

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Zechariah  
Message 32*

*The Day of The Lord*

*December 15, 2013*



Saint John on Patmos by Van Limburg Brothers from Illustrated manuscript of 1413-1416

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# Pentwater Bible Church

**The Book of Zechariah**  
**Message Thirty-Two**  
**The Campaign of Armageddon Part I**  
December 15, 2013  
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Painting by Sharlene Lindskog-Osorio

## THE DAY OF THE LORD

Zechariah 14:1-4

*<sup>1</sup> Behold, a day of Jehovah cometh, when thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Then shall Jehovah go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. <sup>4</sup> 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 assent 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 FIRST STAGE: THE ASSEMBLING OF THE ALLIES OF THE ANTICHRIST

The entire campaign begins with the sixth Bowl Judgment.

Revelation 16:12-16

*<sup>12</sup>And the sixth poured out his bowl upon the great river, the river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way might be made ready for the kings that come from the sunrising. <sup>13</sup>And I saw coming out of the mouth of the*

*dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits, as it were frogs: <sup>14</sup>for they are spirits of demons, working signs; which go forth unto the kings of the whole world, to gather them together unto the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. <sup>15</sup>(Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.) <sup>16</sup>And they gathered them together into the place which is called in Hebrew Har-magedon (ASV 1901).*

This sixth Bowl Judgment causes the great river Euphrates to dry up which allows the “kings of the east” easy passage into the battleground. Many have taught that the kings of the east are the Asians. There is no valid Biblical justification for this assertion. Those who assert this confuse this passage with the 200,000,000 demons shown in Revelation 9:13-20. Those who hold this position usually appeal to the large population of that region. It is always important to validate Scripture with Scripture so that we can see how God uses terms, which then should be consistent applied throughout a Testament and in many cases the entire Bible. The term “of the east” has been used frequently to refer to Mesopotamia and never China or the Far East (Matthew 2:1; Genesis 25:6, 18; Genesis 29:1). Verse sixteen states the valley where the allies of Antichrist will be gathered: HarMagedon.

Revelation 16:16

*<sup>16</sup>And they gathered them together into the place, which is called in Hebrew Har-magedon (ASV 1901).*

This is a combination of two Hebrew words, which mean, “the Mountain of Megiddo.” Megiddo was a strategic city located at the western end of the Valley of Jezreel. The Valley of Armageddon is actually the Valley of Jezreel. Armageddon is only applied to the mount at the western end of the Jezreel Valley not to the valley itself. It is located in the Lower Galilee where the armies of the Antichrist will gather to destroy the Jews remaining in the world. This is where they will gather and not battle. This is similar to the role Great Britain had for the allies who gathered prior to D-Day, which was the June 6th 1944 invasion of Normandy to push the Nazi’s back. The battle will begin elsewhere. God’s perspective is shown in two sets of verses.

Joel 3:9-11

*<sup>9</sup>Proclaim ye this among the nations; prepare war; stir up the mighty men; let all the men of war draw near, let them come up. <sup>10</sup>Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning-hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. <sup>11</sup>Haste ye, and come, all ye nations round about, and gather yourselves together: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Jehovah (ASV 1901).*

God is mocking them by telling them to go ahead and manufacture weapons. For the weak He says go ahead and persuade yourselves that you are strong. While Satan and the Antichrist prepare the forces for the purpose of destroying the Jews, God has an entirely different purpose for allowing this gathering.

Psalms 2:1-6

*<sup>1</sup>Why do the nations rage, And the peoples meditate a vain thing? <sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against Jehovah, and against his anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup>Let us break their bonds asunder, And cast away their cords from us. <sup>4</sup>He that sitteth in the heavens will laugh: The Lord will have them in derision. <sup>5</sup>Then will he speak unto them in his wrath, And vex them in his sore displeasure: <sup>6</sup>Yet I have set my king Upon my holy hill of Zion (ASV 1901).*

This demonstrates the taunting of the nations gathered together to do harm to God the Father and Jesus His Christ. Satan is also seeking to destroy God's Jews and break the cords of God's control in the world. God is seen sitting in heaven laughing at this folly. God's will be established in this first stage of the campaign of Armageddon as the armies gather for their next move.

#### THE SECOND STAGE: THE DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON

Ancient Babylon will be rebuilt and become the Antichrist's political and economic capital of his worldwide empire. This is not to be confused with his temporary battle camp as stated in Daniel 11:45. In verse 45, Daniel states where the Antichrist will plant his headquarters. *"He shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas at the glorious holy mountain."*

The word for tent refers to a military tent of a general, and the word for palace to a royal tent. It is a royal tent of a military general (the Antichrist) that is set up. It is set up between the seas, meaning between the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea. Furthermore, it is at the glorious holy mountain, meaning the Temple Mount or Mount Moriah or Mount Zion.

