

Prophetic Fall Feasts of The LORD
August 7, 2019 Lesson #30 Campaign of Armageddon

Hab. 2:2-4 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. ³ For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

⁴ Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

- They were to wait for the vision to be fulfilled.
- The timing of the deliverance is fixed in the counsel and decree of God.
- You will be delivered from the Babylonians.
- God has spoken. You are to have faith in God and wait!

Steven Cole: Zechariah 11 predicts Israel's rejection of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and her subjection during the Tribulation to the worthless shepherd.

Zech. 11:17 Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.

This will plunge the nation into a time of severe testing, described in Jeremiah 30:5-7:

For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.

⁶ Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?

⁷ Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.

In the last days God is going to do something far more radical. Dan. 12:1 states that the last days would lead to a *'time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then.'*

Echoing this, Jesus spoke of that time saying that:

Matt. 24:21 *'there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now-- and never to be equaled again.'*

Luke 21:26 and *'men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken.'*

There is turmoil amongst the nations. "Look at the nations and watch - and be utterly amazed."

Keep watching as we approach the last days and the return of Jesus Christ for even greater 'shakings' and 'upheavals' occurring amongst the nations.

This time of testing culminates in the Battle or Campaign of Armageddon.

Habakkuk 3:3-15

This very revelation is the subject of Habakkuk 3 - the coming of the Messiah to rescue His people and judge the earth. It foretells a far greater judgment, and a far greater revival, await the nation of Israel during the Tribulation period.

Hab. 3:3a God came from Teman, The Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah

- Some scholars: Mt. Paran is another name for the entire Mt. Sinai Peninsula or for Mt. Sinai itself.
- Teman is identified with Edom.
- Habakkuk seems to be retracing the march of Israel from Sinai to the Promised Land.

Hab. 3:3b His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.

Henry Morris - Habakkuk refers partially to God's leading His people in their Exodus from Egypt, with the veiled revelation of His glory on Mount Sinai. However, the dramatic events described following the "Selah" pause did not take place at that time. The literal fulfillment must be at His glorious coming following the Great Tribulation of the end-times. It seems that Habakkuk's prophetic vision, on which his psalm is based, contains a blending of both God's past miraculous deliverances of His people and also the future deliverances of which these had been a type.

Hab. 3:4 And his brightness was as the light; he had horns [rays] coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.

Verses 3 & 4 reveal the glory of God.

- Called The Holy One: name used at least 30 times in Isaiah
- His glory covered the heavens is an anticipation of the time when His glory will cover all the earth. [Hab. 2:14]
- God's appearance was like lightning that plays across the heavens before the storm breaks.
- All of creation joined in praising Him as "the earth was full of His praise."
- God's brightness was like the sunrise only to a greater degree. [Matt. 17:2]
- Rays flashed from His hand where His power was hidden.

Hab. 3:5 Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet.

- Takes us to Egypt where God revealed His power & glory in the plagues and pestilences that devastated the land and took the lives of the firstborn.
- The 10 plagues were punishment because of Pharaoh's hardness of heart.
- They also revealed the vanity of Egypt's gods.

Ex. 12:12; Ps. 78:50 and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

Hab. 3:1-2 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth. O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.

LXX = O Lord, I have heard Thy report, and was afraid: I considered Thy works, and was amazed: Thou shalt (future tense) be known between the two living creatures, (frequently referred to as He that dwelleth between the 2 cherubim)- Thou shalt (future tense) be

acknowledged when the years draw nigh; Thou shalt (future tense) be manifested when the time is come; when my soul is troubled, Thou wilt in wrath remember mercy.

This is a prayer to God to fulfill that final judgment for sin that will occur at the second coming of the Messiah. Habakkuk was transported, in a vision, to a prophetic period just before the second coming. Habakkuk sees himself as a member of the faithful remnant during the Tribulation period. Representing this faithful remnant, Habakkuk says, "I have heard the report." This "report: is the good news of the 2nd coming of the Messiah. In the context of Revelation, the faithful remnant could have heard this report from 2 possible sources. One is the preaching of the 144,000 Jews of Revelation 7 who will be evangelizing during this period and preaching the gospel of the messianic kingdom to be established at the 2nd coming. The other possible source is the testimony of the 2 witnesses in Revelation 11:3. Habakkuk then says, "I fear" because in conjunction with this report, he knew there were more judgments to come before the second coming. He then adds, "O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years." Many believe the word "years" refers to the 7 years of the Tribulation, during which there will be a temporary cessation of the divine judgments of God. In the middle of the Tribulation, there will be a temporary calm during which no divine judgments will be poured out of heaven.

Then there will be a third series of judgments, the bowl judgments of Rev. 16, toward the latter part of the second half of the Tribulation. Speaking on behalf of the faithful remnant who had heard the report of these coming judgments, Habakkuk is now praying for God to revive His work, the bowl judgments. But at the same time, he is fearful, and he pleads, "In wrath remember mercy."

The two climactic events of the Great Tribulation are the Campaign of Armageddon and the Second Coming of Jesus the Messiah. The basis of the Second Coming of Messiah is Israel's national regeneration. Until Israel as a nation is saved; until Israel as a nation looks to the One whom they have pierced; until Israel as a nation cries out for Him to return with the words: Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord; there will be no Second Coming (Lev. 26:40-42; Jer. 3:12-18; Hos. 5:15-6:3; Zech. 12:10; Mt. 23:37-39).

If we understand the basis of the Second Coming of Messiah, we can understand the theological foundations of anti-Semitism. Satan knows that once Jesus returns, his career is over. He also knows there will be no Second Coming until the Jewish people ask the Messiah to return. Therefore, if Satan could succeed in destroying the Jews once and for all before they have a chance to plead for Jesus to return, there would be no Second Coming and his career would then be eternally safe. Throughout the centuries and Jewish history, Satan has had this perpetual war against the Jews seeking to try to destroy them at every opportunity. This explains Jewish persecutions of the centuries; it explains the Holocaust under Nazi Germany; and it explains the unique activities of Satan during the Tribulation.

During the second half of the Tribulation, Satan will be confined to the earth (Rev. 12:7-12). Once Satan is confined to this earth he knows his time is short (Rev. 12:12), and his persecution of the Jews escalates (Rev. 12:17). The persecution of the Jews will begin in the middle of the Tribulation and continue until we come to the beginning points of the Campaign of Armageddon, towards the end of the Tribulation. During the period of the persecutions of the Jewish people, approximately two thirds of the Jewish population will be killed, but one third will be left in the closing days, weeks, or months of the Tribulation. The Campaign of Armageddon is specifically organized by Satan for the purpose of annihilating once and for all the one-third Remnant of the Jewish people still living.

During the seven years of the Tribulation, there will be two distinct political systems: one for each half of the Tribulation.

- During the first half of the Tribulation, ten men will rule the political affairs of the world co-equally.
- But in the middle of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will declare war against these ten kings. In the course of this war, he will succeed in killing three of them, and the other seven will submit to his authority.
- At that point the Antichrist will institute the second political system of the second half of the Tribulation; that of him being the one-world political ruler.

There will also be two distinct religious systems: one for each half of the Tribulation.

- The religious system of the first half of the Tribulation is described in Rev. 17 in terms of "ecclesiastical" Babylon. There will be a unification of all false denominations and all false religions into a one-world super-religious system. This one-world super-religious system will control the religious affairs of the world during the first half of the Tribulation. Those who do not submit to its religious authority will suffer persecution.
- In the middle of the Tribulation and after the Antichrist takes over political control, he will himself destroy this one-world religious system. He will take over the Jewish Temple; seat himself in the Holy of Holies of the Jewish Temple; and declare himself to be the one true god.
- Thus, the religious system of the second half of the Tribulation will be the worship of the Antichrist. Those who accept him as God must signify it by taking his mark.

