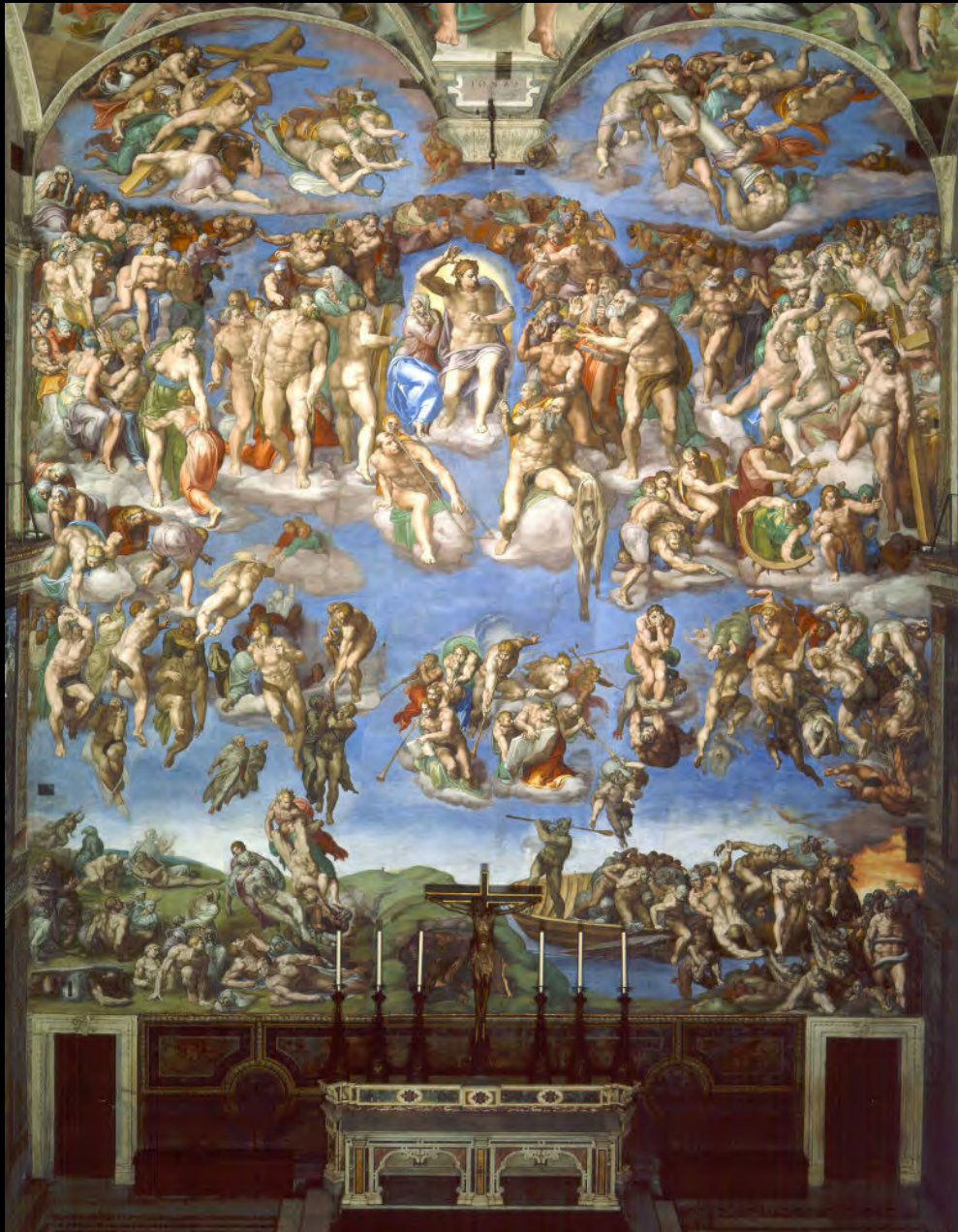


Pentwater Bible Church

*Zechariah
Message 33*

*The Day of The Lord
December 27, 2013*



The Last Judgment by Michelangelo Fresco in Sistine Chapel Cir 1534-41

Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

Pentwater Bible Church

The Campaign of Armageddon Part II

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THE DAY OF THE LORD

Zechariah 14:1-4

¹ Behold, a day of Jehovah cometh, when 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 Jehovah 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 be cleft 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. (ASV 1901).

