah and assuring him that the time will come when the LORD abides in Jerusalem.*

WHISPER 2... 2.6 (Hebrew 10a)

Ho, ho –you must flee from the land of the north **whispers the LORD.** *This is a quiet word of encouragement to inspire confidence on top of the previous very personal assurance of protection.*

WHISPER 3... 2.6b (Hebrew 2. 10b)

For as the four winds of heaven I have continued to spread you out/ I am **continuing to spread** [*ytVɪrɪp*] you out **whispers the LORD.** *The third whisper is indicative of a purpose of seeding the nations with Jews whose world influence would parallel their*

hostile reception almost everywhere. This whisper might seem one of annoyance but it is really one of love. It foretells events from 480BC through the period of Christ's crucifixion and along the history of Israel until 1948-almost 2,500 years. This whisper reflects the depths of the heart of God.

WHISPER 4 ...2.7-9 (Hebrew 2.11-13)

Ho Zion, you who dwell with the daughter of Babel cause yourself to be delivered. **For thus says the LORD of hosts** -after the glory has He SENT ME to the nations who plundered you for the one who is touching you is touching the pupil [bwb] of my eye. *If I may be spared a personal reference the word "pupil" or "apple" of the eye in Hebrew is exactly the English forename "Bob" and upon coming to this great verse I figure what a privilege to be "as the apple of God's eye." Like the Jews and like every believer I want to be in the "Bob" place with God-guarded and protected by his uninterrupted providences.* For behold me waving my hand over them and they shall become a spoil to their servants and you will know through your experience that the LORD of hosts has sent me.

EXCURSUS ON THE MESSENGER

This messenger speaks as the LORD and in referring to the glory He must be referring to the purchase of salvation through the cross and resurrection. That is the central "glory" of our glorious God. He then refers to the dispersion of the Jews and the fact that He goes in the message of the gospel to the Gentiles. The experience of dispersion and God's protection is going to redirect Israel to Christ-and the provoking of them to jealousy which is God's one and only tactic-showing how he loves and how they have spurned that love-till they want it more than anything else.

WHISPER 5... 2.10-13(Hebrew 2.14-17)

Sing and be radiant O daughter of Zion for behold me coming and I will dwell in your midst **whispers the LORD.** *This fifth whisper is huge encouragement-it speaks of a forthcoming era in the end times -after the Gentile period-when Christ will abide with Israel. This whisper is not for the church but for the people driven from pillar to post who will be privileged like no other in the latter day.*

And many/great nations shall join or adhere to or lend them to the LORD in that day and they shall be my people but I will dwell in your midst and you will know that the LORD of hosts has SENT ME to you.

And the LORD shall inherit Judah His portion upon the fertile holy land and shall again choose Jerusalem.

Hush all flesh before the face of the LORD for he has roused Him or awakened or stirred Him from his dwelling. *This last great action of history is an act of grace and condescension when Christ comes out of heaven to dwell among men for the glorious millennial years.*

CHAPTER 3

And he showed me Joshua the high priest standing to minister before the face of the angel of the LORD and Satan was continuing or standing at his right hand to oppose him. *The current high priest was in the course of his ministry before God but Satan was literally at his right hand opposing him with accusations before God.*

And the LORD said to Satan "The LORD will rebuke or reprove [r[q] you. The LORD who is making His choice (to be) in Jerusalem will rebuke you. Is not this a wooden poker [dw[] that has been in process of being snatched out of the fire. Now

Joshua was clothed in garments with excrement upon them but stood before the face of the LORD. *It could be Joshua's body hygiene did not come up to the standard of the ceremonial law or that some excrement of a beast had inadvertently soiled his garment. It was not a matter that the LORD himself considered a disqualifier.*

THE RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION OF CLEANSING 4-5

And He(the angel) answered and spoke to those who were standing ministering before his face saying "cause his soiled garments to be taken off him and He said to him **"See I have made your iniquity to pass from you** and I will cause you to be clothed with costly dress"[*hxljm*]or "*dress that equips*" for duty. In addition I say "let them set a bright clean turban upon his head so they set a bright clean turban on his head and caused him to be clothed with vestments and the Angel of the LORD stood by ministering. *The vision testifies to the effect to the work of Christ retrospectively to the period of Zechariah and Joshua. It also testifies to the "noble dress of righteousness with which the LORD clothes his servants through the work of which the Angel now further speaks.*

THE PROMISE OF BLESSING ON JOSHUA'S CHILDREN 6-7

AND THE ANGEL OF THE LORD TESTIFIED OR WITNESSED AGAINST JOSHUA SAYING **"THUS SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS "IF YOU WILL WALK IN MY WAYS AND IF YOU WILL GUARD MY CHARGE OR RITE THEN YOU WILL GOVERN OR HAVE JURISDICTION OVER MY HOUSE AND ALSO YOU WILL KEEP OR WATCH MY COURTS AND I WILL GIVE YOU THOSE CAUSED TO WALK AMONG THESE WHO STAND MINISTERING.** *The significance may be that the LORD would enable Joshua to continue ministry but it may also be that his posterity would also continue to minister in the priesthood.*

THREE WORLD CHANGING MATTERS TO BE OBSERVED 8-10

(1) THE SON OF GOD WOULD BE THE PERPETUAL HIGH PRIEST

Hear now O Joshua who high priest and your companions who are sitting before your face for they are wonderful men of strength or entirely men of flesh for **behold me bringing forth my servant "the Branch"**. *The hmx was thought of as "the offspring of God". [cf. Isaiah4.2]This aspect refers to the "godhead" of Christ.*

(2) THE SON OF GOD WOULD SPEAK WITH CONTINUAL WISDOM

For behold the stone that I have given or provided before the face of Joshua or belonging to the person of Yeshua -upon one stone there are seven eyes-**behold me continually opening the door of mouth (of the stone)[Piel of j tp]** says the LORD of hosts.

(3) THE SON OF GOD WOULD ATONE IN A DAY OF REDEMPTION

And **behold me removing or taking away the deep iniquity of this land** in one day. In that day **whispers the LORD** of hosts you will each call to or proclaim to his companion remaining under the vine and under the fig tree. *This "whisper of God" is the greatest possible encouragement-even beyond those given Zechariah in chapter 2. The news of the act of God in Christ concerning the forgiveness of sin would be so great that neighbour would call neighbour without moving-just where they were under the vine and fig outside their homes. This "calling" is more akin to modern cell*

phone calling than preaching. It is however by parallel with John 1.48 a message with life-changing implication which introduces a man like Nathaniel to a greater peace and to action to leave his own private world and comfort zone and follow Christ. So the impact of the idea is to take followers of the crucified LORD out of their casual and lethargic peace to a greater peace and more active life of service.

CHAPTER 4

EXPLANATION OF THE MENORAH-THE CHURCH THE CHRIST AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

And the angel messenger remained or sat speaking with me and awaked me as a man who was waking himself up from his sleep. And he said “What do you see?” And I said “I have looked and behold **an entire golden Menorah** and an oil bowl at the top and seven lamps on it and seven funnels attached to the seven lamps which are at the top. And there are two olive trees above it one fountain on the right and one on the left. But I answered and said to the messenger angel that was speaking with me saying “What are these Adonai?

And the angel messenger answered and spoke to me saying “Do you not know what these are?” And I answered “No Adonai”

And He answered and spoke to me saying “This is the **Word or Oracle** [*rbd*] of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying “Not by force of arms nor by strength of the arm but by **My Spirit** [*jwr*] says the LORD of hosts.

