

A&P Bible Church | Weekly Study Zechariah 3:1-10

The book is one of consolation and hope, beginning with a call to repentance and concluding with prophecies concerning the return and reign of Christ.

Zechariah predicted more about Messiah than any other prophet except Isaiah. Prophecies concerning His first coming include Zech. 3:8; 9:9, 16; 11:11-13; 12:10; 13:1, 6; and prophecies to be fulfilled at His second coming include 6:12; 14:1-21.

Thank you to Yeshua Elohim Bible Church for their online Study Bible - visit www.yebc.net for more!

Throughout the week continue to look through the scriptures, think through the questions, and apply the Word to your life. Email any questions during the week to Brandon & Travis at ap.brandongarcia@gmail.com & ap.travisjohnson@gmail.com.

MONDAY***Zechariah 3 Breakdown***

Zechariah 03:1 Next I saw Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, with Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.

Zechariah recorded his fourth vision. According to the Book of Haggai, Joshua was the High Priest of Israel. He is standing in front of the Angel of the Lord in a divine courtroom. The Angel of the Lord is the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan is accusing Joshua of some kind of sin.

2 The Lord said to Satan, "May the Lord rebuke you, Satan! May the Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Isn't this man like a burning stick snatched from the fire?"

Jehovah rebukes Satan for accusing Joshua of sin. Jehovah reminded Satan that Jerusalem was the chosen city of God. Joshua was a man who was burning in the fire, but God pulled him out of the fire so that He could still use him for the Kingdom of God.

3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood there before the angel.

Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes because he represented the nation of Israel. At this time, Israel was in a state of filthiness.

4 The angel spoke up to those standing all around, "Remove his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "I have freely forgiven your iniquity and will dress you in fine clothing."

The Angel of the Lord is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus died for the sins of Joshua, so Satan cannot accuse him of sin. Jesus commanded that the filthy clothes be removed from Joshua. Instead, Joshua was to receive fine clothing.

5 Then I spoke up, "Let a clean turban be put on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood nearby.

The turban was the official hat of the High Priest. On the turban was an engraved golden plate which read "Holy unto the Lord."

6 Then the angel of the Lord exhorted Joshua solemnly:

The Lord Jesus Christ gave Joshua an emphatic message.

7 "The Lord who rules over all says, 'If you live and work according to my requirements, you will be able to preside over my temple and attend to my courtyards, and I will allow you to come and go among these others who are standing by you.

The Lord Jesus Christ gave Joshua two personal duties. First, Joshua was to keep charge of his official duties according to the Mosaic Law. Second, God would allow Joshua free access to attend the angelic court.

8 Listen now, Joshua the high priest, both you and your colleagues who are sitting before you, all of you are a symbol that I am about to introduce my servant, the Branch.

The priests were a symbol of the Branch to come.

9 As for the stone I have set before Joshua—on the one stone there are seven eyes. I am about to engrave an inscription on it,’ says the Lord who rules over all, ‘to the effect that I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day.

The branch is a stone. In Isaiah 28, Psalms 118, and Daniel 2, the stone is a symbol of the Messiah. The stone possesses seven eyes, meaning that the Messiah is omniscient and omnipresent. He sees and knows everything. The Messiah will remove the iniquity of Israel in one day. On the last day of the Great Tribulation, Israel will confess their national sin of rejecting their Messiah. The entire nation will be regenerated in one day.

10 In that day,’ says the Lord who rules over all, ‘everyone will invite his friend to fellowship under his vine and under his fig tree.’ ”

During the Millennial Kingdom, Israel will live safely, securely, and in great prosperity.

For additional studies this week, listen to Dr. J. Vernon McGee’s Zechariah sermons/studies: https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/popPlayer.cfm?id=7088&rel=mcgee_j_vernon/Zec

What were 5 points that stood out to you in this chapter? They can be observances, cross references, questions, etc...

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Garments of the High Priest

בגדי כהן הגדול



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TUESDAY**Job 1:1-12 (Specially note 6-12) Breakdown**

1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. And that man was pure and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

Job was an actual person who lived in actual history sometimes during the time of the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob). Because of personal bias, liberals and skeptics like to claim that Job was a mythical character of Jewish literature. However, the historical identity of Job was confirmed in both the Old and New Testaments (Ezekiel 14:14,20; James 5:11).

It is important to note that Jacob had a grandson named Job and there are several Jobs in the Bible, but all of these men came after Job and may have been named after him. Some theologians speculate that Job may have been either Shem or Melchizedek, but there is nothing in Scripture which gives evidence to this theory. The Book of Job may be the oldest historical narrative in the Bible, except for Genesis 1-11.

Job lived in the city of Uz. Jeremiah, the Jewish prophet, identified Uz as the home to the "daughter of Edom." Josephus, a Jewish historian, identified Uz as Damascus. Ptolomy, a Greek general of Alexander the Great, identified Uz as Edom. With all of this biblical and secular reference, it is pure bias to call Job a mythical person.

Job was justified in God's eyes, because Job believed God. Job offered bloody sacrifices, which pointed to the seed of the woman who would eventually crush the head of the Serpent. According to the prophet Ezekiel, Job was the world's most righteous and godly man since Noah and before Daniel.

Job feared God, not men. If man fears God, then there is no reason to fear man. God is sovereign over all good and evil things. One cannot touch a child of God, unless God the Father allows it to happen. God the Father does spank His children, so He should be respected. These spankings lead to sanctification, which is spiritual growth. The purpose of spiritual growth is to become more Christ-like. One cannot become more Christ-like without bible doctrine from the entire counsel of the Word of God.

1:2 Seven sons and three daughters were born to him.

Job possessed a lovely large family of one wife and ten children. Satan wanted to kill those children so that Job would blaspheme God.

1:3 His possessions included 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys; in addition he had a very great household. Thus he was the greatest of all the people in the east.

Job was a very wealthy man. He was Howard Hughes, John D. Rockefeller, Henry Ford, and all of the oil men of Texas all rolled into one. Job was one of the greatest men “in the east.” Edom is east of Palestine.

1:4 Now his sons used to go and hold a feast in the house.

Job’s children lived a life of luxury.

1:5 When the days of their feasting were finished, Job would send for them and sanctify them; he would get up early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job thought, “Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” This was Job’s customary practice.

Notice that like Abel, Noah, and Abraham, Job offered sacrifices which pointed to the blood atonement of the Messiah. This sacrificial system existed before the Mosaic Law. It was passed down from Adam to his children to Noah to Shem and to Abraham. Before the Mosaic Law, the father served as the priestly mediator of the family. Therefore, Job presented offerings for all of his children, but not himself. This is the first red flag of Job.

There are many parents who worry about their children. Worry is a sin. Worry is not trusting God. Parents need to trust their children to the Lord.

1:6 Now the day came when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord—and Satan also arrived among them.¹

The Hebrew for “sons of God” is בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים (bene elohim), meaning sons of God. These sons of God were angels and demons whom God had directly created. Adam and Eve were also sons of God, because He directly created them as well. Everyone who comes from the line of Adam is a son of man. In Genesis 6, the בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים (bene elohim) were fallen angels who intermarried with humans.

The Hebrew word for “Satan” is הַשָּׂטָן (ha-satan), meaning the accuser or adversary (with a Hebrew article). Satan is the enemy of God and “the accuser of our brethren.” Notice that Satan is a בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים (bene elohim). He is a created angel who fell to earth because of his pride. All of the בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים (bene elohim), including Satan, are still responsible for reporting to God.

Since Job and his family were living comfortably in Uz, they had no idea about this heavenly event. This event must have been given to Job later as special revelation. This verse is strong internal evidence that Job was the author of this book.

1:7 The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" And Satan answered the Lord, "From roving about on the earth, and from walking back and forth across it."

The Hebrew word for "Lord" is יְהוָה (Jehovah), meaning the covenant-keeping promise-keeping God. Apparently, God had already signed the Abrahamic Covenant with Abraham.

God asked Satan a question, but God already knew the answer. God asked these questions to teach and train His created intelligences. Angels learn new things everyday by watching events in heaven and on earth. Whenever a believer commits a secret sin on earth, then it is open scandal in heaven.

Notice that Satan must make a report to God. He was not in hell at this time. He is not in hell today. There are unbelievers who are imprisoned in hell today, but Satan is not with them. He is walking to and fro on the earth, looking for whom he may devour. Satan was hoping to devour the most righteous man on earth. He wanted to force Job into denying his Creator and Savior.

Satan will be thrown into hell at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom. Towards the end of the Millennial Kingdom, he will be released for a short time. He will rally the nations against Jesus. He will be defeated and thrown into the Lake of Fire forever. After the Great White Throne Judgment, the unbelievers will be judged and thrown into the Lake of Fire as well.

1:8 So the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a pure and upright man, one who fears God and turns away from evil."

God asked Satan another question. Since Satan did not answer, God answered the question Himself. God is continually training angels and demons. God reported that Job was a good and righteous man who feared God and turned away from evil.

1:9 Then Satan answered the Lord, "Is it for nothing that Job fears God?"

Notice that Satan imitates God and asks him a question back. Satan is always attempting to "be like the Most High." This issue of pride was why he fell. Satan was insinuating to the angelic world that Job followed God, only because he was bribed by God.

1:10 Have you not made a hedge around him and his household and all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his livestock have increased in the land.

Apparently, Satan had been trying to attack and devour Job, but God placed a hedge around him. This meant that Satan would like to attack and devour all believers as well, but he cannot get through the hedge that surrounds and protects them.

1:11 But extend your hand and strike everything he has, and he will no doubt curse you to your face!"

Satan's belief system is that if God removed the hedge, then Job would blaspheme God. Satan was accusing Job in front of God and the entire angelic world.

In this book, God is allowing His created human intelligences on earth to look into the invisible spiritual warfare which has been fought since the fall of Satan. This is an actual historical event, not just "a bible story." There is no literature in the ancient world which compares to this actual historical event. Many unbelievers believe this is an allegory, a myth, or a human-created story; but this is because they have been blinded by the enemy. Blindness causes spiritual bias.