The fourteenth chapter of the Book of Zechariah describes in graphic detail the return of the Lord Jesus and the establishment of His Kingdom on the earth. In this chapter He triumphantly takes back the world from the enemy Satan and established His Messianic Kingdom. The term day of the Lord in Hebrew is *yom-ba' leyahweh* or “a day is coming—the Lord’s.” “The Day of The Lord” refers to the tribulation (Revelation 6:1-19:16)

wherein God takes His vengeance on the earth. This period of time for our earth will see the rise of Antichrist, the establishment of his world headquarters in Babylon and a persecution of the nation Israel that will eliminate 2/3 rds. of them. It includes His return at the end of the tribulation wherein He displays His power to end Satan's and wicked men's seizing of the earth. It also includes the time period immediately following that where He sets up His earthly 1,000 year Messianic Kingdom. The last clause of verse one shows a desperate situation for Jerusalem when it is completely plundered by the victorious Antichrist's allied armies as they invade the state of Israel. The soldiers plunder Jerusalem including raping the women and taking fifty percent of the population as prisoners of war. This is the high point or the worst of the worst of the Tribulation, which the prophet Jeremiah referred to as "The Time of Jacob's Trouble." Jacob's name of course was changed to Israel so it actually means the worst corrective/punishment time for the Jews since they were chosen by God to bring His oracles and the Messiah. The residue of the people this passage speaks of is the remaining Jews who become believers and turn to God. It is fifty percent of those at Jerusalem but on thirty-three percent worldwide that make it through. The passage ends with assurance that after this punishment of the Jews God will return and fight against those nations declaring victory with His ascent up to the Mount of Olives. Since this passage describes the latter stages of the Campaign of Armageddon it is beneficial to understand that it takes place in eight stages leading up to the event described in verse four *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 be cleft 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.*

THE CAMPAIGN OF ARMAGEDDON

The campaign of Armageddon involves eight stages. They are as follows:

- ~~1. The Assembling of the Allies of the Antichrist~~
- ~~2. The Destruction of Babylon~~
- ~~3. The Fall of Jerusalem~~
- 4. The Armies of the Antichrist at Bozrah (Petra)
- 5. The National Regeneration of Israel
6. The Second Coming of the Messiah
 - a. The Place of the Second coming
 - b. The Manner of the Second Coming
7. The Battle from Bozrah to the Valley of Jehoshaphat
8. The Victory Ascent Up the Mount of Olives

THE ARMIES OF THE ANTICHRIST AT BOZRAH

The main concentration of Jews and their leaders will have fled Jerusalem and Israel. They will be at the sheepfold of Bozrah in the land of Edom or present day south Jordan. This is known today as Petra. Since the main purpose of the Campaign of Armageddon is the annihilation of the Jews, the armies of the world will move southward from Jerusalem to Bozrah. Jeremiah 49:13-14 describes this quite clearly.

Jeremiah 49:13-14

¹³For I have sworn by myself, saith Jehovah, that Bozrah shall become an astonishment, a reproach, a waste, and a curse; and all the cities thereof shall be perpetual wastes. ¹⁴I have heard tidings from Jehovah, and an ambassador is sent among the nations, saying, Gather yourselves together, and come against her, and rise up to the battle (ASV 1901).

The next place where the nations of the earth will gather is Bozrah in order to destroy the Remnant of Israel gathered there. With the completion of the fourth stage, the last three days before the Second Coming begins.

THE NATIONAL REGENERATION OF ISRAEL

One of the principal reasons for the Great Tribulation is to break the will of the Holy People, the Jews (Daniel 12:7). There will be tremendous pressure put on the remnant due to the circumstances of the world wide Tribulation. These circumstances will bring about their confession.

There are two aspects to this national regeneration and they are the same as for anybody coming into God's Kingdom as a believer.