EXPLANATION OF THE GREAT MOUNTAIN

Who are you O Great Mountain? Before the face of Zerubbabel you will be straight or righteous or in concord and He shall bring forth the chief stone of desolations or crashings or tumults [*avv*]-grace grace [*th*] belongs to it. *The “great mountain” of righteousness is the “kingdom of God” which will be a righteous kingdom brought in when the LORD returns like the stone of Daniel and breaks in pieces all former kingdoms*

AUTHENTICATION OF ZECHARIAH’S MISSION

AND IT CAME TO PASS THAT THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ME SAYING “THE HANDS OF ZERUBABEL FOUNDED THIS HOUSE AND HIS HANDS SHALL COMPLETE IT AND YOU WILL BE AWARE THROUGH EXPERIENCE THAT THE LORD OF HOSTS HAS SENT ME TO YOU

For who despises the day of little things for they shall rejoice and see the stone of the plumb-line in the hand of Zerubbabel-these seven eyes of the LORD continually go to and fro in all the earth.

LATTER DAY WITNESSES OF APOCALYPSE 11

So I answered and said to him “What are these two streams [*lv*] of the olive trees which by the power of **the two golden pipes** which are pouring out the gold [*bhzh*] from them. And he spoke to me saying “Do you not know what these are? And I said “no Adonai”. And He said “These are the two sons of the light or noon or splendour or new oil or dawn that stand to minister on behalf of Adon of the whole earth. *The current servants of God were Ezra and Nehemiah but the latter day application is to the two “witnesses” of the Apocalypse 11.4-12. They are in the Apocalypse described*

as “two olives trees and two candlesticks” because they operate in the power of the Son and the Holy Spirit and are “channels” of witness in the last days.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A CHANNEL OF BLESSING

Just as Ezra and Nehemiah were a blessing in the days of Zerubbabel so in the latter days the heaven-sent witnesses were an unrecognised blessing to the righteous. We too are called to be a blessing in our day.

CHANNELS OF BLESSING

*Is your life a channel of blessing?
Is the love of God flowing through you?
Are you telling the Lost of a Saviour?
Are you striving His purpose to do?*

*Make me a channel of blessing today
Make me a channel of blessing I pray
My life possessing
My service blessing
Make me a channel of blessing today.*

Chapter 5

We now have a momentous chapter which under astute hermeneutical devices gives us the history of the advance of the English bible and the final exertions of the western powers to establish democracy in the Middle East.

THE BOOK THAT SPEAKS FORGIVENESS WORLDWIDE

And I turned around and lifted my eyes upwards and looked and behold a scroll [hl gm] on the wing. And He said to me “What is this that you are watching” and I said “I see a long scroll flying twenty times the length of a man’s arm and the width 10 cubits.” And he said to me “This is the curse **covenant** or oath that keeps going above the face of the whole earth for every thief may acquit himself or be free from guilt [hqm] according to this or like this and every one that swears or swears by personal habit according to this may be free from guilt. *I believe the received English text is quite unsatisfactory. The idea of “two sides” is meaningless and confusing and the idea of “being cut off” is strange. The book may be characterised as one containing God’s covenant or oath and also His course on sin but it is a book which is destined to be of worldwide significance and of great benefit to mankind. It is ostensibly the bible or the scripture.*

THE BOOK THAT SPELLS OUT SPIRITUAL RUIN BY SIN

I will cause it to come forth whispers the LORD of hosts and it will come to the house of the thief and to the house of the man who swears falsely by my name and it shall lodge or abide in the centre of his house and **it may continue to work secret ruin** [Future of hl k] to the stones and timber of his house. *The book itself bears an obvious curse on the unrepentant sinner and as life goes on and sin continues-the thief continues to steal and the man who curses continues to take God’s name in vain-so spiritual ruin progresses to the calamity of an unrepentant nemesis in death.*

THE POWER AND PLENTY OF A NATION

Then the angel that talked with me went forth or led me out and said to me “Please lift up your eyes and see what this is that is going forth”. And I said “What is it?” And He said “This is the Ephah-Container that is going forth. [*hpya* is so called from its “round” form or from its “surrounding” (the earth) and also as a container it surrounds grain. The word reflects a very ancient Egyptian grand ratio of measurement]. And He said “These are their eyes in the whole earth”. The “Ephah” was 4 gallons and 6 and 3/4 pints in liquid measure. It is equivalent to the weight of water in a small bath. It would be traditionally a round container from early times. The idea suggested by the Ephah is “plenty” for such measure were owned and used by those who had enormous grain crops. The explanation given, however, is that it has eyes that which can spy or gather intelligence worldwide”. It is such a vessel as is a source of intelligence of events over all the earth. There is no necessary conflict between the ideas-a nation with massive grain crops may also be a nation capable of international intelligence.

THE WAR THAT ERUPTS AGAINST THE WOMAN

And behold “ten baths” or a “talent” [*i.e. ten times the load of the former*] of “weight” or “lead” **was lifted up** and this single woman sojourns or “**enthroned**” in the midst of the Ephah or PLENTY. *She measures with a very great measure. This is a rare image and difficult to understand hermeneutically. The idea is of a “woman of deserving of reproach” who resides in the lap of plenty and who commands massive supplies of lead –suggestive of lead shot and ordinance.* And He said “This is the wicked rebellion and He caused her to be cast down or destroyed in the midst of the Ephah and He caused the stone or **weight of lead** to be “sent” or “cast” [*Jl v*] in the direction of her mouth or sword [*hyp*] *The suggestion is that this great people is ruined by plenty and her power is dissipated by war.*

TWO WOMEN ESTABLISH A LAND OF PLENTY IN BABYLON

And I lifted up my eyes and I looked and **behold two women** going out and **the wind was in their wings** [*this speaks of “speed of movement”*] and they had wings like the wings of a stork. *This speaks of powerful people of the latter day who are notable for piety and yet were involved with action which is deeply disapproved of in the sight of God.*

And they lifted up the Ephah between earth and heaven. *This signifies carrying supplies and the woman with it to a distinct location.*

But I said to the angel messenger who spoke with me “Where are these travelling with the Ephah? And he said to me “To build a house for her in the land of Shinar and it will have been established or constituted [*mk*] and it will have been left behind or on its own [*j m*] there upon its fixed or sure constitution.

CHAPTER 6

FOUR CHARIOTS 1-4

And I turned and lifted up my eyes and saw and behold four chariots or vehicles coming from between two mountains and the mountains were mountains of brass.

(a) *Hemeneutically “mountains” are recognisable as mighty powers-*

(b) *The fact that they are brass speaks about power such as was exercised by Alexander the great-whose soldiers had brass helmets breastplates shields and swords-these mountains were world empires and are seen as sitting together. Thus*

we are seeing four chariots coming from between two powers that held world dominion and left organisation in their wake like the brass kingdom of Greece.

(1) In the first chariot were **red horses**

(2) And in the second chariot **black horses**. *The two powers in question were involved in war which we can affirmatively say is indicated by “red horses”.*

(3) And in the third chariot there were **white horses**

(4) And in the fourth chariot there were **spotted or dapple grey** [*drb*] nimble or swift strong horses [*dma*] And I responded and said to the angel-messenger that spoke with me “**Adonai**, what are these?”

THE MESSENGER’S REMARKS ON THE HORSES 5-8

No further reference is made to the “red horses” but according to Apocalypse 6.4 this colour intimates “war” and “the end of peace” with a “sword”.

