

DIOCESE OF LAGOS WEST (ANGLICAN COMMUNION)
ARCHBISHOP VINING MEMORIAL CATHEDRAL CHURCH
STUDY OF ZECHARIAH CHAPTER 12 - TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020
IN THAT DAY, GOD WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE

INTRODUCTION

While the book of Zechariah may continue to challenge us, its main purpose is evident (a) Zechariah was sent to encourage the people of God. (b) This he did, through visions, teachings, and prophecies. (c) His theme throughout is the same: **"I Am Zealous for Zion"**. As Christians in the Church of our Lord, we have come to **"Mt Zion and to the City of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem"** - He 12:22. We can rest assured that regarding His church today the Lord is still **"zealous for Zion"** and will save.

A. THE BURDEN 12:1

The Weighty Message: "The burden of the word of the Lord concerning Israel". This is the second time burden was mentioned by the Prophet. The first was in 9:1. Burden was generally used in 5 ways in the Scriptures.

1. Load carried by men or animals Num 4:15-19; Jer 17:21-27
 2. Responsibility Ex 18:22 Jethro advised Moses; Mt 23:4 Pharisees shirk their responsibilities; Acts 15:28
 3. Cares of Life Ps 55:22 cast your burdens upon the Lord; Gal 6:2 Bear ye one another's burden
 4. Bondage Isa 9:4 for thou has broken the yoke of his burden; Isa 10:27...burden shall be taken off their shoulders..
 5. Oracle of Judgement or Prophecy: Isa Chapters 13 - 23, Isaiah had many burdens
- What burden do we have now as a Church? What burden do we have now as Christians? What is God saying at this time? Burden sets a man on mission. Isa 6:8; Neh 1.
 - What responsibility has he placed in our hands in this generation? We are the light of the world. We are the salt of the earth Mtt 5:13-14; Go ye therefore make teach (disciple) all nations..... Mtt 28:19

B. GOD's CREDENTIAL 12:2

Zechariah highlighted three creative capabilities of God to establish the fact that He is the final AUTHORITY over His creation and will do whatever He chooses to do.

1. He stretches out the heavens Isa 42:5; 44:24; 45:12; 48:13. Not only did He do it at creation, when He said, 'Let there be a firmament', but He maintains them; He keeps them stretched out like a curtain. No bounds can be set to the power of He who stretches out the heavens, nor can anything be too hard for him.
2. He lays the foundation of the earth Ps 24:1-2; 102:25; 104:2-5. He created it and set it in space along with all the physical and chemical properties. He puts all the mineral resources in there. He can call them off and He can sustain the supply. He can sink it. He can break it. He can shake it. He can create mountains or valleys from it.
3. He forms the spirit in man Gen 2:7; Num 16:22. He created human life. He did not only breathe into the first man, but still breathes into every man the breath of life. He is the owner of man's spirit and can call for it at any time.

C1. IN THAT DAY, ISRAEL'S ENEMIES WILL BE DESTROYED Vs 3-14

- What Day? 'In that Day' is a term used 16 times in the prophecy. It refers to the Day God will deliver Israel finally from all troubling her. It was a term often used by Isaiah and other Prophets (Isa 2:10-12, 17-21; Rev 6:12,14-17). It can be taken as **'the day of God's Vengeance as well as Salvation'** (Isaiah 61:2). God declared that He will make Jerusalem a terror to Nations who had disturbed and taken advantaged of her fallen state, at the same time save his people.

- God does not abandon His children. God will turn the Tables against Israel's Attacking Enemies. He used two metaphors to describe the fate of enemy Nations:
 1. A Cup of Trembling: The Nations will tremble and shake at the sight of God's people." This verse pictures the nations as a person who drinks too much wine and finds himself staggering. When the nations converge on Israel and besiege Jerusalem, they will find themselves ineffective as a drunkard trying to walk a straight line.
 - Expectation of the enemies is to drink victoriously - but they will always fail like Haman failed. Esther 3:15;
 - If God is on your side the enemy will always fail Rom 8:31
 2. A Burdensome Stone: This would be an especially heavy stone that will crush any Nation that attempts to lift it. When the Rock of Ages falls on a man, he becomes too dangerous for the enemy. Expectation of the enemies is to defeat Jerusalem - but they will be severely injured.
 - As Israel of God, we are too heavy to be moved by the enemy. Ps 16:8; Ps 125:1-2.
 - No matter the multitude that gather against Israel, they will be cut to pieces. One with God can chase a thousand Jud 7:22-23; Deut 32:30; Joshua 23:10
 - We can rest assured, God is fighting our battles as our Rock. Matthew 21:42-44. Anyone who collides with him will be broken and anyone he falls on will be grinded to powder.

C2.....IN THAT DAY VS 4-14

1. God will smite every horse with astonishment v4. Technology will fail them. Machinery and Science will fail
2. God will smite the rider with madness v4. Knowledge will fail. Degrees won't help. Military might will fail
3. God will open his eyes upon the house of Judah v4. Num 6:24-26
4. Horses of the people will be smitten with blindness v4 Psalm 20:6-8
5. Governors of Judah will find strength in the Lord of Host v5
6. Governors of Judah will be like a hearth of fire among wood (Firespot) v6: A hearth is normally a brick, stone, marble, or cement slab that sits in front of your fireplace. Made from a non-combustible material, the hearth protects your home's floor from radiant heat, flying embers, sparks, and burning logs that may roll out of the fireplace
7. Governor of Judah shall be like a touch of fire in a sheaf (stack of straw/grass) v6
8. As Hearth of fire and touch of flame, the Governors of Judah **shall devour all the enemies surrounding them** v6
9. Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place v6
10. The Lord will save the tents of Judah v7 Zech 14:1-5. Not just the city but each person's house; each family Ps 91:10
11. The Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem v8
12. The feeble shall be as David v8. The Lord can make both the weak and the strong to be victorious warriors (like King David) under the leadership of the Sovereign Messiah
13. The House of David shall be as God, as Angel of the Lord before them (Christ) v8
14. All nations that come against Jerusalem shall be destroyed v9
15. They shall look upon God whom they have pierced and mourn v10. Mathew 5:4
 - Israel will have godly sorrow. They will realize what they have done
 - Repentance always precede restoration. Repentance is turning away from wickedness/evil.
 - The world needs to look unto God at this time of pestilence. Isa 45:22 No one else can save.
 - Anytime we look away, we get into trouble.
 - When we look away, it is easier to sin but when we lock our gaze on him, we can't sin.
16. God will pour upon the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem Spirit of Grace and of Supplication v10

17. There will be a great mourning in Jerusalem as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Meggido v11; Josiah in II Chron. 35:25
18. Every family shall go apart, House of David, House of Nathan, House of Levi and all families vs 12-14

CONCLUSION

In any age, true and honest repentance will lead to spiritual and physical cleansing. The fountain is open today. The Apostle Paul said, "Now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). Now is the day of the Lord.

Food for Thought: 2Chr 7:13-16

13 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; 14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attend unto the prayer that is made in this place. 16 For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

1. I've a message from the Lord, Hallelujah!. The message unto you I'll give;
'Tis recorded in His Word, Hallelujah!. It is only that you 'look and live'.

Refrain:

'Look and live', my brother, live!. Look to Jesus now and live;
'Tis recorded in His Word, Hallelujah!. It is only that you `look and live!

5. I will tell you how I came, hallelujah!. To Jesus when He made me whole-
'Twas believing on His name, Halleluja! I trusted and He saved my soul.

Refrain: