

CHRIST'S KINGDOM ON EARTH

BIBLE TEXT : Zechariah 6:12, 13; 12:9, 10; 14:4-21.

LESSON 428 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "He shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both" (Zechariah 6:13).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Zechariah 6:12-13

12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name *is* The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:

13 Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.

Zechariah 12:9-10

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.

Zechariah 14:4

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.

Zechariah 14:21

21 Yea, every pot in Jerusalem

Bible References:

I Prophecies of Christ's Second Coming

1. Words spoken of Joshua, the priest, and the re-establishment of worship at Jerusalem are prophecies of Christ and His coming kingdom, Zechariah 6:12, 13;

Zechariah 3:8

⁸ Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they *are* men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.

Zechariah 3:9

⁹ For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone *shall be* seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

II Revelation of Christ

1. When Jerusalem shall be surrounded by the armies of the world, the Jews will cry out for their Messiah and Jesus will come in His Revelation, Zechariah 12:9, 10; 14:1-3;

Malachi 3:2

² But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he *is* like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

Malachi 3:6

⁶ For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Christ's appearance shall be at the Mount of Olives, Zechariah 14:4;

Acts 1:9-12

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 stedfastly 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.

¹² Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

3. There will be a tremendous earthquake and the Mount of Olives will split apart, forming a great valley, Zechariah 14:4, 5.

4. At the appearance of the Lord, His saints will be with Him, Zechariah 14:5;

Revelation 17:14

¹⁴ These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.

Revelation 19:11-16

¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

¹² His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

¹³ And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and see the therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.

¹⁴ And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

¹⁶ And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Jude 1:14

¹⁴ And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

5. Tremendous phenomena of nature will accompany Christ's coming, Zechariah 14:6-8;

Psalm 50:3-4

³ Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.

⁴ He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.

Matthew 24:29-30

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Mark 13:24-25

²⁴ But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

²⁵ And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

Revelation 6:12-17

¹² And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

¹³ And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

¹⁴ And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

¹⁶ And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

¹⁷ For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Revelation 16:18-21

¹⁸ And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, *and so* great.

¹⁹ And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

²⁰ And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

²¹ And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, *every* stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

III Millennial Reign of Christ

1. Christ shall reign supreme over the whole earth, Zechariah 14:9;

Psalm 22:27

²⁷ All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

Philippians 2:10-11

¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

¹¹ And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. The armies of the world will be defeated and Jerusalem will be a safe dwelling place, Zechariah 14:10-15;

Jeremiah 23:5-6

⁵ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

⁶ In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Revelation 19:11-21

¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

¹² His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

¹³ And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

¹⁴ And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

¹⁶ And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

¹⁸ That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men*, both free and bond, both small and great.

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

²¹ And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which *sword* proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

3. All nations shall come to worship at Jerusalem or be punished, Zechariah 14:16-19;

Zechariah 8:20

²⁰ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; *It shall yet come to pass*, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities:

Zechariah 8:23

²³ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days *it shall come to pass*, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard *that God is with you*.

Isaiah 66:23

²³ And it shall come to pass, *that* from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

Micah 4:1-2

¹ But in the last days it shall come to pass, *that* the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

² And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Habakkuk 2:14

¹⁴ For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

4. HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD will be the watchword throughout that glorious period, Zechariah 14:20, 21;

1 Thessalonians 3:13

¹³ To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Notes:

Not too much is known of the Prophet Zechariah. During the time of the Babylonian captivity, Zechariah was one of those who returned to Jerusalem for the purpose of rebuilding the Temple. The Jews were poor and feeble and the foreign oppressor was still strong and powerful. As a result, despondency and gloom had threatened the enthusiasm of the returned exiles. To encourage their faith in God, and to revive enthusiasm in the rebuilding of the Temple and the re-establishment of worship was the task of Zechariah. In so doing he gives some of the most glorious Messianic promises and some of the most detailed prophecies of the coming of the Messiah in His Revelation that are contained in the Word of God.

The Branch

Zechariah is instructed to adorn the high priest, Joshua, with crowns made of silver and gold and to proclaim him as a type of The Branch. Joshua was to carry to completion the building of the Temple and be installed as the ruling priest. From Zechariah 3:8, 9, we learn that the LORD JEHOVAH is the BRANCH, and He is to be brought forth and will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. As Joshua was encouraged to rebuild the Temple and re-establish the true worship in Jerusalem, so shall the true High Priest, Jesus Christ, someday come back to this earth to establish His Kingdom and rule and reign in this earth.

Tremendous Events Prophesied

During Zechariah's lifetime and in the history of Israel, there had been much persecution and sorrow for God's chosen people. But as Zechariah was inspired of the Holy Ghost to write, he spoke of a time of trouble for Israel, which was far greater than they had ever had. In fact, it was to be a time when all the armies of the world should be gathered together against Jerusalem, and the city itself be so ravished that only half the population would be left in the city. Before these great events take place, we know

from other prophecies that the Bride of Christ will have been taken out of the earth and will be enjoying the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. During this blessed time for the saints, the Great Tribulation will be in full force here on earth. The times of the Gentiles will be fulfilled; but in this time of great tribulation the Jews will finally call out for their Messiah.

At the start of this tribulation the Jews will fare quite well because they will make a covenant with the "prince that shall come," the antichrist. But as prophesied by Daniel, the antichrist will break that covenant in the midst of the tribulation (**Daniel 9:27** ²⁷ And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.). He will turn against the Jews and will sit in the Temple and show himself as God (**2 Thessalonians 2:4** ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.).

The world in general will have great tribulation such as has never before been known, but for the Jews it will be even worse. The Jews will have sorrow such as they have never had in all their sorrowful history, in fact two-thirds of all the Jews then living will die (**Zechariah 13:8** ⁸ And it shall come to pass, *that* in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off *and* die; but the third shall be left therein.). In this time known as Jacob's trouble, the remnant of the Jews shall cry out to the Lord and they will accept Christ as their Messiah. "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" (Zechariah 12:10).

When they see the marks of Calvary in Jesus' hands they will ask, "What are these wounds in thine hands?" Then he shall answer, "Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends" (Zechariah 13:6). It will have been through awful suffering that this last one-third of the Jews who are left living will turn to Christ and be saved (**Zechariah 13:8** ⁸ And it shall come to pass, *that* in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off *and* die; but the third shall be left therein.). "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" (Zechariah 13:9).

The Revelation

When the Lord Jesus comes back to this earth at the Revelation He shall stand on the Mount of Olives, the very place from which He ascended into Heaven; but He comes this time as a mighty conquering King of kings and Lord of lords. His Revelation shall bring tremendous phenomena in the natural elements, the earth shall quake causing the Mount of Olives to divide and form a great valley; the sun shall be darkened, and the stars shall fall (**Revelation 6:12-17** ¹² And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. ¹⁴ And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. ¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; ¹⁶ And said to the mountains and

rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: ¹⁷ For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?). Christ comes with the armies of Heaven riding upon white horses with Him. The tide of battle shall then be turned, for the Lord shall slay the armies of the world with the brightness of His coming and "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." This is known as the awful Battle of Armageddon in which the armies of the world shall be slain, and the fowls of the air will be called to eat their flesh (**Revelation 19:14-21** ¹⁴ And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. ¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; ¹⁸ That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men*, both free and bond, both small and great. ¹⁹ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. ²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which *sword* proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.). The antichrist and the false prophet will be conquered and cast into the lake of fire (**Revelation 19:20** ²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.), and Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years (**Revelation 20:1-3** ¹ And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, ³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season). In this tremendous conflict the powers of sin and darkness will be broken, Jerusalem will be rescued, and Christ will set up His Kingdom to rule and reign with His saints.

The Millennial Reign

A central world government will then be desired by all because the head of that government shall be Christ. The saints who come back with Him shall rule under Him, some over five cities and some over ten cities. From our text we see that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and keep the Feast of Tabernacles. The Passover Feast was fulfilled in Calvary's Lamb; the Pentecostal Feast was fulfilled at the outpouring of the Spirit; and now we are looking forward to the Feast of Tabernacles which will be fulfilled in the Millennial Reign. Under the Mosaic Law, the Feast of Tabernacles was a time when the people were to learn the Law from the mouth of the high priest. Our Great High Priest who is passed into Heaven is coming to set up His Throne at Jerusalem and the Law shall go forth from

His mouth and all nations shall be gathered unto Him. "For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people" (Isaiah 2:3, 4).

Think of what a wonderful time that shall be. The Bible tells us that the desert shall "blossom as the rose"; and yet there shall not be great farm surpluses which shall rot away in the bins, but everyone shall have plenty to eat. There will be no vicious animals then, for "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD" (Isaiah 65:25).

The blight of disease will be lifted from the earth, for we are told: "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing" (Isaiah 35:5, 6). All weapons of warfare will be destroyed. "And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4). "And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying" (Isaiah 65:19).

Holiness unto the Lord

Jerusalem will be free from everything that is unclean and will be holy unto Jehovah. Horses, which are frequently mentioned as being beasts of war and bloodshed, will in the new age no longer be used for warlike enterprise. They will be devoted exclusively to the service of Jehovah whose name will be inscribed on the bells or plates as that of the owner. This same inscription, "HOLINESS TO THE LORD," was found upon a gold plate in the mitre of the high priest (Exodus 28:36-38) to designate him as a person consecrated to the service of Jehovah. The pots or vessels which served for semi-secular or unimportant services in the Mosaic priesthood will be considered in the new era as sacred as the bowl which caught the blood of the sacrificial animals. In fact, the whole land and everything in it will be holy unto the Lord.

To Participate

In studying the Bible we do not like to consider it as ancient history, nor do we wish to study prophetic events as though they were to happen in some distant future too far away for us to ever see in our lifetime. It is possible for every one of us to participate in this glorious time of the Millennial Reign of Christ.

How can we be sure that we will have the privilege to be there to enjoy the blessings of this earth without the curse, without wars and rumours of wars, without great armament races? The Bible tells us we are to look for and to be ready for the Rapture. In order to be ready for the Rapture we must be full overcomers, whether we are living on this earth, or whether we have gone through the vale of the shadow of death and our bodies have been buried in the ground. At the Rapture the dead in Christ shall rise first and we, which are alive and remain shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. The Rapture will transport us to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb where we will escape the tribulation, which comes upon the earth. At the end of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, we then shall be among those who ride upon white horses in the army of the Lord that comes back to this earth. To be ready for the Rapture is a guarantee that we shall enjoy all the blessings of the Millennial Reign with Christ for one thousand years.

Oh, what glorious times await those who are willing to take the lowly way of the Cross, while in this present life! This humble way of following Jesus in a life of righteousness and holiness

leads to the wonderful times when we shall live and reign with Him. After enjoying these blessings for one thousand years, God will have even greater blessings for us for He will then make a new heaven and a new earth which we will enjoy throughout the endless ages of eternity. These provisions defy the farthest reach of our imagination for "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

QUESTIONS

1. What name or title was given to the high priest, which typified Christ, our High Priest?
2. In our text, what is prophesied that tells of Christ's sufferings?
3. What will be the spiritual condition of the Jews who are alive at the time of the Lord's return?
4. Who will come with Christ? or will He come alone?
5. Relate what transpires in the natural elements and in the armies of the world at the Lord's appearance.
6. Describe the Millennial Reign.
7. How can we be absolutely sure that we will be on this earth to enjoy the blessings of the Millennium?