Babylon the concept is found in three separate categories in the Bible.

1. A physical location (city)
2. A way of life on this earth; the world's system
3. A system of corruption in the world's systems and ecclesiastical entities

Babylon spiritually symbolizes the city of man or the city of Satan. It has never been destroyed yet. It fell into disrepair over the years since Cyrus the Mede took over the city in 539 B.C. Saddam Hussein rebuilt it and God will destroy it. Jeremiah commanded that a scroll of parts of his book be wrapped around a stone and cast into the Euphrates River to symbolize the sinking of Babylon never to surface again (Jeremiah 51:63). The apostle John also saw the final end of Babylon.

#### Revelation 18:21-24

*<sup>21</sup>And a strong angel took up a stone as it were a great millstone and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with a mighty fall shall Babylon, the great city, be cast down, and shall be found no more at all. <sup>22</sup>And the voice of harpers and minstrels and flute-players and trumpeters shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft, shall be found any more at all in thee; and the voice of a mill shall be heard no more at all in thee; <sup>23</sup>and the*

*light of a lamp shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the princes of the earth; for with thy sorcery were all the nations deceived. <sup>24</sup>And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all that have been slain upon the earth (ASV 1901).*

During the second stage of the Campaign of Armageddon, while the Antichrist moves his forces into the Valley of Jezreel, his enemies, which are the underground or resistance forces, take the opportunity to destroy Babylon suddenly and quickly. According to Isaiah 13:3, they will be Gentile believers of the Tribulation. Just prior to this 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 distress on the earth, but not in heaven. Because when Babylon gets destroyed it will signal to those in Heaven that the Second Coming will occur soon. Along with the destruction the regeneration of the Nation Israel will occur shortly (Jeremiah 50:4-5).

#### THE THIRD STAGE: THE FALL OF JERUSALEM

The Antichrist will have all his allied forces with him when he receives the news that the capital has fallen. He will not move eastward to counterattack his enemies. It is Satan who will be in control and it is his program to complete the destruction of the Jews. Being led by Satan the antichrist will move south to attack Jerusalem. Zechariah describes that third stage of the Campaign.

Zechariah 12:1-3

*The burden of the word of Jehovah concerning Israel. Thus saith Jehovah, who stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him: <sup>2</sup>behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of reeling unto all the peoples round about, and upon Judah also shall it be in the siege against Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all the peoples; all that burden themselves with it shall be sore wounded; and all the nations of the earth shall be gathered together against it (ASV 1901).*

Zechariah 14:1-2

*<sup>1</sup>Behold, a day of Jehovah cometh, when thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. <sup>2</sup>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 (ASV 1901).*

From the Valley of Jezreel the armies of the Antichrist will move south, and the armies of the nations will gather against Jerusalem. Once again, Jerusalem will fall into Gentile hands, and half the 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 Antichrist's armies (Zechariah 12:4-9). All these nations that burden themselves with

Jerusalem will be sorely wounded, and Jerusalem will become truly burdensome to them (Zechariah 12:3). The Jewish energization is also discussed in Micah.

Micah 4:11-5:1

*<sup>11</sup>And now many nations are assembled against thee, that say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye see our desire upon Zion. <sup>12</sup>But they know not the thoughts of Jehovah, neither understand they his counsel; for he hath gathered them as the sheaves to the threshing-floor. <sup>13</sup>Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion; for I will make thy horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass; and thou shalt beat in pieces many peoples: and I will devote their gain unto Jehovah, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth. **5** Now shalt thou gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us; they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek (ASV 1901).*

The nations will be assembled against Jerusalem for the purpose of destroying it. But in the course of doing so, these nations will become like sheaves on the threshing floor. The Jewish forces will be able to thresh them completely. However, the battle will be lost and the Gentiles will capture Jerusalem and symbolize it by smiting, Jerusalem's leader on the cheek. 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 raping. With this, the third stage comes to an end.

THE FOURTH STAGE: 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

*<sup>13</sup>For 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. <sup>14</sup>I 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.

NEXT WEEK: CHRISTMAS MESSAGE THE LORD'S SECOND ADVENT!

NEXT SESSION: ISRAEL IS REGENERATED THE RETURN OF JESUS THE MESSIAH PART II

**Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments**  
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