Man is totally depraved and evil. Man curses God all of the time, but Job did not. Many carnal Christians will curse God as well, because they have not yet developed enough bible doctrine to trust completely in God. Satan has a field day with carnal Christians, because they are so weak in Bible doctrine. The only defense against Satan is sound bible doctrine from the entire counsel of the Word of God. If the Christian's bible doctrine is incomplete, then Satan and his demons know it and will attack in this area.

1:12 So the Lord said to Satan, "All right then, everything he has is in your power. Only do not extend your hand against the man himself!" So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

This is an important lesson which the Holy Spirit included in the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God to teach about the mind of God. Satan hates believers. He wants to destroy those who love God, but he cannot, because God has placed a hedge around the believer. However, God will sometimes remove the hedge and allow Satan to attack the believer. The purpose is to teach the created intelligences of the universe about the mind of God and the mind of Satan. Everyone must choose a master. One must choose either the eternal and loving God of the universe who desires for His children to co-reign with Him, or one must choose an evil, created, fallen angel who wants to devour his subjects. God wants to feed the sheep. Satan wants to eat the sheep. God wants everyone to know whom they are choosing. God will allow Satan to take away all of Job's possessions to teach Satan,

the demons, the angels, and the people on earth an important lesson about the character of the two masters.

Satan wanted to try a scientific experiment on Job. His theory was that extreme suffering will cause a man to blaspheme his Creator and Savior. God allowed this test, because He knew that Job would pass it. Job would become more Christ-like from the testing. God was using this test to educate “the principalities and powers in the heavenly places” about “the manifold wisdom of God.”

What were 5 points that stood out to you in this chapter? They can be observances, cross references, questions, etc...

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WEDNESDAY

What does it mean that Jesus is our Advocate?

Question: "What does it mean that Jesus is our Advocate?"

Answer: An advocate is a person who comes to our aid or pleads our case to a judge. Advocates offer support, strength, and counsel and intercede for us when necessary. The Bible says that Jesus is an Advocate for those who've put their trust in Him: "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). In other verses, Jesus calls the Holy Spirit our Advocate (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7). The English word *advocate* has been translated from the Greek word *parakleton*, which means "helper, adviser, or counselor."

In a human court system, an advocate speaks for the rights of his or her client. We call them lawyers because they have studied the intricacies of the law and can navigate through those often complicated statutes with accuracy and precision. That is the picture John paints when he refers to Jesus as our "advocate with the Father." God's righteous law pronounces us guilty on all counts. We have violated God's standards, rejected His right to rule our lives, and continued to sin even after coming to a knowledge of the truth (Hebrews 10:26; Romans 1:21-23; 1 Timothy 2:4). The only just punishment for such wickedness is an eternity in hell (Revelation 14:10; 21:8; 1 Corinthians 6:9).

But Jesus stands as the Advocate between our repentant hearts and the law. If His blood has been applied to our lives through faith and confession of Him as Lord (Romans 10:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:21), He pleads our case with the Righteous Judge. We may imagine the conversation going something like this: "Father, I know this one has sinned and violated our commands. He is guilty as charged. However, you have said that my sacrifice is sufficient payment for the debt he owes. My righteousness was applied to his account when he trusted in me for salvation and forgiveness. I have paid the price, so he can be pronounced 'Not guilty.' There is no debt left for him to pay" (Romans 8:1; Colossians 2:14).

Jesus is our Advocate when God first accepts us into His family as His children (John 1:12). And He remains our Advocate forever. First John 1:9 says that, when we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive our sin and to cleanse us from it. As His followers, we will still sin. But, when we do, we are commanded to confess that sin to God. Confession is an agreement with God about how bad sin is. We stand guilty before Him with no argument and no justification of our own. Our Advocate steps before the Judge, and together they agree that, because we are "in Christ," no further punishment is necessary. Jesus has already made sufficient payment to redeem us.

Another aspect that makes Jesus a compassionate Advocate is the fact that He has experienced life in this world, too. He has been tempted, rejected, overlooked, misunderstood, and abused. He does not represent us theoretically; He represents us experientially. He lived the life we live, yet He did so without succumbing to the evils that befall us. He successfully refused to give in to temptation and can be our High Priest because He perfectly fulfilled God's law (Hebrews 4:15; 9:28; John 8:29). Our Advocate can plead our case from personal experience, something like this: "Father, this young woman has violated our righteous command, but she loves you and wants to serve you. I remember what it was like to be tempted like that, and my heart goes out to her. She has confessed this sin and desires to turn away from it. Because of my sacrifice, you can forgive this sin and purify her heart once more. Let's teach her how to let the Holy Spirit comfort her and strengthen her to resist the next time."

An earthly advocate can only plead our case from external evidence or witness testimony. Our heavenly Advocate knows our hearts and pleads our case on the basis of what is there (Luke 5:22; Mark 2:8). He also knows the intricacies of God's legal system. He has already satisfied the demands of justice, so His advocacy is from a position of strength and righteousness. God accepts His Son's advocacy on our behalf as part of their divine agreement, established before the world began (1 Peter 1:20; John 17:24; Revelation 13:8). Our position as "the righteousness of Christ" is secure because the One who purchased our position with His own blood is also our Advocate (Romans 4:25; 8:3; 1 Corinthians 1:30).

