

Pentwater Bible Church

Zechariah Message 37

*Restatement of The Demise of Israel's Enemies
January 26, 2014*



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Additional Details Regarding The Destruction of Israel's Enemies

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JERUSALEM'S MOUNTAIN AND FLASHBACK TO THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL'S ENEMIES

Zechariah 14:10-1

¹⁰All the land shall be made like the Arabah, from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; and she shall be lifted up, and shall dwell in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananel unto the king's wine-presses. ¹¹And men shall dwell therein, and there shall be no more curse; but Jerusalem shall dwell safely ¹²And this shall be the plague wherewith Jehovah will smite all the peoples that have warred against Jerusalem: their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their sockets, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. ¹³And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from Jehovah shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbor, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbor. ¹⁴And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the nations round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance. ¹⁵And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in those camps, as that plague (ASV 1901).

ADDITIONAL TOPOGRAPHICAL CHANGES TO THE EARTH

Zechariah 14:10-11

¹⁰All the land shall be made like the Arabah, from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; and she shall be lifted up, and shall dwell in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananel unto the king's wine-presses. ¹¹And men shall dwell therein, and there shall be no more curse; but Jerusalem shall dwell safely (ASV 1901).

In concert with the vast topographical changes to the earth Zechariah now says that the land of Israel will be made like the Arabah, from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. The Arabah is the name of the geographical depression or rift that extends from the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan Valley through the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba. It is 103 miles long very hot and dry and consequently only lightly populated. The verse specifies the southern most section from Jerusalem to the Gulf of Aqaba. Presently this has portions that are the deepest depressions on earth at 652-1300 feet below sea level. So the earthquakes and geographical transformations will result in the Jerusalem region being the highest mountain in the world (*and she shall be lifted up*). The surrounding regions will have the deep depressions setting off Jerusalem as the highest area on earth. King Jesus will have His city, Jerusalem and temple there. The curse of sin will be gone from the earth and Jerusalem will finally be at peace from the occupations carried on throughout the Times of the Gentiles (cir. 586 B.C. – The Second Coming).



Photo by Michael Privorotsky Cir. June 2009

THE MILLENNIAL MOUNTAIN

Because of the nature of the war of the Tribulation coupled with the Second Coming the earth will undergo major geographical and topographical changes. One of those changes is the rise of a very high mountain in Israel. It will become the highest mountain in the world. At the apex of this mountain the Millennial Temple and Millennial Jerusalem will rest.

There are several passages that address this issue. The first is Isaiah 2:2-4

Isaiah 2:2-4 And it shall come to pass in the latter days, that the mountain of Jehovah's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many peoples shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem. And he will judge between the nations, and will decide concerning many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more (ASV 1901).

The passage clearly states six characteristics:

1. The mountain will be formed in the "Latter Days."
2. It will be the mountain of mountains. In other words the highest in the world.
3. Jehovah's House will sit there. This is where the Lord Jesus will rule the government of the world. The government will finally be upon His shoulders (Isaiah 9:6).
4. The population of the world will move toward it in pilgrimage in order to learn God's Law. This where the Lawgiver will live.
5. The Law that emanates from the Millennial Mountain will cause all nations of the world to be at peace.
6. The Word of the Lord will come from the Mountain, which all nations will respond to in obedience.

