THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST
Part Two

Last week I stood once again on the Mount of Olives on Jerusalem's east side and taught the group with me from Acts 1:

Acts 1:1-11

The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, [2] Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: [3] To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: [4] And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. [5] For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. [6] When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? [7] And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. [8] But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. [9] And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. [10] And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; [11] Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

This event, prophesied in both the Old and New Testaments, concerns the SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST TO THIS EARTH. I will be a part of that momentous event - as will every born-again child of God. It will be the time that will forever change the face of the entire world! Jesus is returning to institute His glorious 1,000 year reign on this very planet - His headquarters or capital will be in Jerusalem!

Zechariah, that venerable Old Testament prophet, clearly foresaw this event and described it in considerable detail long ago - 2500 years ago, as a matter of fact. How
will the world see Him? For many in Israel it will not at first be a happy occasion:

Zech. 12:3-14

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. [4] In that day, saith the Lord, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness. [5] And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength in the Lord of hosts their God.

[6] In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem. [7] The Lord also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah. [8] In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the Lord before them.

[9] And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. [10] And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. [11] In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon (Megiddo) in the valley of Megiddon (Armageddon). [12] And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; [13] The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart; [14] All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.

“One reason why this section of scripture is so important is that this area of prophecy is rejected today by many Bible expositors – even by so-called conservative expositors. They will not face up to the fact that God presents here a panoramic program of His purposes with this world and with Israel in the future. That is a sad thing to say, but it is true. We also have some teachers who are called fundamentalists but who border on the sensational and lift out certain statements from this section. I don’t think that it is honest to lift certain things out of a passage and try to fit them into the events of today when they have to do with the future. Any interpretation must fit into the entire program that Zechariah is presenting.” — THRU THE BIBLE / MCGEE / VOL. 3 / PAGE 971 / NELSON PUBL.
A brief word about this prophet before examining his vision. There are 12 books of the Old Testament known as “minor prophets.” The word “minor” is not because their writings are less important than others, but rather that their books are shorter. Those books are:

- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

It strikes me as interesting that Zechariah’s prophecies so closely tie in with those of Daniel and Ezekiel, as well as John’s in Revelation. Speaking of which, it is interesting, in passing to me, that Daniel and Ezekiel were born in the land of Israel but wrote their books outside of it. Zechariah was born outside of the land down by the canals of Babylon in Iraq but he wrote his book in Israel. Daniel, Ezekiel and John were all outside Israel when they wrote. Only Zechariah was in that land when he wrote his apocalyptic visions.

* Apocalypse = Bible writings that spoke of the end of time as God sees it

We believe that Zechariah so agitated the “powers that be” in his time that he was murdered (martyred) in the very Temple itself.

Why should we believe anything this man wrote? Because many of his prophecies have already come true. For example, 500 years before the fact, Zechariah wrote:

Zech. 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

The Gospels relate that it happened when Jesus entered Jerusalem for the final time.
before His crucifixion and that he wrote an ass down the Mount of Olives from Bethany to the eastern wall of Jerusalem. We walked down that very road just a few days ago!

REAL PEOPLE / REAL PLACES / REAL TIME

That was my theme to those who were with me in Israel this year. It should be the theme of every good, solid, honest history teacher as well. (Today we have many in media and academia who twist history to suit their own agenda. This is patently dishonest. It’s called historical revisionism.) Every place we were in Israel I stressed to our pilgrims,

1) This is the place where people in Biblical times actually lived and moved
2) These geographic place are real — not fictional
3) We know exactly when they happened

REAL PEOPLE / REAL PLACES / REAL TIME

ZECHARIAH DISPROVES SUPERSESSIONISM ONCE AND FOR ALL

While in Israel a couple weeks ago I came across a professor in one of our main Christian universities who told me that the president of that institution is of the mind that God is done with the Jews. This is also called “replacement theology.” That is absolute heresy as Zechariah takes great pains to clarify.