(Source: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-Advocate.html>)

For a deeper study, listen to Paul Washer speak on The Gospel of Propitiation here: <https://youtu.be/K1NXc5tSoAo>

THURSDAY

Isaiah 11 Breakdown

11:1 A shoot will grow out of Jesse's root stock, a bud will sprout from his roots.

In chapter 10, Assyria was a massive forest that would be cut down forever. However, the opposite is true of Israel. Israel would be reduced to a single tree stump, but a branch would grow out of this tiny little stump. The Branch would be Immanuel Himself, the Messiah of Israel. Immanuel will establish the Messianic Kingdom.

Chapter 11:1-12:6 is the fourth Book of Immanuel (Isaiah 7-12).

The Hebrew word for “shoot” is חֹטֶר (chater), meaning a tree stump. Jesse was the father of King David. Jesse was a poor shepherd who gave birth to a mighty king. God made an unconditional covenant with David called the Davidic Covenant. God promised David that one of his own descendants would sit upon the throne of Israel forever.

Isaiah predicted that the house of Jesse was a large tree that would be cut down. Left remaining would be a dead stump. However, in the future, this dead stump would supernaturally sprout, bud, produce roots, and grow back into a mighty tree.

During the time of Jesus, the house of Jesse was reduced to a stump. Joseph, the supposed father of Jesus, should have been the king of Israel. Instead, he was living in poverty in Nazareth in the tribute nation of Palestine. His wife Mary was also from the line of David, but from the small line of Nathan. Isaiah predicted that Joseph and Mary would become this dead stump.

The Hebrew word for “bud” is נֶזֶר (nezar), meaning a fresh green shoot which grows from a dead stump. Eventually, this branch will become a great tree. At his first coming, Jesus was the branch which came out of the dead stump. At His second coming, He will become the tree which grows from this branch.

In the New Testament, Jesus was called “the Nazarene.” It is very possible that Jesus should not be called “the Nazarene” from the city of Nazareth. Instead, He should be called Jesus the “נֶזֶר (nezar),” or the branch which came out of the dead stump which will grow into the Messianic King.

The point of this prophecy is that the House of David will be reduced to poverty. The family of the Messiah will be reduced to poverty with no royal power and no royal glory. The Messiah will grow up in this type of poverty environment.

11:2 The Lord's spirit will rest on him— a spirit that gives extraordinary wisdom, a spirit that provides the ability to execute plans, a spirit that produces absolute loyalty to the Lord.

Just as the Menorah in the Temple possessed seven branches, so will Immanuel possess the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit. New Testament Believers are given the gifts of the Holy Spirit when they believe, but they are not given all of them. There are seven attributes of the Holy Spirit. All seven of these attributes will rest upon the Messiah.

11:3 He will take delight in obeying the Lord. He will not judge by mere appearances, or make decisions on the basis of hearsay.

The Messiah will follow the commandments of God the Father, because He loves the Father and wants to please Him. When the Messiah judges, He will not judge by outward appearances. He will not make decisions based upon rumors and hearsay evidence.

11:4 He will treat the poor fairly, and make right decisions for the downtrodden of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and order the wicked to be executed.

The Messiah will not mistreat the poor. As the Judge of the universe, He will not be bribed by the rich. When the Messiah returns to earth at His second coming, He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth. He will exterminate all of the Christ-rejecters off of the earth. Only the believers will enter into the Millennial Kingdom.

11:5 Justice will be like a belt around his waist, integrity will be like a belt around his hips.

The girdle was worn by those who were ready to compete in a wrestling match. Whichever wrestler could take the girdle off of the other wrestler was the winner. The Messiah was wearing a girdle, ready to wrestle His opponent. He is fully equipped and prepared to win. He is fully equipped with the seven-fold ministry of the Holy Spirit.

11:6 A wolf will reside with a lamb, and a leopard will lie down with a young goat; an ox and a young lion will graze together, as a small child leads them along.

Isaiah looked forward to the Messianic Kingdom. During the Millennial Kingdom, the animal world will return to its original Garden-of-Eden conditions. The wolf usually eats the lamb, but not in the Millennial Kingdom. The leopard will not eat the goat, but they will lie down together in the field. The ox and the lion will graze together in the field, because the animal kingdom will return to its vegetarian state. A small child will be able to play with the wolf, the leopard, and the lion.

11:7 A cow and a bear will graze together, their young will lie down together. A lion, like an ox, will eat straw.

Cows and bears will graze grass together. Lions and oxen will eat straw together. The original Garden-of-Eden conditions will return to the animal world. All animals will live in peace with man and each other during the Millennial Kingdom.

11:8 A baby will play over the hole of a snake; over the nest of a serpent an infant will put his hand.

Ever since the Garden of Eden, men and snakes have been natural enemies. During the Millennial Kingdom, this curse will be removed. Snakes will not be poisonous. Children will play with snakes.

11:9 They will no longer injure or destroy on my entire royal mountain. For there will be universal submission to the Lord's sovereignty, just as the waters completely cover the sea.