Result: From the middle of the Tribulation until the point of Armageddon during this period of tremendous Jewish persecution, one man will serve as both the one-world political ruler and the one-world religious ruler.

The Campaign of Armageddon can be divided into eight distinct stages. The area is located in northern Israel about 50 miles north of Jerusalem.

THE FIRST STAGE: THE ASSEMBLING OF THE ALLIES OF THE ANTICHRIST

- ❖ Involves the armies of the whole world; part of Battle of Armageddon
- ❖ 3 forces are involved in the gathering of this great army.

1. The nations agree to cooperate in their fight against God and His people.
Ps. 2:1-3 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, ³ Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

- ❖ The gathering of the nations is presented as a gathering against God the Father and His Anointed, the Messiah Jesus.
- ❖ By seeking to destroy the Jews, Satan is also seeking to break the cords of God's control of the world. How foolish!

Ps. 2:4-6 God is portrayed as sitting in the heavens and laughing, because He will soon have these nations in confusion. It is God who will set His own king upon Zion, and Satan and the Antichrist will not be able to prevent it. Although the nations will assemble to carry out the program of the counterfeit trinity, they will actually accomplish the purpose of the Triune God.

The Campaign of Armageddon will begin with the sixth bowl judgment.

Rev. 16:12 Then the sixth poured out his bowl upon the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

- ❖ Make it easier for the Antichrist to assemble his forces for the Armageddon Campaign
- ❖ Make it easier for his Babylonian forces to maneuver.

2. Satan uses demonic powers to influence the nations to gather.

Rev. 16:13-14 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. [Satanic Trinity]
¹⁴ 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.

- The summons will be reinforced by demonic activity to make sure that the nations will indeed cooperate in assembling their armies together.
- These demonic messengers will be empowered to perform signs in order to assure compliance and defeat any reluctance on the part of the other kings to fall into line.
- These are the seven kings who have been under the authority of the Antichrist since the middle of the Tribulation. [described in Daniel 7:24 27 and Revelation 17:12- 13]
Their goal will be the final destruction of the Jews.

3. The Lord exercises His sovereign powers in gathering them. God's Perspective:
Joel 3:9-16 Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: ¹⁰ Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. ¹¹ Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. ¹⁵ The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their

shining. ¹⁶ 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.

God's viewpoint is one of mockery. The nations are encouraged to go ahead and turn their farming equipment into weapons of war. Let the weak persuade themselves and pretend that they are strong.

This gathering of the armies of the nations in the Valley of Jezreel will be the first stage. The Valley of Jezreel, guarded by the Mountain of Megiddo, will merely serve as the military gathering ground for the armies of the Antichrist with the battle beginning elsewhere.

THE SECOND STAGE: THE DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON

Summary: While the Antichrist will move his forces into the Valley of Jezreel, his enemies will take the opportunity to destroy the city of Babylon quickly and suddenly.

Rev. 18:8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

Just prior to this, however, the Jews will be warned to flee out of Babylon.

Rev. 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

They will make their way to Jerusalem to report to the Jews who are there.

This sudden destruction of the world political and economic capital will cause great consternation on the earth, but not in Heaven.

For when Babylon's destruction comes, it will signal that the Second Coming will occur soon, and along with it the regeneration and restoration of Israel.

THE THIRD STAGE: THE FALL OF JERUSALEM

Although the Antichrist will have all his allied forces with him when he receives the news that his capital city has been destroyed, he does not move eastward to destroy his enemies.

Satan, who will be in control, has one purpose uppermost in his mind: Jewish destruction.

So instead of moving east, the Antichrist will move south against Jerusalem.

Zechariah described this third stage in two places.

Charles Feinberg comments on the exceptional importance of Zechariah 12-14. "As a portion of the prophetic Scriptures it is second to none in importance in this book or in any other Old Testament book. It is indispensable to an understanding of the events of the last days for Israel—the time of the Great Tribulation and the establishment of God's kingdom on earth."

