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Zechariah 14

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Zechariah 14.

Topics.

- God will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle.
 - On that day the LORD'S feet will stand on the Mount of Olives.
 - On that day the LORD will be king over all the earth.
 - Living waters will flow out from Jerusalem.
 - Jerusalem will remain aloft and never again suffer destruction.
 - The plague the LORD will strike all who wage war against Jerusalem.
 - Nations will keep the Feast of Booths and worship the King, the LORD.
 - When the LORD comes Jerusalem will be filled with, "Holy to the LORD."
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FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

The following introduction is quiet long, but it does help understand the the background of Zechariah, (to skip the introduction scroll down to Zechariah chapter one). As Haggai encouraged the returned Jewish exiles to rebuild the Temple, Zechariah encouraged them to repent and renew their covenant with God. Such spiritual renewal would be necessary for the people to be ready to worship God once the Temple was rebuilt (about 515 B.C.). Zechariah accused them of doing the very things their ancestors had done before the exile. He was concerned about social justice for widows, orphans, and foreigners. As the people endured opposition from the non-Jewish inhabitants of Judea, Zechariah reassured them of God's abiding comfort and care and that He would continue his covenant with Israel.

The Messianic hope was rekindled during Zechariah's ministry by the ordination of Joshua as priest and Zerubbabel as governor. From Zechariah chapter one through to the end there is a beautiful message of comfort and encouragement for the people of Israel during the era of Zechariah and for those who are rebuilding the temporal Temple of God, but as the visions progress through the chapters the focus slowly shifts from the era of Zechariah and transcends time to a future age where God is building an eternal Temple in the Lord Jesus Christ. The visions then progress to Jesus returning in glory and climax's in the final chapter with Christ reigning from Jerusalem as King over the entire earth and ends with the promise that the Lord would establish his rule over all the earth (Zechariah 14:9).

The historical background: twenty years after untied Israel returned from their seventy years in captivity to Babylon, the Temple was still a blackened ruin and the discouraged people did not see how it could be restored. At this critical moment God raised up the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the Jews to rebuild the Temple. The prophecies of the two men were delivered almost at the same time.

Zechariah gives a series of eight symbolic night-visions, to encourage the Israelites to complete the Temple.

The focus of this chapter is Israel's final battle with their enemies entering Jerusalem: Zechariah prophetic vision now transcends his era and travels through time and history and climaxes at the future glory of Jerusalem and God's eternal plan of salvation to be established on earth.

ZECHARIAH 14:1-2

God will gather all Nations against Jerusalem to Battle.

- **Zechariah 14:1-2:** Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you (Jerusalem) will be divided in your midst ²For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

God used His servant Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon to bring to pass the immediate and local fulfilment of this prophecy of Zechariah. The fierce armies of Babylon invaded the land of Israel and not only laid it waste and destroyed the temple of God, but also took the sacred treasures of the temple and the people of Israel into Babylonian captivity for seventy-years, but the following verses show that though this prophecy rests upon Babylon's invasion of Jerusalem for a certain period of time it takes up wings and transcends through history to another period of time in which it will not only be fulfilled on a much greater level, but also fulfilled on a global scale.

ZECHARIAH 14:3-5

On that Day the LORD'S Feet will stand on the Mount of Olives.

- **Zechariah 14:3-5:** Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. ⁴On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. ⁵And you (Israel) shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. ⁵Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

The LORD'S mountains and valleys: (v5) are the Mount of Olives and Mount Sinai (also called Mount Horeb) and Mount Zion. The valleys of the LORD'S mountains are the valleys of these mountains.

Day: when the word day is used figuratively it can refer to a period of time embracing a series of events, to generations or to, many days. The Day of the LORD sometimes encompass an entire series of events over a unspecified period of time and at other times the Day of the LORD only refers to that particular day of Christ's return or God's judgment. It is the context the expression is used in that determines if it is referring to one day or a period of time or a series of events.

The LORD fights on the day of battle: this means that God's favour is upon those who are faithful to Him. It refers to God's supernatural intervention in times of warfare, (i.e. the fall of Jericho, the striking blind of the 185, 000 soldiers of the Assyrian army etc.), (Josh. 6) (Isaiah 37:35-36). If Israel was faithful to the LORD and their enemies came against them God's favour would be upon Israel when they went to war and God would give them the victory, but if Israel was in rebellion to God, their enemies prevailed and conquered. God used Cyrus who He called His anointed shepherd to fulfil the immediate fulfilment of these prophetic

words of Zechariah. Cyrus the king of Persia conquered Babylon and set God's people free from their seventy-year captivity and they with triumphant rejoicing returned to their beloved city Jerusalem as one nation with one faith and one God the Lord their God. The following verses not only show that the LORD called Cyrus the secular king of Persia His anointed shepherd and called him by name and that He held Cyrus's right hand while he opened all doors that no man could shut as Cyrus subdued all nations, but also show that even though Cyrus did not know the LORD, God equipped him for the battle and went before him.

- Thus says the LORD to *his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped*, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed (Isaiah 45:1).
- I will give you (Cyrus) the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who *call you by your name*. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, *I call you by your name*, I name you, though you do not know me. (Isaiah 45:3-4).
- I am the LORD, there is no other, besides me there is no God; *I equip you (Cyrus)* though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, there is no other (Isaiah 45:5-6).

At this time Isaiah was speaking to Israel who is held captive in Babylon. The focus is Cyrus King of Persia. God equipped and used Cyrus His anointed shepherd to set His people free. Cyrus after conquering Babylon gave Israel written permission to return to their beloved city and rebuild the temple of God, but Isaiah's message transcends the era of Isaiah and Cyrus and echoes a future King who the LORD also calls His anointed shepherd, and his name is not Cyrus, but the Lord Jesus Christ, in who God is also building a temple made up of Jews and Gentiles (also called a new nation and new creation in Christ).

Azal: as a place, is not known, if it was a literal place, it was most probably near to Jerusalem and may have been destroyed in the destructive Roman wars. The meaning in this context seems to be that they might not be involved in the judgments which fall on their enemy.

Zechariah speaks of an earthquake: in the time of Uzziah though there is no historical account of this earthquake, the people of Zechariah's generation would have been fully aware of it. This valley seems to be their way of escape, not their place of refuge it appears to be the passage through which an escape to safety may be made, much like the parting of the Red Sea saved Israel and destroyed their enemies this earthquake appears to not only open a way of escape to God's people but also swallow up their enemies. If this is so then this valley not only becomes the means of deliverance and an occasion of terror to those delivered through it, but also brings destruction to their enemies.

Amos in the following verses speaks of the earthquake Uzziah mentions in this prophecy:

- The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake and said: "The LORD roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem (Amos 1:1-2).

This earthquake was recognized as a period of time in Jewish history. When literal earthquakes are mentioned in the Bible they mark momentous events, when the disciples asked Jesus, "What will be the sign of his coming and of the close of the age?" Jesus said: -

- Many will be led astray, there will be wars and rumours of wars, nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places (Matt. 24:7).

Zechariah sees in this vision that the intervention of the Lord is accompanied by an earthquake, which produces the same panic as it did in the days of Uzziah and cause the people to flee.

This prophecy of Zechariah's can refer to the following two events:

1. Then destruction and persecution that came upon the Jewish nation after Jesus ascended from the Mount of Olives to heaven especially since there was a great earthquake at the crucifixion.
 - The veil of the temple was rent in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent and the tombs also were opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many (Matt. 27:51-53).
2. To future events still to be fulfilled and to troubles which we cannot at this present time fully comprehend.

The state of the church at this present time is deformed by sin; there is a mixture of truth and error, of happiness and misery. Such is the experience of God's people, a mingled state of grace and corruption. But, when this corruption reaches its worst the Lord will return in glory and turn darkness into light. It is because of this glorious day when that every faithful brother and sister in Christ may triumph in the expectation of Christ coming in power and speak of it with great joy.

Zechariah triumphantly proclaims:

- The LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him (v5).

These glorious words echo the following words of Jesus and John:

Jesus said:

- Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory (Matt. 24:30).

Jesus said:

- When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne (Matt. 25:31).

John on the Isle of Patmos wrote:

- Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him (Rev. 1:7).

Jude in his letter wrote:

- Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him (Jude 1:14-15).

The words, "He shall come with the clouds," can embrace heavenly angels who are ministering spirits and the resurrected faithful. These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that whenever Scripture says that the saints and angels are coming with Christ, it is always speaking of Christ's return in glory.

The Lord my God shall come: (Zech. 14:5) these words prophetically refer to the Lord Jesus Christ, who will appear in glory at his return and the resurrection of the glorified faithful made perfect, whom Christ will gather together to be in the new heavens and new earth, which will now be formed, and to dwell with him, during his glorious millennial reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

ZECHARIAH 14:6-9

On that Day the LORD will be King over all the Earth.

- **Zechariah 14:6-9:** On that day (the day the LORD comes and all the holy ones with him) (v5) there shall be no light, cold, or frost. ⁷And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light. ⁸On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter. ⁹And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one.

So far it appears that the city of Jerusalem is almost attacked by her enemies and almost defeated then the Lord appears on the Mount of Olives there is a great earthquake which brings deliverance to God's people and destruction to their enemies. At this time, it is most likely the resurrection takes place especially since we are told it will be a unique day with no light, cold or frost and that there will be neither day nor night.

It appears it will be a day of pure light probably a form of light we have not known, comprehended or experienced, we know this is literal light, because it is identified with cold and frost, day and night.

Living waters will flow out from Jerusalem: (v8) can refer to natural water, but most likely refers to vitality of life, joy, health well-being, laughter and happiness, but this brilliant and unique day may well be a small glimpse of the glorious light of the eternal age still to come which is seen in John's vision at the end of the book of Revelation. At the end of Christ's millennial reign God Himself descends to earth and is ALL in ALL. The glory of God radiates a light that becomes the everlasting light for His people throughout eternity.

- I saw no temple in the city (Jerusalem), for its temple is the LORD God the Almighty and the Lamb and the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there (Rev. 16:22-25)
- Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads and night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever (Rev. 22:1-4)

A river of the water of life can apply to natural water and to the teachings of God, likewise the expression the Lord God will be their light can apply to natural light and the teachings of God. On that day when the Lord will be King over all the earth the teachings of God will not apply to doctrine, but to the things that are most important to God's heart which of course is the fruits of the Spirit, love and justice, kindness, mercy, grace, forgiveness and prosperity and joy for all. What an awesome climax to God's eternal plan of salvation not only for His people, but also for His chosen planet called earth is it any wonder all the angels of heaven are seen shouting cries of "hallelujah!"

The LORD will be one and his name one: (v9) the LORD will be one and his name one (means there will be no other gods), in contrast to the multitudes of pagan gods, idols and goddess that Israel and the nations of the world worshipped. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the great I AM and Creator of all things is the only God that will be worshipped as God, while His beloved and glorified Son the Lord Jesus Christ will be honoured by all nations and praised and given all the glory as the eternal King of kings and Lord of lords over the populations of the earth.

ZECHARIAH 14:10-11

Jerusalem will be Aloft on its Site and Never Suffer Destruction.

- **Zechariah 14:10-11:** The whole land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Jerusalem shall remain aloft on its site from the Gate of Benjamin to the place of the former gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses. ¹¹And it shall be inhabited, for there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction. Jerusalem shall dwell in security.

Aloft: means, high up and higher in position.

Geba and Rimmon: are places in Palestine.