In the Gospels we learn that Jesus came to this world to seek and save the lost. He was rejected as the Good Shepherd who came to give His life for the sheep. But He is returning in absolute authority to this world and will bring peace. Isaiah 9:6

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.* He alone can accomplish this. Jesus has a plan and the power to implement it. This will take place following THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. And look where He will headquarter: Zech. 8:3

*Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion* (another name for Israel), *and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain.*

I appreciate J. Vernon McGee’s commentary on supersessionism: *The reason that many folk in our day think that God has no future purpose with Israel is that they don’t believe that God means what He says. They do not have a very high view of the inspiration of Scripture. The very center of God’s plan as we see in Zechariah 12 is Jerusalem. In the last three chapters of his book, he mentioned Jerusalem 21 times. God would not have used it that many times unless He meant literal Jerusalem. He was not talking*
about London or Paris or Berlin or Moscow or Beijing. He was speaking about the actual city of Jerusalem.

And note this observation from Unger’s Bible Commentary on Zechariah: Only a literal application of these prophecies to the restoration and conversion of the Jewish nation at the second advent of Christ can satisfy the scope of these prophetic disclosures. Other interpretations ignore the true scope of Zechariah’s prophecies as a whole violate the immediate context, resort to pointless mysticalizing and end up in a morass of uncertainty and confusion. (Page 221)

CHAPTER 14

We learned in chapter 12 that some really tough times will hit Jerusalem and Israel during the Tribulation period of seven years. Scripture says that time will be so brutal that if God did not arbitrarily end it no one would be left alive on the planet. BUT GOD DOES INTERVENE and the center of his intervention is Israel:

Zech. 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God.

As chapter 14 opens, it would seem that Israel is doomed, that Satan’s plan for total annihiilation of the human race and the planet is about to happen. But see what happens:

Zech. 14:1-12 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. [3] Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

[4] And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. [5] And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal (a place near Jerusalem); yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. [6] And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: [7] But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be
light. [8] And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. [9] And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one. [10] All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba (a few miles north of Jerusalem) to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel (a tower located at the time of this writing on the northeast corner of old Jerusalem) unto the king's winepresses. [11] And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.

[12] And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.

I once saw a billboard with this message on it: JESUS IS COMING BACK TO THIS EARTH AND, BOY, IS HE TORQUED!

It seems that daily public opinion turns against the nation of Israel. This hatred of Israel, fomented by Satan himself as clearly indicated in Revelation, chapter 12, will increase until there is a major attack against Jerusalem near the end of the Tribulation period. Some Jews will be able to escape - perhaps to the rock-hewn city of Petra in Jordan or even Masada once again. But those dastardly invaders will pay a terrible price for their uprising against the Holy City of Jerusalem.

I fear for any nation or administration that lifts its hand against Jerusalem. Our administration wants Jerusalem divided. God forbid!

Verse 3 informs us that “the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations!” As David wrote so long ago, their help will come from the Lord. Jesus Himself will come to earth to secure the victory.

Again I state: THE BIBLE IS ABOUT ‘REAL PEOPLE’ IN ‘REAL PLACES’ AND IN ‘REAL TIME’! As I stood on the Mount of Olives the other day, I trembled inwardly to think that this is the very ‘landing spot’ for the King of Kings!

ONE LANGUAGE!
This is a panorama of the Garden Tomb in north Jerusalem, taken by Pastor Betzer just last week. It is one of two sites commonly accepted as the possible, if indeed not probable, sites of Jesus’ resurrection. This site is far more peaceful and beautiful than the other, which is the traditional church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Zeph. 3:9

For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent.

What language will that be? Pastor Tito Gonzales always tells me it will be Spanish. At the Tower of Babel God instituted a plethora of languages: Genesis 11:7-9 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. [8] So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. [9] Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

Imagine: going anywhere in the world and only one language will be spoken under the reign of the King of Kings.

In verse 10, Zechariah prophesied that the land around Jerusalem would be a plain. It surely isn’t now. It is incredibly rugged as these old feet of mine can attest from last week. When Jesus’ arrival comes on the Mount of Olives, we know the ridge will split in two, causing immense topographic changes across that ancient land.
I am often asked if it’s safe to go to Jerusalem. I have felt safe there for four decades; however, the time will come when, for a short period, it apparently will not be safe. But in verse 11 the prophet assures us that when Jesus reigns “Jerusalem will be safely inhabited,” as will the rest of the world.