1. Confession of Sins
2. Requesting (pleading) for God to save them.

The confessional aspect is found in the three passages of the Old Testament (Leviticus 26:40-42; Jeremiah 3:11-18; Hosea 5:15).

The second requirement for the regeneration of the Nation Israel is for them to plead for their Messiah to return. This is found in two passages.

Zechariah 12:10

¹⁰And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication; and they shall look unto 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 first-born (ASV 1901).

Matthew 23:37-39

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord (KJV).

When the armies of the Antichrist begin their invasion of Bozrah (Petra) the campaign is nearing the end. It has only three days left (Hosea 6:1-3). This section of Hosea follows

the Jews confession of their sins in Hosea chapter five. Verses 1-2 show the Jewish leaders telling the nation to repent and confess their national sins. Verse 6:3 shows the physical blessings that will be restored to them. Israel's leaders will finally realize that then entire Tribulation has come upon them due to their turning away from Jehovah and the Lord Jesus. Several communication mediums have been given to them to try and reach them.

1. Scriptures
2. Preaching of the 144,000 Jewish Evangelists
3. The Two Witnesses
4. The third sign of Jonah (Luke 11:32)
5. Ministry of Elijah (Malachi 4:5-6)

Just as the leaders rejected Jesus they will come to accept Him. The call to the nation is Hosea 6:1-3. The confession will last for two days. The confessions actual words are given in Isaiah chapter fifty-three. In general Jews are not encouraged to read these passages. At the time of national confession this is what they will be saying.

Isaiah 53:1-9

¹Who hath believed our message? and to whom hath the arm of Jehovah been revealed? ²For he grew up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. ³He was despised, and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and as one from whom men hide their face he was despised; and we esteemed him not. ⁴Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and Jehovah hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed, yet when he was afflicted he opened not his mouth; as a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who among them considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people to whom the stroke was due? ⁹And they made his grave with the wicked, and with a rich man in his death; although he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth (ASV 1901).

They admit that the nation looked upon Jesus as nothing more than an ordinary man, even a criminal who died for His own sins. Now they realize that He was no ordinary man but the perfect Lamb of God, the Christ (Messiah) Himself. They also realize that He died for their (our) sins so that they (we) need not be stricken by God with eternal punishment.

The national regeneration will come about by means of the confession in Isaiah. On the third day the entire nation will be saved fulfilling the prophecy the Apostle Paul gave us in Romans eleven.

Romans 11:25-27

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins (KJV).

All Israel means just exactly what it says. It means all of those Jews that are living at the time of the national confession. Remember Hitler exterminated one third but Zechariah says that 2/3rd will die (Zechariah 13:8-9) Therefore within two days after the leaders call the entire nation Israel will repent and accept Jesus as their Messiah. The effects of the Great Tribulation and the final pressure of the armies of the Antichrist at the gates of Petra will break the power of the Holy People finally after more than twenty centuries of national unbelief in Jesus. The pleading of the Jews is the subject of much discussion in the Bible. It occurs in at least two passages. God in Christ tells the story Himself in Zechariah.

Zechariah 12:10-13:1:

¹⁰And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication; and they shall look unto 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 first-born. ¹¹In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. ¹²And 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; ¹³the family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of the Shimeites apart, and their wives apart; ¹⁴all the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart. ¹³ ¹In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness (ASV 1901).

The pleading for Messiah to return will include Jews everywhere. The nation's leaders call will be responded to across the entire globe. This passage mentions specifically the Jews in Jerusalem. They all plead for the one whom they have pierced. This results in an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Israel's mourning for the Messiah, and the cleansing of Israel's sins.

Another prophecy of this event is given in Joel.

Joel 2:28-32

²⁸And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: ²⁹and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit. ³⁰And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. ³¹The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood,

before the great and terrible day of Jehovah cometh. ³²And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of Jehovah shall be delivered; for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those that escape, as Jehovah hath said, and among the remnant those whom Jehovah doth call (ASV 1901).