This is amazing, there is going to be a massive earthquake in the Middle East that causes the land of Israel to become a fertile plain with God's city the new and heavenly Jerusalem remaining on God's holy mountain exalted above all other nations.

Joel refers to this miracle of nature when he says:

- The heavens and the earth quake, but the LORD is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel (Joel 3:16).

It appears God will supernaturally protect Jerusalem from the surrounding earthquake. This is not difficult to understand, if one reflects back to the division God put between Israel and the Egyptians when Moses commanded the plagues on the land of Egypt, supernaturally this division protected Israel from the plagues that affected all Egypt. Then consider God's power in parting the Red Sea to deliver and protect His people and destroy their enemies. Since we are told that that the day the Lord returns will be a unique day in which there will be neither day nor night and the Lord begins to reign as King over all the earth it is highly possible that this day changes the climate forever and that the earthquake produces an abundance of fresh water. Zechariah prophesies that utter destruction will never again come upon the city of Jerusalem and that the inhabitants will forever dwell in security. This is because when Christ returns God will pour out on Israel and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look him who they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. (Zech. 12:10-11).

ZECHARIAH 14:12-15

The Plague the LORD will Strike all who War against Jerusalem.

- **Zechariah 14:12-15:** And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples that wage war against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. ¹³And on that day a great panic from the LORD shall fall on them, so that each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of the one will be raised against the hand of the other. ¹⁴Even Judah will fight against Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be collected, gold, silver, and garments in great abundance. ¹⁵And a plague like this plague shall fall on the horses, the mules, the camels, the donkeys, and whatever beasts may be in those camps.

The plague that the LORD will strike the armies that attempt to make war against Jerusalem is described as their flesh, their eyes and their tongues peeling from their bodies standing on their feet since this means that this destruction has an instant effect on the body. This is a perfect description of the effect the shock wave and radiation a nuclear weapon would have on the human body. The armies of the nations that went to battle against Israel will be so confused in this horror and in their panic will fight against each other (electronic communication is probably not working at this stage). There will be enormous diseases (probably from the mutilated and dead bodies or chemical and germ warfare) that will kill the cattle and livestock in the area. Israel only survives because God intervenes in this battle. For further information see the title:

- Nuclear Bombs, at the end of this chapter.

Whatever this destruction is it causes the armies of the nations or those in control of them (i.e., global governments) who have come against Jerusalem to turn on each other. The words "Even Judah will fight against Jerusalem" seems to suggest that even some of the people of Israel will be in allegiance with the enemies of those who are intent on invading Jerusalem. Those who inhabit Jerusalem and are in allegiance with them will gain victory over all their enemies in the Middle East and all their wealth (i.e., oil, water and finances).

ZECHARIAH 14:16-19

Nations will Keep the Feast of Booths and Worship the King.

- **Zechariah 14:16-19:** Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. ¹⁷And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. ¹⁸And if the family of Egypt does not go up and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which the LORD afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. ¹⁹This shall be the punishment to Egypt and the punishment to all the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths.

The Feast of Tabernacles, Booths (tents) or Ingathering: the Feast of Tabernacles also called the Feast of Booths or Ingathering was the name given in the Old Testament to the seven day Jewish festival marking the close of the harvest in Palestine. The booth was a simple, temporary shelter generally constructed of tree-branches with the leaves left on. This is the reason it was called the Festival of Booths (tabernacles or tents). During this festival people lived, ate and slept in booths in Jerusalem to remind themselves of how their forefathers wandered in the wilderness and lived in booths. It was popular and joyous in nature since throughout the seven days of the festival there was plenty of time to spend with family, friends, meeting others and rejoicing, eating and resting. The final day of the festival began the yearly cycle of reading the Torah anew again amid great rejoicing, dancing and singing. Jesus taught in the Temple during the Festival of Booths (John 7:2, 14).

