BIBLE CLASS 25.08.2022 ZECHARIAH CHAPTER 10

Dear brothers and sisters,

In this chapter Zechariah seek to persuade his people to return to Yahweh the God of Abraham who they had forsaken. This appeal is not meant for those Jews alone who returned to their homeland and their city Jerusalem but it is a message to the Jews who have been dispersed all over the world even until today. In Jeremiah Yahweh declares that his people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. (Jer 2:13). Note how the Almighty is likening himself to living water, for as water sustains life, so God is the giver of life. So Zechariah appeals to his people to ask of Yahweh rain, not literal rain but the outpouring of the truth of the Word of God, which teaches men and women how to live in ways that are pleasing to their Creator. Paul exhorts Titus to speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: (Tit 2:1)

Ezekiel speaks of a time when Israel will be cleansed from corruption and will turn again to the God of Abraham "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God". (Eze 36:25-28) Zechariah exhorts the Jews who returned from exile, to ask for rain in the time of the latter rain, that is the rain that swells the grain and nourishes the fruits and helps yield a good harvest. Spiritually the Word of Life will do this, when the Jewish people in Israel will be delivered from the Gogian forces which will seek to destroy them. This is described as Yahweh making bright clouds (an alternative translation is lightnings), this will be revealed through the activities of the Lord Jesus Christ and his saints. So Ezekiel predicts:- "And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, *even* my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. And I will raise up for them a plant of renown, and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land, neither bear the shame of the heathen any more. Thus shall they know that I the LORD their God *am* with them, and *that* they, *even* the house of Israel, *are* my people, says the Lord GOD. And you my flock, the flock of my pasture, *are* men, *and* I *am* your God, saith the Lord GOD. (Eze 34:29-31)

" And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them". (Eze 34:23-27)

So Zechariah links the showers with the flourishing of "grass in the field" But Moses in his song likens this to sound doctrine; "My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God." (Deut 32:2-3)

The prophet then focuses upon the idolatry of the Jews. The word for idols is 'teraphim'. These were small hand held idols, ownership of which implied authority and leadership over a family and the land they occupied. The Israelites adopted such idolatry in the days of the kings, but they certainly did not guarantee them any of the land they occupied, because the 10 tribes were expelled from their land by the Assyrians under Sargon, whereas Judea was overthrown by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar. None of the idols helped any of them. The diviners were liars and told false dreams and the flock of God's people suffered because there was no shepherd.

God's anger was kindled against the Shepherds and there were those who considered themselves such when Jesus was in Judea. Jesus said that the Scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, *that* observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. (Mat 23:1-7) They were nothing but goats!

Zechariah, according to the Revised Standard Version, writes **10:3** "My anger is hot against the shepherds, and I will punish the leaders; for the LORD of hosts cares for his flock, the house of Judah, and **<u>will make</u>** them like his proud steed in battle. (Zec 10:3 RSV) This is prophetic. In a way it has already begun. During the 20th century the Jews have passed from the experience of the ghetto to the gas chambers, to the establishment of the State of Israel, which has become a wealthy country the most powerful in the Middle East. The will be humbled by Gogue but they **will be revived** by the Lord Jesus who will make

them his goodly horse in battle so that Judah also will fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the surrounding nations will be gathered, gold and silver and garments in great abundance. (Zech. 14:14 NAS)
Judah was the predominant tribe, and it was Judah who shouldered the responsibility for the life of his father, to Joseph. Judah maintained the worship of Yahweh longer than any other tribe.

Judah will be cleansed, disciplined and regenerated and go forth with the saints and the Lord Jesus conquering and to conquer (Rev.6:2 & Rev:19-11-16) Out of Judah came forth the corner or cornerstone (NET,NAS, RSV) this refers to the Lord Jesus Christ as we can read in (**Eph 2:20)** "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;" The point is that every person who embraces the Truth must endeavour to align themselves with Christ Jesus in every aspect of their lives. Verse 4 "Out of him the nail" Isaiah speaks of Christ in his prophecy, "And I will fasten him *as* a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house. [24] And they shall hang upon him all the glory of his father's house. (Isa 22:23-24 KJV) Out of him the battle-bow is referred to in Psalm 45,a song about the Messiah and his Bride:-" Gird thy sword upon *thy* thigh, O *most* mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty. And in your majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness *and* righteousness; and your right hand shall teach you terrible things. Thine arrows *are* sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; *whereby* the people fall under thee. Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom *is* a right sceptre. You love righteousness, and hate wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." (Psa 45:4-7)

"Out of Judah comes every oppressor together", should read 'every ruler' suggesting the 'king-priests" the saints who will direct the affairs of mankind during the millennium, the thousand year reign of Christ on earth.
The conflict that will be waged between the repentant Jews strengthened by the saints will be disastrous for those who attempt to destroy them, for they will be overcome at every confrontation. Remember the power of Elijah, "And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I *be* a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. (2Ki 1:12) Zechariah describes them as mighty *men*, who tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the LORD *is* with them, and the riders on horses shall be confounded. (Zec 10:5) Modern warfare dispensed with horses a hundred years ago, but they have been replaced with machines and equipped with more powerful weapons, but in fact the results will be far more

disastrous with little hope of survival for the operators. In this war the Jews will fight because Yahweh is with them(v.5) manifest through the Lord Jesus and his glorified followers who will repeat the victory experienced by Moses over Pharaoh.

At this juncture Yahweh says through the prophet, “I will strengthen the house of Judah **and I will** save the house of Joseph. “Joseph” refers to the Jews and Israelites who will have been regathered and enlightened and cleansed by the hand of Elijah and these will be restored to the cleansed nation of Israel. God promised this to David, “Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them anymore, as beforetime, (2Sa 7:10) Through Zechariah, Yahweh promises, “I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I will have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I *am* the LORD their God, and will hear them”. (Zec 10:6)

Further God promises:- And *they of* Ephraim shall be like a mighty *man*, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see *it*, and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD. (Zec 10:7) The northern tribes carried into captivity are not conspicuous, in fact they are referred to as the lost tribes, from time to time you might meet an Israeli who might inform you I am not a Jew, some will inform you of their tribal origin. There will be movement of Jews and associates wanting to return to Israel as they hear of the success being achieved by the surviving Jews, they will not know necessarily of the great change that has taken place in the land though they will know of destruction of the Russian confederacy. The European countries will almost certainly take steps against people intending to get to the land of Israel. Ezekiel 20:33 indicates this “As I live, says the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, says the Lord GOD. And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD. (Eze 20:33-38)

Many however will be purified and v8 speaks of Yahweh hissing or as the Hebrew is whistling or piping as though calling the flock of sheep together, and these Israelites will respond as God says “I have redeemed them and they shall increase”. Jews and Israelites will be brought out of all the lands of their dispersion, from Egypt, and Assyria and they will be brought to an enlarged Israel extending to the boundaries that were promised from the Nile to the Euphrates.

A new order of rulers, the glorified followers of the Lord Jesus Christ will take over the Government of the nations, and the type of Joseph’s elevation to the throne of Egypt will be fulfilled in the greater King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

DHH