Since regeneration is the work of the Holy Spirit we see that He will be poured out in this passage, which results in some rather spectacular manifestations with the Jews. Some have tried to attribute this passage to the birth of the church in Acts 2. When Peter made reference to this passage he was simply saying that something *like* the Joel prophecy was occurring when the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost. The Joel passage clearly sets the chronological context as being at the end of the Great Tribulation and provides a partial prophetic fulfillment between testaments referred to theologically as repeat foreshadowing. There will be wonders in heaven and the Jews of Jerusalem will be delivered and escape as well as the remnant in Bozrah.

As a result of Israel being saved and their leaders confessing that Jesus is their Messiah there will be a mass execution of the false prophets who led Israel astray during the course of the Tribulation. Zechariah records this for us.

Zechariah 13:2-6

²And it shall come to pass in that day, saith Jehovah of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered; and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land. ³And it shall come to pass that, when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of Jehovah; and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth. ⁴And it shall come to pass in that day, that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he prophesieth; neither shall they wear a hairy mantle to deceive: ⁵but he shall say, I am no prophet, I am a tiller of the ground; for I have been made a bondman from my youth. ⁶And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds between thine arms? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends (ASV 1901).

So when the cleansing of the Nation Israel takes place from their sin the false prophets will be found and executed. The parents of those false prophets will be the ones to carry out the executions. This indicates the level of seriousness regarding purity of the Israelites who have really found the Lord and now believe on Him. The false prophets will try and hide the fact that they are false prophets. However their scars they obtained during their tenure as false prophets will give them away. The Baal worshippers frequently cut themselves in adoration to him in their attempts to connect with the nether world. (I Kings 18:28) God's justice is swift and 100% accurate.

One psalm among many describes the pleading of the Remnant for Christ to come back.

Psalms 80:1-19

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, Thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; Thou that sittest above the cherubim, shine forth. ²Before Ephraim and Benjamin

and Manasseh, stir up thy might, And come to save us. ³Turn us again, O God; And cause thy face to shine, and we shall be saved. ⁴O Jehovah God of hosts, How long wilt thou be angry against the prayer of thy people? ⁵Thou hast fed them with the bread of tears, And given them tears to drink in large measure. ⁶Thou makest us a strife unto our neighbors; And our enemies laugh among themselves. ⁷Turn us again, O God of hosts; And cause thy face to shine, and we shall be saved. ⁸Thou broughtest a vine out of Egypt: Thou didst drive out the nations, and plantedst it. ⁹Thou preparedst room before it, And it took deep root, and filled the land. ¹⁰The mountains were covered with the shadow of it, And the boughs thereof were like cedars of God. ¹¹It sent out its branches unto the sea, And its shoots unto the River. ¹²Why hast thou broken down its walls, So that all they that pass by the way do pluck it? ¹³The boar out of the wood doth ravage it, And the wild beasts of the field feed on it. ¹⁴Turn again, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: Look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine, ¹⁵And the stock which thy right hand planted, And the branch that thou madest strong for thyself. ¹⁶It is burned with fire, it is cut down: They perish at the rebuke of thy countenance. ¹⁷Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, Upon the son of man whom thou madest strong for thyself. ¹⁸So shall we not go back from thee: Quicken thou us, and we will call upon thy name. ¹⁹Turn us again, O Jehovah God of hosts; Cause thy face to shine, and we shall be saved (ASV 1901).

This Psalm opens with a pleading for the Shepherd of Israel to come and save them. This is physical and spiritual deliverance. After finding themselves in a bitter state and having become the laughing stock of the nations of the world, they plead again for God to come and save them. They discuss the glory of the theocracy and how God dealt with them in times past from the Exodus, to David and Solomon's kingdoms. They then mourn over the dealings that the Gentiles have given to them. Therefore they plead with God to defend them and their cause after being so badly bruised. They plead to the person on God's right hand, which is the Lord Jesus.

In conclusion during the fifth stage of the Campaign of Armageddon, Israel as a nation led by newly refined leaders is regenerated after two days of national confession of sin. On the third day, they plead for the Second Coming.

NEXT WEEK: THE RETURN OF JESUS THE MESSIAH

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