And the angel-messenger said to me “These are four spirits of the heavens going forth from having a fixed ministry before **Adon** of the all the earth.

(1) The black horses which are in location are going forth to the earth’s north and the

(2) White horses will go forth after them

(3) And the dapple grey will go forth to the earth’s south land. (Egypt?)

(4) And the “sturdy” or “restored” went or were going forth and searched or were seeking to go to accomplish their course through the earth. And He said “Go” “Your mission is to go through the earth and they will have gone through the earth.”

Then He cried to me and spoke to me saying “Watch those which are going to the earth’s north-they have caused my Spirit in the earth’s north to be let alone or be deserted.

A CROWNED PRIEST FORTTELLS A KING-PRIEST 9-18

AND THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ME SAYING “NOW TAKE FROM THE CAPTIVITY –FROM HELDAI AND FROM TOBIAH AND FROM JEDAIAH AND YOU GO THE SAME DAY INTO THE HOUSE OF JOSIAH THE SON OF ZEPHANIAH WHO HAVE COME FROM BABYLON. AND TAKE SILVER AND GOLD AND CONSTRUCT TIARAS AND PLACE THEM ON THE HEAD OF JOSHUA SON OF JEHOSEDEK THE HIGH PRIEST. Also speak to him saying “Thus says the LORD of hosts-he is saying “**See—a warrior man** named “Branch” and he will spring up [*jmx*] from His place below [*j#t*] and build the temple of the LORD. Indeed He will build the temple of the LORD and he will carry or bring the glory and

(1) **He will dwell or settle and rule and teach** [*lvm*] **on his throne** and

(2) **He shall be a priest upon his throne** and the counsel OR PLAN AND PRUDENCE of peace shall be between both.

Joshua is told of the coming of a warrior –a man called the “Branch” who would be born on earth below and command two thrones-a political and kingly throne-and also a priestly throne. The final peace for the earth and each human heart would be His and as one who can save the soul and change the world He would rule supreme.

THE SECOND COMING AND ULTIMATE FULFILMENT AWAITS THE OBEDIENCE OF ISRAEL

And the tiaras shall be for Helem and Tobiah and Jedaiah and to Hen [*nh Grace*] the son of Zephaniah for a memorial or remembrance (of this) in the temple of the LORD.

And people far away shall come and build in the temple of the LORD and you will be aware that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you and it will happen if or when you continue to listen obediently to the voice of the LORD your God.

CHAPTER 7

This is a very significant and telling chapter on the divine foresight as it relates to the stubbornness of Israel. Its immediate context is the procedure of a few men committed to prayer and how long they shall persevere. This takes us into the ante-room of the perseverance of Almighty God with the nation as a whole.

GOD'S ANSWER TO THE MEN UNDER VOW 1-3

AND IT CAME TO PASS IN THE FOURTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF DARIUS (THE SECOND) THAT THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ZECHARIAH IN THE FOURTH OF THE **NINTH MONTH** IN CHISLEU. *The date is known to us: it was 518B.C –DariusI took up rule in 521B.C. and the month was known as the month of “hope and confidence.” This month was to be that on which our LORD’S annunciation took place. It is named in the Jewish calendar-the “month of “confidence and hope”.*

For they had sent Sharezer [*Prince of fire*] and Regem Melech [*Friend of the King*] and their men (of war) to continually soften the face of the LORD -i.e. to appease or exhaust the LORD by much pleading. This petitioning began in the fifth month according to verse 3 so they continued 4 months to seek the LORD.

To speak to the priests who belonged to the house of the LORD of hosts and to the prophets saying “Shall/should I weep **in the fifth month** to set myself apart as a Nazarene as I have done this as for however so many years?

THE LORD SPEAKS OF HIS DISAPPOINTMENT 4-

SO IT HAPPENED THAT THE WORD OF THE LORD OF HOSTS CAME TO ME SAYING “SPEAK TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND AND TO THE PRIESTS TO SAY “WHEN YOU FASTED TO MOURN OR LAMENT IN THE FIFTH AND SEVENTH MONTH WAS THIS SEVENTY YEAR PERIOD TO FAST MY FAST THAT I FASTED?” *The third of a year given over to prayer was compared to the seventy years that the LORD endured without worship and relationship with His people. And when you ate and drank was it not eating and drinking for your benefit? [Literally “You’re eating and drinking!]* Were there not oracular words which the LORD proclaimed by the hand of the former prophets in the period when Jerusalem was inhabited and the cities around about were quiet enjoying prosperity [*h/v*] and the Negev and the Shephelah were peopled.

AND IT SO HAPPENED THAT THE ORACULAR WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ZECHARIAH saying “Thus the LORD of hosts speaks to say “Be defenders of truth justice and covenant love and be active to show mercy each man to his brother. And do not oppress or defraud or pressure [*qc*] the widow and the fatherless, the stranger and the poor or afflicted and a man must not think of evil to do to his brother in your hearts.

- (1) **But they were unwilling** to give attention and gave the (stubborn) shoulder. *[rrs] like a beast unwilling for the yoke. The expression is akin to our English “cold-shouldering” except that “stubborn” substitutes “cold”. The effect is “to push out of the way”.*
- (2) **They made their ears heavy** against hearing. *They acted as if they were deaf.*
- (3) **They set their hearts as diamond against hearing or obeying the Torah and the words which the LORD of hosts sent by His Spirit by the hand of the former prophets** so it came about that there was great anger or breaking anger or strife *[pxq]* from the LORD of hosts. And so it came to pass that as He called they would not hear so they called and I would not hear says the LORD of hosts. **So I will scatter them over all Gentile nations that they have not known and the land becomes desolate after them as to passing travel and return (of the people) and they will make the pleasant or delightful land a waste.** *The governing thought here is the latter day Diaspora “among all nations” so that the verbs “scatter” and “make” are best taken as simple futures and not as a “Waw consecutive” The “stubbornness which set in during the ministry of the former prophets was reflected in the second temple era but in the provenience of the divine thinking it is here supposed to be unaltered into the times of Messiah and so the further Diaspora is linked to the notion of the diamond hard heart of the nation as a whole which will take millennia to change.*

CHAPTER 8

THE RETURN OF CHRIST 1-3

And it happened that the oracular word of the LORD of hosts came saying “Thus says the LORD of hosts “I was jealous or ardent for Zion with great ardour or anger and I was jealous with great fury.” *[mjj]* “Thus says the LORD “I am coming back to Zion and I will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem and Jerusalem shall name herself CITY OF TRUTH and MOUNT OF THE LORD OF HOSTS and HILL OF HOLINESS. *This prestigious name speaks of the fact that The Lord as truth indwells her; as supreme authority guards her and as the altogether holy one inhabits her. The prophecy moves beyond the first coming of our LORD Jesus Christ to His return and like much in this prophecy concerns itself with the kingdom of Christ to be established in the latter day.*

JERUSALEM’S POPULACE BULGES WITH YOUNG AND OLD 4-5

Thus says the LORD of hosts –“still elders and old ladies will populate the broad streets of Jerusalem and the man with his staff in his hand *from the numerous days* (of his life). And the broad streets or squares of the city will be full of young lads and lasses playing in the streets.”

CONTRASTING DEVELOPMENTS 6

Thus says the LORD of hosts “When it will be a miracle in the eyes of the remnant of this people in those days should it constitute a miracle in my eyes” says the LORD of hosts? *There is an antinomy in the context resolved by a contrast of time-periods. The people who return from the Diaspora-the “remnant” is the remnant of “these” days reflecting on the remnant and its growth in other days. In Nehemiah’s day the remnant was small and so it was at first in 1948 but its latter day growth will be expediential. After about 500 years the 2nd temple exiles grew to a few million persons*

whereas over the millennium Israel's growth will make Jerusalem the hub of the world.