During the Millennial Kingdom, there will be a one-world global government under King Messiah. Everyone will submit to the Messianic King.

11:10 At that time a root from Jesse will stand like a signal flag for the nations. Nations will look to him for guidance, and his residence will be majestic.

A signal flag stood on the top of the highest hill. During a battle, it was an assembly point where armies could meet. During the Millennial Kingdom, the root of Jesse will stand on the top of the mountain and draw the Gentile nations to Him. By this time, the root of Jesse will grow into a large tree. This large tree will grow on the top of the Millennial Mountain. All Gentiles will come to seek shade from this tree. The radiance of the Root of Jesse is the Shechinah Glory.

11:11 At that time the sovereign master will again lift his hand to reclaim the remnant of his people from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and the seacoasts.

The Messiah will regather all of the Jews from all these Gentile nations of the world and bring them into the land of Israel.

Notice that this regathering is a second regathering of Jews from all over the world. When was the first regathering? It could not be from Babylon, because this was not a worldwide regathering. The first worldwide gathering of Jews was the 1948 gathering of modern Israel. This was a regathering in unbelief. The second regathering will be a regathering of

Israel in belief. This second regathering of believing Jews will take place at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom.

11:12 He will lift a signal flag for the nations; he will gather Israel's dispersed people and assemble Judah's scattered people from the four corners of the earth.

Notice that this second regathering will come from "the four corners of the earth." The return from Babylon was only from one nation, not the four corners of the earth. Again, Isaiah predicted two regatherings. One in unbelief (1948) and another in belief (during the Millennial Kingdom).

The signal flag is an ensign for the Gentiles to assist the Jews in this second regathering. The signal flag is the Messiah. He will rally the Gentiles to help the Jews return to their Promised Land.

11:13 Ephraim's jealousy will end, and Judah's hostility will be eliminated. Ephraim will no longer be jealous of Judah, and Judah will no longer be hostile toward Ephraim.

Ephraim is another name for the ten tribes of Israel who split into the northern kingdom after Solomon's reign. According to Psalm 78:9-11, Ephraim turned away from righteousness. When Ephraim turned away from righteousness, then God chose Judah over Ephraim (Psalm 78:67-68). Therefore, the temple and the Shechinah Glory did not transfer to Samaria, but it remained in Jerusalem. This made Ephraim jealous. There has always been a jealousy between the Northern and Southern kingdoms. This jealousy will be removed at the Second Coming of Jesus.

11:14 They will swoop down on the Philistine hills to the west; together they will loot the people of the east. They will take over Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites will be their subjects.

In the past, Israel and Judah fought against each other. In the future, Israel and Judah will be combined once again into one nation. They will have no more border enemies. They will absorb the land of Edom, Moab, and Ammon.

11:15 The Lord will divide the gulf of the Egyptian Sea; he will wave his hand over the Euphrates River and send a strong wind, he will turn it into seven dried-up streams, and enable them to walk across in their sandals.

During the Millennial Kingdom, God will dry up the Egyptian Sea to make it easier for the Jews to return to their land. The Euphrates River in the Arab and Persian territory will be broken up into seven smaller streams to make it easier for the Jews to return back into their land. The returning Jews will be able to walk through these dry areas in their sandals.

11:16 There will be a highway leading out of Assyria for the remnant of his people, just as there was for Israel, when they went up from the land of Egypt.

The return of Israel during the Millennial Kingdom is known as the New Exodus. During this time, a highway will be built from Assyria to Israel. The purpose of this highway is to help the Jews return back into their land.

What were 5 points that stood out to you in this chapter? They can be observances, cross references, questions, etc...

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FRIDAY**Jeremiah 23 Breakdown**

23:1 The Lord says, "The leaders of my people are sure to be judged. They were supposed to watch over my people like shepherds watch over their sheep. But they are causing my people to be destroyed and scattered."

Jehovah spoke to Jeremiah again. God would judge the leaders of Judah. They would have to become shepherds who were not watching over the sheep. Instead, they were causing the sheep to be destroyed and scattered.

23:2 So the Lord God of Israel has this to say about the leaders who are ruling over his people: "You have caused my people to be dispersed and driven into exile. You have not taken care of them. So I will punish you for the evil that you have done. I, the Lord, affirm it!"

The leaders of Judah had caused the people of Judah to be driven into the Babylonian captivity.

23:3 Then I myself will regather those of my people who are still alive from all the countries where I have driven them. I will bring them back to their homeland. They will greatly increase in number.

Not only had the leaders caused the Babylonian Captivity, but future leaders (Pharisees and Sadducees) would cause the dispersion from the land in 70 A.D. At the end of the Great Tribulation, Jehovah would regather the dispersed Jews from all of the nations of the world and bring them into the land of Israel. During the Millennial Kingdom, there would be no more Jewish genocides. Therefore, the population of Israel would increase rapidly.

23:4 I will install rulers over them who will care for them. Then they will no longer need to fear or be terrified. None of them will turn up missing. I, the Lord, promise it!

During the Millennial Kingdom, Israel would no longer receive terrible rulers (like Zedekiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, etc). Instead, they will receive righteous

rulers who will feed them with knowledge and understanding. Knowledge and understanding is sound Bible doctrine.

23:5 "I, the Lord, promise that a new time will certainly come when I will raise up for them a righteous branch, a descendant of David. He will rule over them with wisdom and understanding and will do what is just and right in the land."

During the Millennial Kingdom, Israel will no longer be ruled by evil Davidic kings who lack godly wisdom (such as Zedekiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, etc). Instead, Israel will be ruled by the Righteous Branch. This Righteous Branch will be a descendant of David, meaning that he will be human. He will rule with godly wisdom and understanding. He will keep and enforce the Millennial Kingdom Law. He will rule righteously. All of the other Davidic kings were raised up to rule in this way, but they all failed. This Righteous Branch will not fail.

Until modern times, all Rabbinic literature has always interpreted this verse as a prophecy of the Messiah. When Jesus fulfilled this prophecy, the post-Christian rabbis changed their interpretation because of blindness and biasness.

23:6 Under his rule Judah will enjoy safety and Israel will live in security. This is the name he will go by: 'The Lord has provided us with justice.'

This verse informs the reader that the Messiah will not only be human, but he will be deity as well. Under the Messianic King's rule, Israel will enjoy eternal safety and security by receiving a national regeneration.

The name of this Messianic King is "Jehovah our Righteousness." Since all four letters of Jehovah are used, then this identifies the Messianic King as Jehovah Himself. When a human takes on the name of Jehovah, he only uses the first two letters (such as "Eli-JAH" or "JAH-el").

23:7 "So I, the Lord, say: 'A new time will certainly come. People now affirm their oaths with "I swear as surely as the Lord lives who delivered the people of Israel out of Egypt."'

During the Millennial Kingdom, the Jews will never look at the Exodus from Egypt as their greatest deliverance. Instead, their greatest deliverance will be considered the deliverance from the Antichrist from all of the nations of the world.

23:8 But at that time they will affirm them with “I swear as surely as the Lord lives who delivered the descendants of the former nation of Israel from the land of the north and from all the other lands where he had banished them.” At that time they will live in their own land.’ ”

During the Millennial Kingdom, all of the Jews who survive the Great Tribulation will be regenerated and returned to the physical land of Israel. Amillenialists like to spiritualize this passage to mean the church. This is nothing but biased interpretation to make the Scripture fit their own personal amillennial theology.

23:9 Here is what the Lord says concerning the false prophets: My heart and my mind are deeply disturbed. I tremble all over. I am like a drunk person, like a person who has had too much wine, because of the way the Lord and his holy word are being mistreated.

In verses 9-40, Jeremiah leaves the subject of the final restoration and returns to the current issues of the false prophets. Jeremiah is deeply disturbed. He trembles all over like a drunken person who has drank too much wine. The contempt for the word of God has placed Jeremiah in this stuporous condition.

23:10 For the land is full of people unfaithful to him. They live wicked lives and they misuse their power. So the land is dried up because it is under his curse. The pastures in the wilderness are withered.

The land of Judah is full of spiritual adulterers. They use their power for evil. This type of behavior causes Jehovah to keep His promises about delivering the curses of the Mosaic Covenant.

23:11 Moreover, the Lord says, “Both the prophets and priests are godless. I have even found them doing evil in my temple!”

The prophets and priests of Jehovah are godless. They were even worshiping pagan gods in the Temple.

23:12 So the paths they follow will be dark and slippery. They will stumble and fall headlong. For I will bring disaster on them. A day of reckoning is coming for them.” The Lord affirms it!

Jehovah announced His judgment against these false prophets and teachers. They would attempt to look into the future, but they would walk down a dark and slippery path. They would slip and fall down continually because of the continuous unfulfillment of all of their false prophecies. The day of reckoning that was coming upon them would be the Babylonian Captivity.

23:13 The Lord says, “I saw the prophets of Samaria doing something that was disgusting. They prophesied in the name of the god Baal and led my people Israel astray.

Samaria was the fallen capital city of Israel. Their prophets were disgusting, but at least they prophesied in the name of Baal. They led Israel into the Assyrian Captivity.

23:14 But I see the prophets of Jerusalem doing something just as shocking. They are unfaithful to me and continually prophesy lies. So they give encouragement to people who are doing evil, with the result that they do not stop their evildoing. I consider all of them as bad as the people of Sodom, and the citizens of Jerusalem as bad as the people of Gomorrah.

The prophets of the northern kingdom were making false prophecies and leading Judah astray, but they were claiming that their prophecies were actually coming from Jehovah. The people of Judah had become just as bad as the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by God and never rebuilt. Every one of their citizens were exterminated off of this earth. Jerusalem deserved this same type of punishment, especially since they were given more light. However, Jehovah cannot exterminate Judah, because of the unconditional covenants (Abrahamic, Davidic, New) which He had made with them. Therefore, He would have to punish Judah in a different way.

23:15 So then I, the Lord who rules over all, have something to say concerning the prophets of Jerusalem: ‘I will make these prophets eat the bitter food of suffering and drink the poison water of judgment. For the prophets of Jerusalem are the reason that ungodliness has spread throughout the land.’ ”

Jehovah announced His judgment upon the false prophets and teachers of Jerusalem. They will be forced to eat wormwood and drink gall. Wormwood was a bad tasting food with a strong odor and bitter taste. Gall was a poisonous drink.