The King, the LORD of hosts is of course the Lord Jesus Christ the Shepherd who died for his sheep. The laws the nations will be reading and committing themselves to will not be intellectual doctrines and religious ceremonial rites; they will be laws of love so they commit to shepherding their nations with justice, kindness and doing what is right and fair for all the people of the earth and not just a selected few. Christ is coming in glory to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his thousand-year millennial reign, and God's Kingdom is not one of selfish greed, but steadfast love, justice, faithfulness, righteousness, peace and joy. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever, and will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth, or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the lion and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. Isaiah prophesies a Highway called, "The Way of Holiness" in the Middle East.

- In that day (the day Jerusalem becomes a terror to her enemies) there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance" (Isaiah 19:23-24).
- A highway shall be there (in the wilderness and dry places), and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray (Isaiah 35:8).

Luke picks up on Isaiah's theme:

- As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God" (Luke 3:1-10).

Those who walk on this Highway of God are faithful Jews and Gentiles who have accepted the Lordship of Israel's Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. They together with Jesus when he returns will bring steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, peace and joy and the glory of God to the entire earth. All nations will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ proclaiming that the Lord Jesus Christ is great and does wondrous things, primarily because he is the only King throughout history that will have brought peace, justice joy and prosperity to all nations of the world.

Those who survive of all the armies of the nations that have come against Jerusalem will accept the kingly reign of Christ. The words, "They will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths" (Zech. 14:16) may mean that the authorities, rulers and kings of the nations will bring the glory and honour of their nation before Christ the King and as the leaders of the world gather together today to counsel together over the affairs of the world, likewise in the New Age it may well be that while in Jerusalem they will gather together with Christ to hear his counsel.

While the words, "If any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them" (Zech. 14:16) and the other similar verses carry the idea that whatever they put their hand to do it will not prosper. Remember Christ is returning as the King of kings and the Lord of lords and not as the Lamb to be slain. He will rule with a rod of iron meaning great authority and power, but there is a difference to his Kingship to any secular king this world has ever known or witnessed. Christ will rule with love, compassion, mercy and justice for all and not from selfish ambition and greed for wealth and the lust for power.

ZECHARIAH 14:20-21

Jerusalem will be Filled with, "Holy to the LORD."

- **Zechariah 14:20-21:** And on that day (the day the LORD comes and all the holy ones with him) (v5) there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "Holy to the LORD." And the pots in the house of the LORD shall be as the bowls before the altar. ²¹And every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holy to the LORD of hosts, so that all who sacrifice may come and take of them and boil the meat of the sacrifice in them. And there shall no longer be a trader in the house of the LORD of hosts on that day.

Obviously, we will not return to sacrifices when the Lord returns this would be pointless since Christ was the final Lamb without blemish to be sacrificed for all mankind. Zechariah is simply using language every Jew of his era understood to shine a spotlight on the truth that all the people of God will be holy and to highlight the truth that everything in Jerusalem will reflect the glory of Christ and the glory of his heavenly Father and that everything done before God and in the Lord's name will be done with honesty and integrity.

The following verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the glory of Scripture:

- As the disciples were standing on the Mount of Olives Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight and while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven (Luke 24:50-53) (Acts 1:9-11).

The very mountain Jesus ascended to heaven from is the very mountain he returns to stand on, when this event comes to pass it will bring about awesome and breathtaking changes to the world as we know it today.

NOTE: this is not the ten horned beast nations as in that battle Israel does not suffer, but in this battle, Jerusalem is almost defeated then the Lord appears on the Mount of Olives and there is a great earthquake. The Lord is pictured as coming with the faithful which means the resurrection may have taken place as he descends or perhaps during the time he stands on the Mount of Olives since there is great earthquake maybe like the one at his crucifixion in which the tombs were opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised (Matt. 27:52). From this day on Jerusalem will never again suffer destruction and everyone in the city and the land of Israel will reflect the glory of the Lord and his heavenly Father.