Jerusalem will become the commercial and political capital and center of the world. In verse 14 we read that the wealth of the world will be brought into it.

I am surprised each year as I go to Jerusalem how much it has changed and improved from the previous year. When you visit Arab or Palestinian cities, with the exception of Amman, Jordan, you will find the support systems of those cities - the roads, the public transportation, the cleanliness, etc., sorely lacking. As much as I enjoy Cairo, it is not a very clean place. Damascus is even worse. But in Jerusalem, the improvements are radical year after year. Think what it will be like when Jesus makes it His capital. Note what Zechariah prophesied in this regard: Zech. 14:14 .... and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance.

THE STATE OF THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS IN THE MILLENNIUM

How interesting that under our Lord’s great commission we believers take the gospel to the ends of the earth. But in the Millennium, the nations will come to Jerusalem as the center of worship of our Lord:

Zech. 14:16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

What is the Feast of Tabernacles? It is one of the three primary feasts observed by Jews, this one to commemorate how they were delivered from Egypt and moved across the deserts while living in temporary tents or brush arbors.

Now here is two fascinating verses:

Zech. 14:20-21

In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar. [21] Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the Lord of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the Lord of hosts.
I took this photo of the Jordan River last week. I circled the area where we baptized about 30-some people, including a group of five from Mexico who happened by and requested immersion. To the top of the picture and out of sight is the south end of the Sea of Galilee. This baptismal site was made possible by the tourism department of the Israeli government.

Zechariah used that phrase “bells of horses” to indicate that EVERYTHING in the Millennium will be for the service of God. It would be interesting to know today what percentage of the world’s gross national product (GNP) is used for God. I daresay it would be an infinitesimal percentage.

There is a devastating last line in Zechariah’s prophecy: Zech. 14:21 ....in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the Lord of hosts.

That simply makes clear that there will be NO OPPOSITION to God from any source whatsoever. All will serve and worship God. No judges will be asked for permission; no social committee will be consulted. This is the Kingdom of the King!

THE HOLY MOUNTAIN IN JERUSALEM

Today the visual earmark of Jerusalem is the gold-domed Mosque of Omar (also known as “The Dome of the Rock.” It sits on Jerusalem’s east side and is the “third most holy site” of Islam. I regret using “holy” and “Islam” in the same sentence. This monstrous structure was erected 1400 years ago to celebrate some fictitious event in the life of Mohammed. Strange - never one time in the Koran is Jerusalem ever mentioned. This
This is the infamous Mosque of Omar. I shot this picture just a few days ago while on the Temple Mount. I do not find it beautiful. The Arzbiic inscription that surrounds the dome denies that Jesus is the Son of God. John reminds us that's the spirit of Antichrist.

building is a violation of everything sacred to a follower of Christ because:

1) This is the spot where Abraham offered Isaac, whose life was spared when God gave a ram to the patriarch for sacrifice. This is Mount Moriah.

2) This is the spot where King Solomon erected the first Temple about 3,000 years ago, later destroyed in 586 B.C. by the Babylonians.

3) This is where King Herod the Great erected the magnificent Temple of Jesus' time, destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D.

4) This is the ridge - a part of which is Mount Calvary, where Jesus died on the cross.

As Zechariah made clear in our study tonight, when Jesus returns the Mount of Olives will split in two. That geological rift cuts right under the Dome of the Rock and it will be leveled in less time than it takes to type this sentence. And from there Jesus will reign for a thousand years.

So let the heathen rage. Let governments blithely dismiss the legitimacy of Jerusalem. All these things will be settled WHEN JESUS RETURNS.
Next week we will spotlight THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT.

On the last page of these notes you will find a full page picture of the famed model of Jerusalem, on display always as the Israeli Museum.

This is a very large model (which probably would not fit in this sanctuary) showing Jerusalem as it was in Jesus' time. Feel free to make notes on it while I show the picture on the screen and guide you through it.

Note carefully the size of the Temple (this is the second Temple built by King Herod, the one that Jesus knew). This is where the Dome of the Rock now stands.
Jerusalem From the S.E.