THE MESSIANIC COVENANT 7-9

*For far too long the church has looked askance at the Jew. The New Covenant on better promises has not however waived the Messianic covenant. Behind the Jewish covenants or promises to Abraham and David there lies the **Messianic covenant** which is reiterated numerous times in the Torah. We are entitled to hold that the "kingdom of God" has come among us –indeed come with power-but our LORD bade us in this economy not to say "See here or see there-for the kingdom is within". The day is shortly coming when conversely the Kingdom will be manifest and the King will appear and the personal awareness of Christ will be worldwide. Behind every promise to do with eschatology is the hope of the coming of Messiah. This hope keeps aflame the truths of the rapture-the conquest of Anti-Christ-the Glorious advent of Messiah and the Millennium. All these are centred on the interface of the church triumphant and militant and the interlaced role of Angels and Jews and Christians alike under the direction of Christ as the Kingdom of heaven on earth and in the New Jerusalem is fully realised.*

Thus says the LORD of hosts "Behold me saving my people as Messiah from the land of the sunrise and from the land the going down of the sun and I will cause them to come and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem and they will be my people and **I will be their God in truth and righteousness.**

THESE ARE DIFFERENT DAYS 10-11

Thus says the LORD of hosts "May your hands be strong- you who obey these words from my mouth of the prophets who lived in the day the house of the LORD of hosts was founded-may they be strong to build the temple." "For before the appearance of these days there was no such thing as the hire of man and the hire of a beast and there was nothing like peace for the one who went out or came in from distress adversity and enemies for I was constantly commissioning mankind each man against his friend But now I will not be to the remnant of this people as in the former days whispers the LORD of hosts.

LATTER DAY JEWISH PROSPERITY AND BLESSING 12-13

For the seed shall be remunerated or the seed shall be peace [*ml v-shalom*] and the wine shall give its fruit and the earth shall give its produce [*l wby yebul*] and the heaven will give their dew and I will cause the remnant of this people to inherit all these things. **And it shall be historical fact** [*hyh*] that as your lives are living as a curse among the Gentiles O house of Judah and house of Israel so I will save you and you will be a blessing –you must not fear-may your hands be strong.

GOD'S GOOD PURPOSE FOR THE JEWS IN LATTER DAYS 14-15

For thus says the LORD of hosts "As when I intended or thought or purposed [*mmz-zamam*] to do you ill through your fathers provocation" says the LORD of hosts and I did not change or console myself (to refrain from action) so I turned –I intend in these days to do good to Jerusalem and the house of Judah-DO NOT FEAR!.

THE LORD CALLS FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE 16-17

“These are the things you should do. Speak each the truth to his friend and adjudicate justice and truth within your gates. And let not a man think ill in your hearts against his neighbour in your hearts and do not love the oath that deceives for these are all the things that I hate” whispers the LORD.

FASTS CHARACTERISED BY JOY AND RADIANCE 18-19

And it was an historical fact that the word of the LORD of hosts came to me saying “Thus says the LORD of hosts “The fast of the fourth fifth and tenth month shall be sheer joy [vuv] and radiant happiness [hmc] to the house of Judah and they must love the truth and the peace that belong to happy feasts.

GENTILES SEEK TO PRAY WITH THE JEWS ONCE AGAIN 20-23

Thus says the LORD of hosts until when the people and inhabitants of great cities will come and the inhabitants will go one to another saying **we will go up to go up** to continually supplicate or appease face of the LORD and to seek the LORD of hosts-**I will go also**. *The prophecy three times speaks of going up-and it is highly suggestive of a time when men would “fly” to Jerusalem.* And great peoples and strong Gentile nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to supplicate before the LORD’S face.

Thus says the LORD of hosts in those days when ten strong men from every tongue of the nations will cause to lay hold they will lay hold on the hem of a Jewish man saying “let us go with you for we have heard the LORD is with you!

CHAPTER 9

THE FINAL HUMILIATION OF SYRIA AND LEBANON 1-3

The burden of taking up of the word of the LORD against the land of HADRACH [*siege or enclosed*] and Damascus [*activity-trade*] is its rest because the eyes of mankind and all the tribes of Israel are on the LORD. And also Hamath will be on the edge or fringe of it and Tyre and Sidon though it is very skilled. Thus Tyre built a bulwark for her and will lay up treasure as dust and gold [xrf] –*poetic for “gold”-also “judgment” and “protective ditch”*] as the mud swept from the streets.

THE END OF SIEGE & NORTHERN OPPRESSION 4 -8

Behold the LORD will dispossess her and cause her power to be hit seriously at sea and she will be consumed with fire. Askelon will see it and be frightened and Gaza will be caused to tremble a lot and Ekron for her hope will be disappointed and the king and kingdom of Gaza shall perish and Askelon cease as a dwelling place [*from Amos 1.8 we learn that Askelon was the ruling city of the 5 cities*]. And a “bastard” [*rzmm-“offspring of adultery and incest” according to Mishnah and Deut23.2-3*] shall dwell in Ashdod and **I will cause the pride of the Philistines to be cut off**. And I will cause his blood to be removed from his mouth and his abominable contaminations from between his teeth and he who is left as a remnant shall also belong to God and he shall be as family [p/a] in Judah and the Ekronite as the Jebusite. So I will dwell or encamp with an army at my house because of a host that passes by and returns and no oppressor who wearies will again pass against her for this time I have seen it with my own eyes.

MESSIAH PRESENTS IN HUMILITY 9

Rejoice greatly and wheel in the dance O daughter of Zion; shout O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold your king is coming to you maintaining the right or administering reward and bringing salvation. He is gentle and rides upon an **ass** [rmmj] and a young or full grown **colt** [ry[]] the son of a she ass [nta] or slow-stepper. *This distinct and precise prophecy has been fulfilled to the letter by the triumphal entry of Jesus to Jerusalem. The event is recorded in Matthew 21.1-7.*

MESSIANIC RULE OF THE LATTER DAY 10

And I will cause the chariot to be cut off from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem and the bow of battle shall be cut off and **He will continually speak peace**[m v rbd] **to the Gentiles and rule and teach from sea to sea** and from the river to the ends of the earth. *The universality of the rule of Christ is significantly introduced as “from sea to sea” and “from the river”. Our LORD shall reign from one rolling ocean to another and from the Euphrates and Babylon which shall at length receive His rule to the earth’s end.*

DIVINE RESCUE THROUGH THE MACCABEES 11-13

Also by the blood of the covenant I have constantly commissioned or delivered (Israel) your prisoner from a pit in which was no water. *Israel is presented as confined like Joseph and as being similarly delivered.* Return to the fortress you prisoners of expectation-even the day I am causing to be manifest I will return you double. When I have *bent* [literally “walked on”] the bow of Judah for me and continually filled Ephraim to full strength and constantly raised up your sons O Zion against your sons O Greece and set you as the sword of a warrior. *This prophecy was fulfilled in the raising up of the Maccabees who rose to throw off Greek overlordship.*

DIVINE PROTECTION 14-15

And Yahweh will be seen near or with them and his arrow shall go forth as Barak or lightning and the LORD God will blow the trumpet or sound the alarm and will travel with tempestuous winds of Teman or the south. **The LORD of hosts shall protect** or cover them and they shall devour and subdue stones of a sling and they shall drink and roar as they do over wine and they shall be filled as full dishes -as the corners of the altar. *The prophecy seems to foresee a time when the LORD comes as a mighty wind and fills the disciples who are the true conquerors of Rome. Rome may have used the catapult to take the ashlar of Jerusalem apart but God used the stones built on Christ to conquer Rome itself with the gospel.*

DIVINE GOODNESS 16-17

And the LORD their God shall be the cause of their salvation in that day as the flock of his people for the stones of a devoted one or a Nazarite or priestly diadem having shone over His land. **For how very good He is** and how very beautiful; corn in the case of the young men and new wine in the case of the maidens will have continually have made them grow up or talk in a gushing manner. *Again the prophet sees salvation bringing new joys*

(1)Believers are as stars or gemstones in His crown

(2)He is their High-priest

(3)He is good and he is lovely-the Christ of God

(4) *The word of God and the joy of Christ will develop God's people. They will grow spiritually and they will be fervent witnesses. The language of drunkenness is employed to good purpose showing how passionate the people of God will be in gospel days and in the day when His kingdom comes.*

CHAPTER 10

PRAYER IS THE KEY IN THE LATTER DAY 1

You pray from the LORD rain [rfm] at the time of the latter growth or after-mowings. The LORD is the Maker of piercing **lightnings** [zzj] and will give to them rain showers. *The Hebrew root is somewhat vague and might easily mean both "lightsome revelation"-He will give the green herb of the field for man.*

SPIRITISM PITCHES IN - STIRRING FEAR 2

For the Teraphim idols have continued or are continuing to speak iniquity and the diviners have a false vision and dreams of calamity or worthless dreams. They will continue to speak vapour or vanity-they will persist in comforting so they will remove or shoot away like a flock of sheep because there is no shepherd. *A series of three Piel repetitive verbs attests the relentless attempts of evil messengers to bring false comfort but the people react like a flock without a shepherd.*

THE SHEPHERD STATES HIS CREDENTIALS 3-4

My anger burned against the pastors and against the **leaders** [dt [literally "he-goats"]] for visiting the LORD of hosts visited His flock –the house of Judah and has positioned them as his glorious majestic horse in or for the war. From Him (Judah) is the corner-stone or **chief prince** [hnp mpp] from him the fixed princely rule [as a nail rty] from him the bow of war from him will come completely in unity or one that which brings near by sacrifice. *The LORD Christ is the prince and the warrior and the sacrificial lamb for the redemption of His people.*

ISRAELI SETTLERS BECOME WARRIORS 5

They shall be warriors treading down in the mud of the streets in warfare and they shall fight for themselves because the LORD is with them and the riders on the horses or leapers shall **fail in their expectation** [vnb] And I will make the house of Judah strong warriors and I will save the house of Joseph and I will cause them to resettle for I will have mercy on them and they shall be as when I had not rejected them for I am the LORD their God and I will listen to them. *This prophecy has been fulfilled*

ALIYAH AND MESHIACHIM 6-10

And the Ephraimites shall be as a warrior and their heart will be radiant and happy as by wine and their sons will see it (prophetically) and they will rejoice and through the LORD there will be dancing in their hearts. And I will lure them or pipe for them [qrv] and **gather** them [literally "kibbutz them"] for I have been the cause of their redemption and they will increase as they have increased. And I will sow them among the far off peoples and they will remember me and they shall survive or live [my life] with their sons and they shall return. *Testimony is here given to what have now become two separate historical facts –*

- (1) *Many Jews have returned to Israel as Christians*
- (2) *Numerous Jews by God's providence escaped the holocaust*

I will bring returnees from Egypt and from (former) Assyria and gather them and cause them to come to the land of Gilead and Lebanon and there will be nothing found for or possessed by them. *Zechariah seems almost to be writing footnotes to the history of the 20th century so detailed and precise are the prophetic insights which the LORD gives him.*

TWENTIETH CENTURY FULFILLS PROPHECY 11

And he will pass through the sea of adversity and pain or affliction [*hrx*] and he shall smite the exiles in the sea and all the depths of the river [*rayan* Egyptian word for river-hence the “Nile”] shall be caused to dry up and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart.

(1)These prophecies speak of Israel’s trouble-the “time of Jacob’s trouble” and of the holocaust. (2)When Jewish exiles died in the Mediterranean at the end of the war this prophecy was sadly fulfilled in a measure. (3)The building of the Aswan Dam literally fulfilled the “drying up of the Nile” in one sense (4) and the pride of Iraq has been lowered in the battle which unseated Saddam Hussein. (5)The last king of Egypt was King Farouk. Read in this way all five prophecies are already fulfilled at least in part though in concert with the visions of the major prophets a latter day event of great magnitude leads to a mass reduction in Egypt’s population

A STRONG NATION WALKING WITH GOD 12

(6) And I will make them warriors for the LORD (7) and by his name they shall have walked or conducted their lives-whispers the LORD. *That the modern Jewish nation is collectively “warriors” is undeniable since each man and woman serves in the armed forces of their country. They are also returned to the LORD of the Torah-but the final fulfilment of Israel’s “walk with God” awaits the return of Messiah.*

CHAPTER 11

SATAN’S KINGDOM’S LAST CRIES 1-3

Open your doors O Lebanon so that fire shall devour among your cedars. **Shout** [*lly*] –“*shining one*” or *Lucifer*” and imperative of “wail”] **O cypress** [*a tree from which planks are cut-from the root arb-second meaning “a lance”-]* for cedar is fallen.

Cause yourself to **holler** O oaks of Bashan for the ripe grape vintage of the forest has fallen. The voice of the shepherds is **howling** because their glorious adornment has been ruined. The voice of young lions is **roaring** because the pride of Jordan is destroyed. *The quadruple shouting is emphatic. It speaks of universal alarm at a final reversal of world significance. It involves those who spiritually lead the people of Lebanon-who have terribly failed. The word “Howl” which is used has close root connection with Lucifer and suggests the end of his kingdom.*

A FAITH ARISES WHICH DENIES GUILT AND SENDS ITS FLOCK TO DEATH 4-6

Thus says the LORD my God “Pasture the flock of the slaughter-

(1) Whom their possessions [*what they own or have bought into*] will slay

(2) And they will not be bear or admit their guilt

(3) And their pastors or shepherds will not spare or have compassion on them.

For I will no longer have compassion on the inhabitants of the land whispers the LORD and behold I will cause mankind by the man to be delivered or presented into

the power of his neighbour and into the power of his king and they shall the land and I will not deliver from their power.”

THE LORD UNDERTAKES FOR THOSE WHO WOULD DIE UNDER FALSE SHEPHERDS 7

And I will feed the flock to be slaughtered that is made ready established or appointed O humble ones of the flock and I took for myself **two javelins or maces of authority**. [l qm] To one I gave the name “lovely” or “**beauty**”[m[n] to the other “cords” “cables” or “**measuring lines**” and I fed the flock.

LEADERS WHO ARE OF ANOTHER FAITH 8

There are consentient leaders who detest or excommunicate the LORD and He will show no patience towards them. These are not genuine Jewish or Christian pastors but religious leaders of a very different sort.

Also I will **deny** or **disown** [dhk] three shepherds in one month. In addition my patience is short with them and they are impatient with me. *This is a harvesting term so God cuts them off at harvest and they also cut God off. The idea of “denial” “is preferable since it is the Hiphil that means “to reap” and the Piel “to cut short.” These leaders are not of God’s appointment. Historically Herod Annas and Caiaphas and Pilate would fit this leadership description.*

INTERNECINE SLAUGHTER 9

So I said “I will not pasture you. He who is dying let him die and that which cuts itself off let it be disowned. And let those who make themselves a remnant devour each carnal man the flesh of his neighbour.” *Such slaughter attended the fall of Jerusalem and Jew slaughtered Jew exactly as the prophet foretold.*

A CESSATION OF THEOCRACY 10-11

“And I took my staff ‘beauty’ and I broke it asunder [[dq] to cause to be annulled or abolished my covenant which I had cut with all peoples.” *This statement is most serious and may that the LORD is proceeding to extraordinary and widespread judgments. The LORD took two staves or maces of authority and in this case we see He breaks the first one. The result appears to be that the second one is affected as well.*

(1)The first and more obvious understanding I can come to is that the disciplinary authority of the LORD over His people is prejudiced and His disciplinary authority among the peoples of the world is diminished too so judgments ensue. A situation of exactly this sort would occur when the Antichrist is established in Jerusalem and the church is taken from the earth.

And it will have been broken in that day and thus the humble or afflicted of the flock that watched me will be aware that it was the word of the LORD.

(2) The more obvious and clearer interpretation of this passage, however, has to be that the covenant with the “tribes of Israel” is broken. With the coming of Christ there is mutual rejection of Christ by the leaders and of many leaders by Christ. Thus the Old Testament Covenant ceased in terms of the authority of the LORD over His people Israel as a nation and it follows that bond of “union” and “measurement of land” was for the moment in cessation too. Religious Israelites were well aware of the spiritual disobedience behind the end of the theocracy.

OUTSTANDING PROPHECY OF THE PRICE OF BETRAYAL 12-13

The words of this prophecy are to be found in Matthew 26.15 and 27.3-this was the precise price the rulers or pastors of Israel gave when they denied Christ and he denied them-Caiaphas and Annas

And I said “If you think it good in your eyes give my price [rkv] and if not decline”
And they will weigh out my price-thirty pieces of silver.

And the LORD said to me “He must cause it to be cast or **dismissed** [j/c] to the potter the magnificent or inflated price at which I was esteemed or valued by them”
The LORD in prophecy gives us a rare sarcasm in respect of His own worth. The price was above that of the common slave but how could man possibly lay a price on his maker? Even a parent is priceless-there is no category for the worthiness and glory of our precious LORD. The term “dismissed” used above is more vivid than the New Testament “cast”. The money was weighed and later it was treated as a “divorced woman” and sent away in payment for a burial plot for strangers.

And I will take thirty pieces of silver and I will cause it to be despised and cast in the house of the LORD to the potter. *The translation usually preferred is “I took and I cast them to the potter in the LORD’S house.” In this instance Zechariah acted out the procedure which the high priests used to clear their hands of the blood money they found in their hands. The Waw-construct sense allows such an acted prophecy.*

THE SECOND STAFF IS BROKEN 14-17

Then I broke my second staff ‘bands’ or ‘cables’ ... *The A.V.margin uses the term “binders”... to break the brotherhood between **Judah and Israel**. And the LORD said to me “Take to you still the tools of **an evil** shepherd.” [lwa the usage differently vocalised means “a chief shepherd” but clearly the divine direction is to characterise an impious shepherd] for behold I will raise up in the land who will not visit those who are concealed or brought to nought [dj k] nor seek the youth [r[n]; who will not heal those that are broken [rbv]; he will not continually sustain those who stand still [bxn] but he will eat the flesh of the fat.[arb] and he will break off their hooves or broth. Woe to the vain or “idol” shepherd or leader-the one that leaves the flock.*

- (1) A sword shall be upon or against his arm
- (2) And against his right eye
- (3) His right arm to will dry up and so completely weaken. *It will become weak-without bone marrow and that of which he is ashamed.*
- (4) And his right eye to be dim shall be completely dim *He will be blind in one eye*

The action of a “sword” or “circumcising knife” or some sharp cutting instrument will so damage this person that gradually his right arm and eye will be destroyed. Since Zechariah was to take the instruments of a Chief Priest it would seem appropriate that this person will do himself most serious injury. History may yet have in store such a callous and godless leader who would appear to foist himself upon the Jews. Taken as a reference to the priesthood at the end of the OT era it might refer to the fact that the high priests took up the sword in acting against Christ and so were gradually blinded and gradually weakened. As in the case of the “leadership triumvirate” so here two possible but not necessarily mutually exclusive meanings can be held in tension.

The action of Caiaphas and Annas certainly divided the LORD as lion of the tribe of Judah from his people Israel in large part and the Antichrist yet to come will attempt the self-same objective.

CHAPTER 12

This chapter contains seven momentous prophecies in respect of the defence of Jerusalem in the latter days. The framework is spiritual and the background one of international politics and the utter failure of nations to solve the thorny middle-east problem

PROPHETIC BURDEN VIS-A-VIS POLITICAL BURDENS 1

The burden of uplifting the word of the LORD against Israel thus whispers the LORD who continues to stretch out or lead away the heavens and is laying down the foundation of the earth continually and is forming the Spirit of man or mankind within him or in its midst. *We learn from this text that God is dynamically active in the extension and departure of the physical universe and in continually settling the earth on its foundation and spiritually in working with the human spirit to draw man individually and racially after Him. Something of the maintenance work of the LORD is attested in the sentence.*

(1) SURROUNDING PEOPLES DRUNKEN IN THOUGHTS 2

Behold I will set Jerusalem –an extended or **big cup** [ps from pps expanded cup – though the term may also mean “threshold” i.e. a “door to watch] of “reeling” [l [r the term means “shaking” and a cognate term means “quaking”]-so Israel will project surrounding nations into a fearful state] to all the peoples around but however or even in or during a siege or **distressful advance** [rwxm] against Judah and Jerusalem. *Between the issue of this prophecy and today there has been the fearful Roman siege but it did not cause havoc in surrounding nations-the armies of Rome assaulted Jerusalem and fought in Galilee and Masada. Another advance of military pressure is envisaged.*

(2) POWERFUL NATIONS DAMAGED THROUGH INTERFERENCE 3

And in that day I will make Jerusalem a stone of burden [sm] the concept of lifting up this great stone is explained in parallel with the burden of prophecy for all peoples and all the lifters who lift and carry it to hurt will hurt or cut themselves with bodily incisions but all Gentile nations of the earth will be convened against her.

(3) GOD ACTS IN STUPENDOUS POWER 4

And in that day whispers the LORD of hosts I will cause every “horse” **to be stuck** with the daughter of **wonder and terror**. [rwmthb –an act of God terrifies the attacking forces-a profound act combining miracle and fear] and every rider or driver with **madness** [gv –the Arabic means “bravery” or “impetuous excitement” –our modern word is “fanaticism”] It is notable that “fanaticism” is an infliction-a blow against Israel’s enemies. And I will **open** my eyes over the house of Judah and every horse or vehicle of the peoples I will strike with **blindness** [mrrw] [from the root rw] or rp] meaning “to cast dust in the eyes. Horses unlike camels are disabled by dust. The war machines of nations will be ruined–perhaps as a result of quakes dust or other device as lasers] *The LORD sees His people afresh and is alive to their need. He observes Judah diligently in these latter days-that is the import of the text.*

And the rulers of Judah shall say in their hearts “the inhabitants of Jerusalem are protection or strength for me through the LORD of hosts their God.