FOOTNOTE

We should always keep in mind that absolute and perfect understanding of prophecy is limited by, our imperfect mind and partial understanding of biblical knowledge and by the difficulty of obscure verses, symbolic language and a lack of historical, cultural and geographical knowledge. Added to this we are also limited by the strength of certain preconceived ideas already established in the mind, the influence of popular thought and theory and our own individual perspective of God. Because of these facts this presentation is in no way a dogmatic view of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ especially since world events are constantly changing and our knowledge and understanding of prophetic Scripture is always increasing and will become much clearer as we move closer to the end of the age as we know it and get closer to the glorious return of Christ. It should always be kept in mind that Jesus said, "I know my sheep." This means that no faithful brother or sister in Christ needs to understand the detail of how Christ will return they just need to know that he is returning and that they will be resurrected to eternal glory when he does return in glory.

NUCLEAR BOMBS

Effects of an atomic bomb explosion: when an atomic bomb explodes, a fireball creates shock and heat waves that destroy structures in the immediate vicinity of the blast. The rising fireball sucks up debris to form a mushroom cloud. Damage can occur over large distances. For example, the radius for severe damage could be approximately 18 km for a 10-megaton blast. Radioactive fallout may be dispersed worldwide through global atmospheric processes. Most of the damage to buildings and other structures from a nuclear explosion results, directly or indirectly, from the effects of blast. The very rapid expansion of the bomb materials produces a shock wave, accompanied by powerful winds much greater than hurricane force that moves rapidly outward from the exploding bomb. The initial explosion in the detonation of an atomic bomb is catastrophic for the surrounding area, levelling structures with intense shock waves and releasing vast amounts of heat. The characteristic mushroom cloud sends debris and radioactive material into the atmosphere, which can cause biological damage thousands of miles away from the explosion site.

Thermal effects: the thermal radiation falling on exposed skin will cause flash burns, but most ordinary clothing provides protection from the heat radiation, as does almost any opaque object. Flash burns occur when the bare skin is directly exposed, or if the clothing is too thin to absorb the thermal radiation. The atomic bomb dropped by the United States, on Nagasaki on 1945, killed and injured some 70,000 people it released radiation that caused serious long-term injuries to thousands of people who survived the heat and blast of the explosion. The heat radiation can

start fires in dry, flammable materials and secondary fires originate from things, such as electrical short circuits, broken gas lines, and chemicals in industrial plants etc., many of these individual fires can combine to produce a firestorm similar to those that accompany some large forest fires.

Penetrating radiation: the nature of radioactivity and the immense areas contaminable by a single bomb make radioactive fallout potentially one of the most lethal effects of nuclear weapons. When absorbed by the body, nuclear radiation causes serious injury. If a nuclear explosion occurs near the surface, earth or water is taken up into a mushroom-shaped cloud and becomes contaminated with the radioactive residues. The contaminated material begins to descend within a few minutes and may continue for about twenty-four hours, covering an area of thousands of square miles downwind from the explosion. If a nuclear bomb is exploded well above the ground, the radioactive residues rise to a great height in the mushroom cloud and descend gradually over a large area.

Electromagnetic pulse: a nuclear explosion also produces a very powerful surge of electromagnetic energy capable of overloading power supply systems and burning out transistors and capacitors. A single 10-megaton nuclear bomb exploded high above ground would destroy or disrupt telecommunications and all electronic and electrical systems on a nationwide scale.

Climatic effects: a large-scale nuclear exchange between nations could conceivably have a catastrophic global effect on climate. The explosion of not even one half of the combined number of warheads in the United States and Russia would throw enormous quantities of dust and smoke into the atmosphere, sufficient to block out sunlight for several months. This would destroy plant life and create a sub-freezing climate until the dust dispersed. The ozone layer would also be affected, permitting further damage as a result of the sun's ultraviolet radiation. Were the results sufficiently prolonged, they could spell the virtual end of human civilization.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.