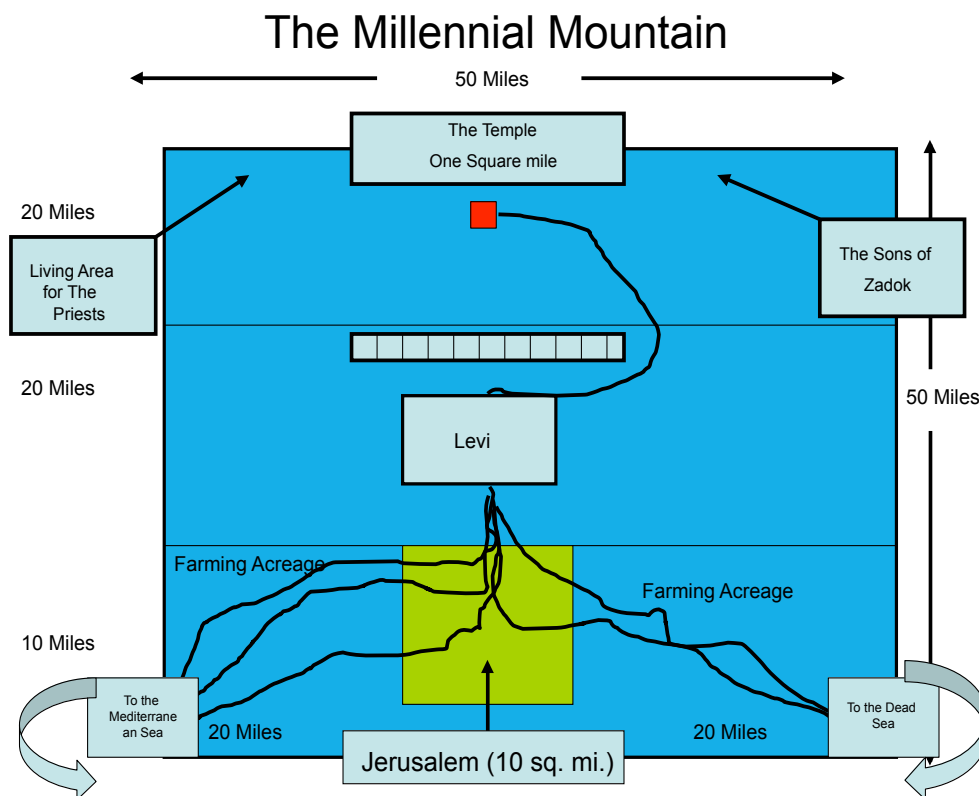
Isaiah points out that the mountain will be a center of Jewish and Gentile worship as well as prayer (*Isaiah 27:13, 56:6-8*). The Jews will be brought to the Mountain of Jehovah's house by the Gentile nations. It is shown in the following verse that the destination of the Jews being led is to the Mountain of The Lord's House.

Isaiah 66:20 And they shall bring all your brethren out of all the nations for an oblation unto Jehovah, upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith Jehovah, as the children of Israel bring their oblation in a clean vessel into the house of Jehovah (ASV 1901).

The prophet Ezekiel received the *most* information about Jehovah's Millennial Mountain of any of the prophets. He referred to it as a "Mountain of Great Height." In one of his descriptions he described as having lush greenery and vegetation and he was given many details of the mountain in several different passages (Ezekiel 17:22-24, 40:1-4, 45:1-8, 48:8-20).

Ezekiel refers to the holy mountain as the Holy Oblation because this is where holy rituals will take place within the Millennial Temple. The Temple and the city of Jerusalem will be upon this mountain (Ezekiel 45:1-8). The mountain will have:

1. A fifty square mile plateau on the top subdivided into three sections.
2. The northern subsection will be twenty miles by fifty miles with the Millennial Temple in the center.
3. The Temple will be about one mile square.
4. Select priests will live in the remainder of the area of the northern subsection.
5. The central subsection, which will be the same square area as the northern one, will be reserved for members of the Tribe of Levi.
6. The southern subsection will be ten miles by fifty miles. In its center will stand the Millennial Jerusalem. Jerusalem will measure ten miles by ten miles.
7. On either side of the city will be field areas each measuring ten by twenty miles for growing food.
8. The prince will control these areas; who is the resurrected David. He will divide the Land according to the twelve tribes.



FLASHBACK TO THE TRIBULATION-DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL'S ENEMIES

Zechariah 14:12

¹²And this shall be the plague wherewith Jehovah will smite all the peoples that have warred against Jerusalem: their flesh shall consume away while

they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their sockets, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth (ASV 1901).

These verses follow the thought that Zechariah has in 14:1-3. They are supplemental information to chapter 12:4-10. Now that the prophet has detailed the magnificent deliverance of the Israel by the Messiah He returns to finish the story regarding His enemies destruction and the means by which he accomplishes this. God will initiate a great plague on the nation's warriors who came against Jerusalem. This will be of the magnitude of the raining of fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah. It will be the culmination of the loosing of the fourth horse initiating the Tribulation.

Revelation 6:8

⁸ I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth (NASB).

The Greek word translated as ashen is *chloros* in Greek from which we get the word chlorine. Because of the paleness of one with a deathly disease it provides the image of suffering from deadly disease or pestilence. Therefore the diseases the Lord unleashed on the earth will cause the results stated in verse twelve. Because of the graphic description of the physical deterioration of the Gentile nations armies some believe the Lord will have the Israeli's use nuclear weapons to accomplish His final termination of the Antichrist's armies.