(4) THE WEAPONRY OF ISRAEL IS MIGHTY BUT HER LEADERS WILL REMAIN HUMBLE BEFORE GOD 6-7

And in that day I will make or set dispose render or prepare the leaders of Judah or the Jews as a pit or furnace [*The rare word rnyk as in Psalm 22.17 is used of “piercing” of fire in the woods. We are to think of perforating disfiguring fire*] and like a shining torch or flame of fire in a bound bundle of corn and they shall devour all the peoples upon the right hand and upon the left and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again as her (Judah’s) **abiding place or station** [*j#t*] by Jerusalem or in the house of Jerusalem. *The future of Jerusalem is affirmed to be the city and foundation of Judah and its limits are hers.* And the LORD will cause the houses or habitations of Judah to be saved first in order that the pride or vaunted honour of the house of David and of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not exalt itself over Judah [the land of the Jews] *This war of the latter days is designed to create a humble city to which the LORD himself can return as ruler of His people*

(5) THE SECRET OF THIS WHOLE HERCULEAN DEFENCE IS THE PRESENCE OF THE ANGEL OF GOD 8

And in that day the LORD will protect or cover over [*mq* –a cognate of *mk*-the idea is a “protective shield”] behind or round about the inhabitant of Jerusalem and the one who stumbles from weakness in himself [*Niphal of lvk*] among them in that day will be as David. *We are facing a character aspect of the latter days. There will be many Jews who acknowledge freely their weakness and so God will give them His strength so that they are “strong in the LORD of hosts-He will be their rock!”* And the house of David shall be like God-as **the messenger or “Angel of the LORD” who belongs to their presence-or is with them.** *To be of the tribe of Judah will not just be a genetic thing-a sort of mark of esteem-but the new spirituality of Israel’s leadership is spoken of with joy by the prophet and the LORD in this oracle.*

(6) THE END OF THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES-GRACE BESTOWED ON ISRAEL IN NATIONAL REVIVAL 9-10

And it shall come to pass in that day that I will seek [*cqb* “to plan” or “interrogate”] to cause to lay waste all the Gentile nations that come against Jerusalem. *The LORD does not declare total ruin among opponent nations but declares that He will prepare the ruin of many nations. This oracle may indicate a previous historical collapse of nations and equally well reaches to a future judgment of nations.* And I will pour out upon the house of David and upon the inhabitant of Jerusalem the Spirit of Grace [*nj*] and Favours or supplications for mercy. [*mj*] *The “outpouring” establishes Grace as the predominant mark of Jewish religion for the first time in all history and “Prayer” in the shape of intercession begins to be based on the “throne of Grace”.* **And they will make them look with expectation** [*fbn*] **to me one whom they pierced** [*rkd*] and they shall lament or beat their breasts over him as one who laments his only-begotten and stream with tears as one floods with tears over the firstborn.

(7) ISRAEL’S LATTER DAY REPENTANCE-AND ITS INDIVIDUAL NATURE 11-14

In that day there shall be massive beating of breasts [*dps*] in Jerusalem as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. *This sort of lamentation is*

associated with the heathen idolatry once centred at Megiddon (the “place of crowds”). The return to the LORD in the latter day will be a massive popular movement involving 100% of the people. And the land shall mourn family apart from family alone. Every single house in Israel shall mourn –nothing like it will have been seen since the mourning in Egypt at the Passover. It assimilates to the mourning of those left behind who have been under the judgment of God.

- (a) The house of **David** will mourn alone and their wives will mourn apart-
- (b) The family of the house of **Nathan** apart and their wives apart.
- (c) The family of the house of **Levi** will mourn apart and their wives apart-
- (d) The family of **Shimei** apart and their wives apart. All the remnant families-family apart from family apart and their wives apart.

Most remarkable these four families can still be named in modern Israel according to prophecy. The Lord showed grace to the royal family-the prophetic family-the priestly family and the rebel family that repented. It is this mourning-this repentance that makes the wrong attitude to Christ so sad for each individual but brings in its train such renewal of heart and joy when the LORD hears their supplication and gives grace to the people.

CHAPTER 13

Zechariah adds an eighth and ninth “in that day” prophecy the second of which gives us two views of Christ-as the returning sovereign and as the crucified LORD. These great prophecies are of timeless significance. The second is quoted in support of Jesus divine role as Messiah in John 10.10 and in Matthew 26.31.

In that day it shall be historical reality that a “wave like spring” [*rwm* “a mighty spring”] shall open of its own accord belonging to the house of David and to those who dwell in Jerusalem for sin and filth or abomination [*hdm* is regularly used of idolatry and incest “big sins”-and the idea of NIDDAH is projected from the baptism pools for those who approach the LORD at Jerusalem]

(1) And it shall be **historical reality** in that day says the LORD of hosts “I will cause the names of the idols [*bx*] interestingly reaches to “pains of mind” and “of body”-those consequences in conscience and in health that accompany wrong beliefs] to be cut off from the land and they will not still be remembered. Such cleansing of lives and consciences will occur in the Messianic days and even in gospel times that believers cleansed by the blood of the Lamb of God will not remember their earlier follies so taken will they be with Christ. In millennial days such holiness and joy shall develop in Israel that the bad old eras will be forgotten.

(2) And I will also cause the prophets and unclean or contaminating spirit to pass from the land and it shall be **historical reality** that if and when a man shall still prophecy of or to himself his father and mother who parented him shall say to him “You will not live” for you are persisting to speak lies in the LORD’S name”. The express reason for this instruction to their rebellious son in an era of total fulfilment in Christ is given in Isaiah 66.24-worship of Christ will be of paramount importance and a solemn punishment for persistent rebellion is imposed-“a comatose or death state”. And his Father and mother that parented him shall stab him to death on account of his prophesying.

(3) And it shall be **historical reality** on that day –

- (a) The prophets shall be disgraced each man ashamed to make his prophecy from his vision and they will not clothe themselves in a hair mantle in order to continue to disavow or promote lies.

(b) But he shall say “I am no prophet-I am a man who looks after or serves the cultivated earth for *a common man* [mda] made me a cattle owner and trader from my youth.”

THREE AMAZING CHRISTOLOGICAL PROPHECIES

(1) THE ENQUIRY OF THE COMMON MAN ABOUT THE DEATH OF CHRIST

But he [*a common man*] said to him “Why are these calamitous wounds [twkm] in the middle of your arms?” and He will say “Because I was smitten or struck in the house of my amiable friends”.

(2) THE SWORD OF THE ROMAN IS TURNED ON CHRIST

“O sword awake against My Shepherd and against My Fellow My Warrior or Prevailer-cum-Associate” whispers the LORD of hosts “Strike the Shepherd and the flock will disperse or scatter” [xwp] *Flight is the natural reaction expressed by the future indicative “scatter”*

(3) THE RISEN LORD COMFORTS THE LITTLE FLOCK OR LITTLE ONES

“But I will cause my arm to be restored over “the little ones.” *In Luke 12 32 our LORD chides his disciples to hold true and have no fear. In John 13.33 our LORD treats his disciples with deep fondness using this “little ones” expression of Zechariah. The use of this prophecy by our LORD is advised and is indicative of His awareness of His forthcoming death and happy reunion with his own after His glorious resurrection.*

(4) “And it shall become *an historical reality* in the land” whispers the LORD “that two portions in it shall be severed and **expire** [wq] in it and the third portion will remain in it. And I will cause the third portion to come through fire and they will be purified ones as the purifying of silver and tested ones as the testing of gold. He (the third portion) will call on my name and I will answer him. I will say “He is my people and it (the third portion) will say “The LORD is my God” *So through an end time calamity the nation of Israel is decimated or rather decreased by two thirds. Some of the loss may well be accounted for by “severance” through the rapture but there is very substantial trauma and death forecast during the time of Jacob’s trouble. The remaining Jews will be a sublimely refined people.*

CHAPTER 14

THE DAY OF THE LORD-ALL NATIONS AT JERUSALEM 1-2

Behold the day that belongs to the LORD is coming and your plunder has been distributed in your midst. And I will gather all Gentile nations to Jerusalem for battle and the city shall be captured and the houses plundered and the women will be molested and half of the city will go captive and the remainder of the people will not be severed from the city.

THE DIVINE INITIATIVE IN BATTLE 3

Then the LORD will go and fight against those nations as the day they had to fight in the day of drawing near. *There is a grammatical error in the AV for it is the LORD that draws the engagement by His approach and it is “they” who are compelled to engage as in Exodus 15.3. So it is the Gentile horde that is compelled to fight.*

THE RETURNING CHRIST ON OLIVET WHICH MOVED NORTH SOUTH 4

And his feet shall stand upon the mount of Olives which is above the face of Jerusalem on the east and the Mount of Olives shall break open of itself or **be cleft** [*qb Niphal*] from the midst and from the east and west there will be a very great valley and half of the mountain will depart north and half southward. And you will flee the valley of my mountain for He will touch or “smite with force “[*gn*] the valley of the mountains to the place of joining or separating. [*l xa* indicates the mountain root or base].

THE RETURN OF SAINTS 5

And you will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah King of Judah and *the LORD my God will come and all His holy ones with You.*

THE SUN AND STARS ARE DIFFUSED 6

And it shall be *an historical fact* in that day there will not be splendid light-the splendid ones [*stars*] will be condensed or contract their light [*mmapqy twapqy*]

THE LIGHT FACTOR CHANGES 7a

And this one day is *an historical fact* known to the LORD. It will not be day and it will not be night.

LIGHT WITHOUT LUMINARIES GROWS [cf. rwa and rwam] 7b

It will be *an historical fact* that at the evening time there will be shining light [*rwa growing light*]

RIVERS RUN EAST & WEST FROM JERUSALEM 8a

And it shall be *an historical fact* in that day that living waters will proceed from Jerusalem half of them going out to the eastern sea [*the salt sea*] and half to the western sea.

THE FLOW OF BOTH RIVERS IS CONSTANT 8b

In summer and in autumn-winter *it will be historical fact.*

And it will be *an historical fact* that the LORD will belong to all the earth as its king in that day and there will be one LORD and his name one and alone.

A HUGE GEOGRAPHICAL CHANGE RENDERS JERUSALEM AN EXALTED CITY 10-11

All the land shall be changed [*bbs*] as the Arabah or Jordan valley from Geba to Rimmon [*120 miles of mountain heights from the Judean hill country 30 miles south west of Jerusalem to the heights just south of Nazareth will become a level plain*] and Jerusalem will be raised high and its position [*hytj t*] remain lofty or be inhabited entailing the gate of Benjamin onwards to the place of the first gate onwards to the gate of the corner and from the tower of Hananeel to the wine vats of the king. *The city of Jerusalem from this period will stand as a beacon in the grandest position of any earthly city-rising 2000 feet and perhaps considerably higher above sea level commanding views of the plain beneath-stretching 100 miles north and 30 to 40 west and 30 southwards. Well might we quote in full the Scottish 18th paraphrase*

(1781) which is based on Isaiah 2 2-5 but could equally well be an exposition of Zechariah 14 10 and this in praise of the historic events yet to come and the glory of the capitol of the millennium.

*Behold the mountain of the LORD in latter days shall rise
On mountain tops above the hills and draw our wondering eyes.*

*To this the joyful nations round-all tribes and tongues shall flow;
Up to the hill of God, they'll say and to His house we'll go*

*The beam that shines from Zion hill shall lighten every land;
The King who reigns in Salem's towers shall all the world command (v.9)*

*Among the nations He shall judge-His judgments truth shall guide;
His sceptre shall protect the just and quell the sinner's pride.*

*No strife shall rage nor hostile feuds disturb those peaceful years;
To ploughshares men shall beat their swords, to pruning hooks their spears*

*No longer hosts encountering hosts shall crowds of slain deplore;
They hang the trumpet in the hall and study war no more*

*Come then O house of Jacob come to worship at his shrine;
And walking in the light of God with holy beauties shine.*

And they will inhabit it and it is an historical fact that there will be no further total ruin but Jerusalem will be settled for safety or security or tranquillity.

RADIOACTIVE TYPE STRIKE ON INSURGENT NATIONS 12

And *this shall be the historical calamity* or disease with which the LORD shall strike all peoples who go to war against Jerusalem. To cause their flesh to melt flow or waste away and he is standing upon his two feet. And his two eyes will melt in each case in their holes or sockets [r#j] and his tongue will melt in each case in their mouths.

MILITARY CONFUSION IN THE LAST BATTLE 13

And *it shall be historic reality* that a great perturbation or wave of confusion [mwh—as mwh—“an ocean” or “moving wave” of tumult-akin to a rolling wave-but in the sky not the sea] will be among them and they will have to restrain each man the hand of his neighbour and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour.

JEW'S RETAKE JERUSALEM 14

And Judah also will fight in or at or for Jerusalem and all the wealth of the nations around shall be gathered together-gold silver and clothing in immense quantity.

ANIMAL FATE 15

And *historically* similar shall be the plague of the horse the mule the camel and the donkey and all the beasts that shall be in these army camps or droves-exactly as struck (men)

INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP OF THE LORD 16

And it shall be an *historic reality* that all the remainder from all nations that came up against Jerusalem shall go up as often as [*ydm*] from year to year to Jerusalem to the king the LORD of hosts to feast at the festival of tabernacles.

NON WORSHIPPERS HAVE NO RAINFALL 17

And it shall be *historic reality* when they will not go up to worship from the families of the earth to Jerusalem to the king the LORD of hosts –over them there shall be no heavy showers of rain.

EGYPTIAN OBDURACY PERSISTS 18-19

And if or when the family of Egypt will not go up and do not come there shall also *historically* not be rain upon them when the LORD will strike the nations that do not go up to observe the feast of tabernacles. This will be the sin of Egypt and the sin of all nations that they do not go up to the feast of tabernacles *This feast is an autumn feast and hallows for the millennium the abiding presence of the LORD among earth's peoples. It commemorates the coming of the King for 1000 years and it will be sin not to acknowledge that presence as it is sin not to put one's trust in Him who is preached in the gospel. This definition of sin is the best in the bible.*

EVERY HORSE IS THE LORDS-EVERY VESSEL IS HIS 20

In that day *historically* HOLINESS BELONGS TO THE LORD shall be on the round tingling bells of the horses and the (cooking) pots in the house of the LORD shall be as the dishes for sprinkling blood before the face of the altar.

EVERY VESSEL IS THE LORD'S-NO HEATHENISM REMAINS

And it shall be *historic reality* that every pot[*rns*] in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be HOLINESS TO THE LORD OF HOSTS and all those that make sacrifice shall take from them and cook therein *and historically* in that day there shall not be any more Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts in that day.

*Vessels only blessed Master yet with all thy wondrous power
Flowing through us wilt Thou use us every day and every hour!*

THE END

Bob Coffey L'shuvkha Marya
To the glory of the Lord
Aramaic Bible Companion