

WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY

The I Thessalonians Series #15

May 20th, 2018

TEXT: I Thessalonians 5:1-11

CONSIDER THIS: Christianity in Thessalonica was born in a Jewish synagogue! (See Acts 17:1-4). Paul proclaimed Christ using only the Hebrew (Old Testament) scriptures. Paul's teaching focused on proving that Jesus is the Messiah (Christ) and on Jesus's death, resurrection and second coming. It is likely that Paul taught from the book of Zechariah, for of all the Old Testament prophets, only Isaiah had more to say about Christ than Zechariah. In today's study, let's consider what it might have been like to hear Paul teach the Thessalonians about **the Day of the Lord** and the second coming from the viewpoint of Zechariah.

KEY: We must remember that God intends what He has revealed about the future to have a transformative impact upon how we think and live today. In I Thessalonians 5:1-11, the majority of the text is a call to live with Christ at the center of our lives. This is what it means to be **WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY**.

THE DAY OF THE LORD HAS THREE KEY ELEMENTS

1. The return of Christ to earth to rescue Israel
2. The judgment of the unbelieving world
3. The establishment of Christ's Kingdom on earth

I THE RETURN OF CHRIST TO EARTH TO RESCUE ISRAEL (the second coming)

- A) Zechariah 14:1-4, the Mount of Olives where Jesus had been arrested (Matthew 26:30; 47-50).
- B) This is big! In Zechariah 11, Zechariah symbolically takes on the role of Israel's shepherd **as a representative of the LORD**. The "flock" (Israel) detested the shepherd so Zechariah resigned from being their shepherd and, as per the Lord's instruction, asked them to pay what they thought he was worth. See 11:8B, 12. They paid him 30 pieces of silver. According to Exodus 21:32 this was the worth of a slave which had been gored by an ox.

500 years after Zechariah's prophecy, Judas Iscariot asked the religious leaders what it would be worth to them if he would betray Jesus. They gave him 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16). After Jesus was condemned, Judas was remorseful and sought to return the 30 pieces of silver. Being rejected, he threw down the money, which was then used to buy a potter's field (Matthew 27:1-10). Now see Zechariah 11:13. Yes, God truly does control the future as He has the past!

- C) Someday in the future, as the **Day of the Lord** unfolds, Israel will be engaged in a battle for survival as the armies of the nations of the world surround her. This is the time of Armageddon that was revealed to John in Revelation 16:13-16. Zechariah had also foreseen this battle(s), which God will permit to take place (Zechariah 12:1-2). Now, in her most desperate hour, Israel is ministered to by the Holy Spirit who pours out a spirit of repentance (see 12:10). Israel turns to Jesus!
- D) Jesus fights for His people (see Zechariah 14:3-9 AND Revelation 19:11-16). **This is the Day of the Lord.**

II THE JUDGMENT OF THE UNBELIEVING WORLD

- A) New Testament evangelism always warned of a coming day of judgment (Acts 3:17-21; 17:29-31; I Thessalonians 1:9-10). Deep down inside everyone already knows this (Romans 1:32). The gospel is truly sweet when we tell the whole story about our sin and guilt.
- B) None of the Gentiles who accept Christ during the tribulation will participate in the military actions against Israel. After all, the armies of the nations of the world are led by Anti-Christ (Revelation 19:19) and the Anti-Christ has been killing the Gentiles who trust in Jesus (Revelation 13:11-18). These believing Gentiles from every nation will enter the Kingdom and enjoy its blessings (Zechariah 14:16).
- C) The armies attacking Israel will be totally destroyed. At that same approximate time, the words of Jesus in Matthew 24:40-41 will be fulfilled. The ones "taken" are non-believers who are judged by the Lord and taken in death. The ones who are left are those who had placed their trust in Jesus during the tribulation and had not been martyred by the forces of the Anti-Christ. They will enter the Kingdom along with the Jews who had turned to Jesus.

**THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT
FOR THOSE WHO KNOW THE LORD**

III THE KINGDOM WILL BE GLORIOUS

To be continued ...