23:16 The Lord who rules over all says to the people of Jerusalem: "Do not listen to what those prophets are saying to you. They are filling you with false hopes. They are reporting visions of their own imaginations, not something the Lord has given them to say."

Jehovah warned Judah not to listen to these false prophets and teachers. They were filling the people with false hopes. They were reporting that they had a vision from Jehovah, but it was actually just an invention of their own imaginations. Jehovah was not speaking through these prophets. Many charismatic "prophets" imagine that they have a dream or vision and then speak it as gospel truth. They are adding to the written Word of God. They are just as guilty as these false prophets of Jerusalem.

23:17 They continually say to those who reject what the Lord has said, 'Things will go well for you!' They say to all those who follow the stubborn inclinations of their own hearts, 'Nothing bad will happen to you!'

The claim of these false prophets was that Jerusalem would not be judged as Jeremiah had told them. Instead, Jerusalem would receive peace. People believed the positive untruthful message of the false prophets, but rejected the negative true message of Jeremiah. People prefer prophets and teachers who tickle their ears. This is why charismatic, prosperity, emergent, and seeker churches are so large, but expository teaching churches are so small.

Most modern Christians have never studied the Book of Jeremiah, so they miss out on this important spiritual concept. This fragmentation of Bible doctrine causes them to spend their lives in the wrong church. They study the wrong books. They live in fragmentation.

23:18 Yet which of them has ever stood in the Lord's inner circle so they could see and hear what he has to say? Which of them have ever paid attention or listened to what he has said?

God asked some questions to these false prophets. Who has ever heard a true message from Jehovah? The answer was that none of these false prophets had ever received revelation from Jehovah.

23:19 But just watch! The wrath of the Lord will come like a storm! Like a raging storm it will rage down on the heads of those who are wicked.

The wrath of God would come down upon the heads of these false prophets like a massive hurricane.

23:20 The anger of the Lord will not turn back until he has fully carried out his intended purposes. In days to come you people will come to understand this clearly.

Anger is not a sin if it is a righteous anger. The anger of Jehovah would not turn back until it reached its intended purposes. When the Babylonian invasion of 586 B.C. takes place, then the people would know that Jeremiah was a true prophet and all of these other men were false prophets. The spiritual truth of Israel's restoration would not be clearly understood until the last days of the Great Tribulation. This understanding will nationally regenerate Israel and motivate them to call for their Messiah to return

23:21 I did not send those prophets. Yet they were in a hurry to give their message. I did not tell them anything. Yet they prophesied anyway.

The prophets claimed to be sent by Jehovah, but He did not send them.

23:22 But if they had stood in my inner circle, they would have proclaimed my message to my people. They would have caused my people to turn from their wicked ways and stop doing the evil things they are doing.

If these were true prophets of God, then they would have been predicting judgment and not prosperity.

23:23 Do you people think that I am some local deity and not the transcendent God?" the Lord asks.

Jehovah was not just a local god or goddess. He is omnipotent over all of creation.

23:24 "Do you really think anyone can hide himself where I cannot see him?" the Lord asks. "Do you not know that I am everywhere?" the Lord asks.

God is omniscient. He knows and can see the past, present, and future all at one time. He is omnipresent. He is everywhere at once. He is near and He is far. The Lord Jesus Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Father, but He is still everywhere at once. There is no place for anyone to hide from God.

23:25 The Lord says, "I have heard what those prophets who are prophesying lies in my name are saying. They are saying, 'I have had a dream! I have had a dream!'

The false prophets were claiming that they were receiving dreams from God. These false claims were repeated twice, making it emphatic.

There are many modern charismatics who make this same claim today. They claim that they have a dream or that they die and go to heaven. Then, they write a book and make a lot of money. People with poor Bible doctrine treat these dreams as another final authority which is equal to Scripture. If people would study the entire counsel of the Word of God, then they would be able to recognize that these "dreams from the Holy Spirit" are just inventions of the minds of sinful men. Another possibility is that these dreams are a satanic deception to fool those who are not grounded in Bible doctrine. The dreams of charismatics are not equal to Scripture. It is the written Bible, not the dreams of human beings, which is man's final authority.

23:26 Those prophets are just prophesying lies. They are prophesying the delusions of their own minds.

These dreamers are false prophets. They are making up these dreams in their own mind and giving them out as the Word of God. The people were not grounded in the Bible, so they believe these dreamers.

23:27 How long will they go on plotting to make my people forget who I am through the dreams they tell one another? That is just as bad as what their ancestors did when they forgot who I am by worshiping the god Baal.

What are these false prophets trying to accomplish? They were worse than the false prophets of Baal, because they were making the people forget about God's name. Modern charismatics will often listen to the false prophecies, false tongues, and false words of knowledge of their charismatic prophets, but they will not study the entire counsel of the written Word of God.

23:28 Let the prophet who has had a dream go ahead and tell his dream. Let the person who has received my message report that message faithfully. What is like straw cannot compare to what is like grain! I, the Lord, affirm it!

The false prophets who tell these dreams should tell it as a dream only, and not as the Word of God. Otherwise, their dreams would be like straw which is easily burned. Straw is fit for animals. Grain is food for men. Instead of feeding on these false dreams (straw), the people should feed on the written Word of God (grain).

23:29 My message is like a fire that purges dross! It is like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces! I, the Lord, so affirm it!

Jehovah's message is a fire that burns off the ugly dross and makes metals beautiful. Jehovah's message is a hammer that breaks a tough rock to pieces. Jehovah is the fire and the hammer. The people of Judah are the metal that is being formed and the rock which is being smashed to pieces.

People are so totally depraved and evil and so stubborn in their evil habits, that God must burn the dross off of them and break them into pieces. It is the only way that He can soften a man's heart. The heart is the intellect of man. It is his attitude. It is how he thinks. The attitude of man stinks, because he is totally depraved and evil.

23:30 So I, the Lord, affirm that I am opposed to those prophets who steal messages from one another that they claim are from me.

The false prophets listen to the prophecies of the true prophets and then repeat them to the people as though the prophecies came from them. They stole true prophecies from true prophets. They were guilty of prophetic plagiarism. Then, they mixed in their own false prophecies. Jehovah was against these false prophets. The Lord Jesus Christ is against the modern false prophets of the cults, isms, and charismatic churches.

These modern false prophets will perform signs and miracles, but the Lord Jesus Christ will say to them "I never knew you".

23:31 I, the Lord, affirm that I am opposed to those prophets who are using their own tongues to declare, 'The Lord declares....'

These false prophets start out their prophecies with the same formula as the true prophets ("the Lord declares"), but then they give out their own words from the invention of their own minds.

23:32 I, the Lord, affirm that I am opposed to those prophets who dream up lies and report them. They are misleading my people with their reckless lies. I did not send them. I did not commission them. They are not helping these people at all. I, the Lord, affirm it!"

Jehovah is opposed to these false prophets who dream up lies and deceive the people. They were not helping the people at all. They were leading the people astray, causing them to hope in false prophecies which would not occur. This is the same thing that prosperity preachers, charismatic preachers, and seeker churches do to their people. They tickle their ears, give them lots of entertainment, but they do not train their congregation to fight in a spiritual world as soldiers. Pastor-teachers are to be drill-sergeants, not comedians, entertainers, dreamers. or story tellers.

23:33 The Lord said to me, "Jeremiah, when one of these people, or a prophet, or a priest asks you, 'What burdensome message do you have from the Lord?' Tell them, 'You are the burden, and I will cast you away. I, the Lord, affirm it!"

The Hebrew word for "burden" is מַסָּה (masa), meaning a heavy burden or an oracle. When people asked Jeremiah for an oracle, he was to tell them that they were the heavy burden on Jehovah's back. They were the problem. They were the ones who were making the people carry a burden which was too heavy for them to carry. Therefore, Jehovah would have to cast this burden off of his back. He would cast this burden into Babylon.

23:34 I will punish any prophet, priest, or other person who says "The Lord's message is burdensome." I will punish both that person and his whole family.' "

The judgment of Jehovah would fall upon all classes of the Jewish people. This includes prophets, priests, and common people. Anyone who used this expression of "What is your oracle" would be punished.

23:35 So I, Jeremiah, tell you, "Each of you people should say to his friend or his relative, 'How did the Lord answer? Or what did the Lord say?'"

Jeremiah was to spread Jehovah's message to all members of society.

23:36 You must no longer say that the Lord's message is burdensome. For what is 'burdensome' really pertains to what a person himself says. You are misrepresenting the words of our God, the living God, the Lord who rules over all.

Every man's own word would become his own heavy burden.

23:37 Each of you should merely ask the prophet, 'What answer did the Lord give you? Or what did the Lord say?'"

Jeremiah pronounced a special judgment upon false prophets. This special judgment was that the people would ask them embarrassing questions as to why their prophecies were unfulfilled. These false prophets would have no answer. Their answer would be "nothing, nothing."

23:38 But just suppose you continue to say, 'The message of the Lord is burdensome.' Here is what the Lord says will happen: 'I sent word to you that you must not say, "The Lord's message is burdensome." But you used the words "The Lord's message is burdensome" anyway.

If the people continued to use this expression of "the message of the Lord is too heavy to carry", then they would be judged.

23:39 So I will carry you far off and throw you away. I will send both you and the city I gave to you and to your ancestors out of my sight.

Jehovah would throw the heavy burden (the false prophets) off of His back. He would cast the people into Babylon like a heavy load off of His back.

23:40 I will bring on you lasting shame and lasting disgrace which will never be forgotten!’ ”

These people would always remember how they were deceived by these false prophets. This is a warning today for charismatics. Whenever they invent a tongue, word of knowledge, healing, or prophecy, then they will eventually be shamed. Their followers will never forget how they were deceived by these lying people who pretended to speak from God. The Lord Jesus Christ will say to them who prophesy in His name, “I never knew you.” Beware of charismatic prophets!

What were 5 points that stood out to you in this chapter? They can be observances, cross references, questions, etc...

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