The method that God will use to slay the armies of the Antichrist embody the characteristics of a nuclear explosion. One survivor of Hiroshima described the effects of that nuclear explosion of that population in two groups. One group in close proximity to the blast evaporated and the second somewhat further away from the explosion died shortly thereafter. Their physical characteristics after the blast are very similar to Zechariah's description.

1. Those close to the hypocenter were instantly incinerated without leaving behind a trace, except for perhaps a shadow on a wall or street where their bodies had partially protected the surface from the initial flash of heat. One author notes that those closest to the blast "passed from being to nothingness faster than any human physiology can register.

2. Those slightly farther from the center of the explosion did not die immediately, but suffered from severe third-degree burns all over their bodies, in particular to any areas that were exposed directly to the heat. They suffered a period of intense pain before dying of their injuries. Those who witnessed the explosion and survived invariably describe these victims in the most horrific terms.

The appearance of people was . . . well, they all had skin blackened by burns. . . They had no hair because their hair was burned, and at a glance you couldn't tell whether you were looking at them from in front or in back. . . . They held their arms bent [forward] like this . . . and their skin - not only on

their hands, but on their faces and bodies too - hung down. . . . If there had been only one or two such people . . . perhaps I would not have had such a strong impression. But wherever I walked I met these people. . . . Many of them died along the road - I can still picture them in my mind -- like walking ghosts.ⁱ

NATIONS FIGHT EACH OTHER AS THE ISRAELITES ARE VICTORIOUS

Zechariah 14:13-15

¹³And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from Jehovah shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbor, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbor. ¹⁴And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the nations round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance. ¹⁵And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in those camps, as that plague (ASV 1901).

God Himself will cause a great tumult or pandemonium among the soldiers of the Antichrist wherein they begin to fight each other. This becomes mayhem with mass confusion and disarray. It is the same as the “astonishment” and “madness” with which the horses and the riders of these same armies are spoken of as smitten in chapter 12:4 and as a consequence they shall begin to destroy each other. In the process they leave great wealth for the Israelites (*and the wealth of all the nations round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance.*). Other occurrences of this type have happened in the past. For example the hosts of Midian were discomfited before Gideon and his little band (Judges 7:22). And the multitude of Philistines at Michmash “melted away” before Jonathan and his armour-bearer (I Samuel 13:16-20). And Jehoshaphat and his people gathered unto Jerusalem “*spoil in abundance, both riches and garments and precious jewels*”; so, when the armies of the Syrians were attacking Samaria, were suddenly seized with panic, fled because the Lord had made them “*hear a noise of chariots and horses and of a great host*”—they left behind a vast amount of silver and gold and clothes (II Kings 7:2-8).

The Israelites will fight against the Antichrist’s armies and prevail. The Lord will use Israel to defend and prevail over their enemies as He strengthens them in a supernatural manner. This is the second time that Zechariah presents this concept for emphasis.

ⁱ Kay, Joseph. *Sixty Years since the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombings*, Internet. World Socialist Web Site accessed February 24, 2010 <http://www.wsws.org/articles/2005/aug2005/hiro-a06.shtml> from: Hida Shuntaro. “The Day Hiroshima Disappeared,” in *Hiroshima’s Shadows*, edited by Kai Bird and Lawrence Lifschultz, The Pamphleteer’s Press, Stony Creek, Connecticut: 1998, p. 419

Zechariah 12:8

⁸In that day shall Jehovah 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 Jehovah before them (ASV 1901).

God describes the level of protection He will give to the Jews living in Jerusalem during this battle. The Jews will have a supernatural strength to fight the invaders. The weaker of the population will become as strong as their warrior king David. The strong ones, designated as the house, as in the household or family of David, are to be like God. Everybody will become strengthened to fight the enemy as the Lord is incapacitating the foes with blindness and mental panic. Because of this use of the Israelites to defend and prevail the use of nuclear weapons, which they now have, is the most probably scenario for the elimination of the armies of the Antichrist.

The passage closes with in inclusion of the animals being affected by the great plague.

NEXT WEEK:

NON MILITARY GENTILES COME TO JERUSALEM

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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