- ❖ Zech. 12-14 contains the second "burden" that the prophet received from God.
- ❖ Burden means a message from God that is weighted with important words of judgment and deliverance.
- ❖ This burden focuses on Israel and specifically on Jerusalem. [22x in these chapters]
- ❖ The phrase "that day" occurs 17 x and "the nations" occurs 14x.
- ❖ God remembers His immutable covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and in His great covenant love [lovingkindnes]) or [hesed love] He will not forget His Chosen People.

- ❖ This points to the period of time when God brings His purpose for Israel and the nations to culmination.
- ❖ This burden is "the judgment through which Israel itself is sifted and purged in the final conflict with the nations and transformed into the holy nation of Jehovah."
- ❖ In these 3 chapters, God is giving us a unified message concerning the nation of Israel: They will be Redeemed, Refined & Restored
- ❖ Zechariah 12-14 describes the return of Messiah, the conversion of Israel and the establishment of the Kingdom of God.

Jerusalem Will Be Attacked

Zech. 12:1-3 The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. ² Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. ³ And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

- ❖ This oracle opens with an affirmation of God's sovereignty and power.
- ❖ Note the emphasis on "all nations" and "all people."

Zech. 14:1-2 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. ² 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.

- ❖ Jerusalem will be overrun BEFORE the Lord intervenes. The enemies are dividing the spoil from Jerusalem in its streets. They think they have defeated the Jews.

Note: To describe Jerusalem's situation "in that day," Zechariah used the images of a cup and a stone.

- Cup in the Bible is a familiar image for judgment.
- The nations plan to "swallow up" Jerusalem, but when they begin to "drink the cup," its contents make them sick and drunk.
- Some of the enemy soldiers will enter the city, loot it, abuse the women and take $\frac{1}{2}$ the inhabitants captive.
- The Gentiles' hopes of destroying the city and the nation will be disappointed.
- The Lord will make Jerusalem like an immovable rock that won't yield.
- This STONE will eventually cut the invading armies to pieces.
- All this will merely fulfill the will of God and accomplish His purposes. [Rev. 17:17]

Once again, Jerusalem will fall into Gentile hands, and half of the Jewish population will be taken into slavery while the other half will be allowed to remain in the city to await a later fate. The capture of Jerusalem by the forces of the Antichrist will not come easily.

God will greatly energize the Jews to withstand the attack to a great degree, causing heavy losses to the armies of the Antichrist.

The empowerment of the Jewish forces is described in Zechariah 12:4-9:

These verses describe God's providential dealings at this stage of the Campaign of Armageddon prior to the actual intervention by the personal return of Jesus the Messiah.

In the battle for Jerusalem, the Jewish military leaders will be so energized that they appear to strike down the enemy as quickly as a torch begins to burn up wood that is very dry.

The feeble among the Jews take on the strength of David, and the David's among them take on the strength of the Angel of Jehovah.

This energizing of the Jewish forces in the battle for Jerusalem is further described in Micah 4:11-5:1: The nations will be assembled against Jerusalem (v. 11) for the purpose of destroying it. But in the course of doing so, these nations will become like sheaves on the threshing-floor (v. 12), and the Jewish forces will be able to thresh them well. However, the battle will be lost, and the Gentiles will capture Jerusalem and symbolize it by smiting Jerusalem's leader on the cheek (v. 1). After such heavy fighting and great losses, the soldiers of the Antichrist will plunder the Jewish homes of Jerusalem, and Jewish women will be subjected to massive rapes (Zech. 14:2). With this, the third stage will come to an end.

Zechariah = God Remembers

In Zechariah 1:14, we read that God was "jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy."

❖ This statement reveals the yearning heart of a loving Father for His firstborn. [Ex. 4:22]

❖ It reveals the desire of a faithful Husband for His unfaithful bride. [Jer. 2:2]

Zech. 1:15-16 And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction. ¹⁶ Therefore thus saith the LORD; I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it, saith the LORD of hosts, and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem.