

GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



GIG246 – This Is the Day

Hi, and welcome to the podcast. This is a special edition for our Growing in God podcast, as it is produced from a Zoom call that we at Hargrave Ministries have occasionally with our donors. When we have these times together and feel it is important for others to be a part of what we are discussing, we create the meeting into a podcast for release. So, I hope that you will enjoy this podcast; and if you like being a part of these discussions, I would encourage you to go to our website at hargraveministries.org and join our Fellow Workers.

This to me is really fun. We are in the book of Zechariah, if you have the Scriptures in front of you, and we are going to be talking about Zechariah the first chapter. When we look at Zechariah the first chapter and go down to verse 7, it says, “On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah the prophet, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo, as follows.” We are going to read this prophecy of Zechariah, and the fact that God would give us a timestamp on this prophecy is very unique. There are not a lot of prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures that are timestamped, so we know exactly when this came. If you go back to verse 1, it says, “In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah the prophet.” So, again, we see that it was the second year of Darius’s rule, in the eighth month of that second year, and we know exactly the date on which that fell. Interestingly enough, if you like surprises, today is that day. Today is the day that that prophecy in fact came. So here we sit, on the twenty-fourth day of Shebat; it is not the second year of Darius, but this is where we are in that month.

If we go back then to the life of Darius, he became king in 522 BCE, and this would have been in the eighth month of his second year. So if he became king in 522, then it would be 523 and eight months that he had been ruling. That means that this prophecy came approximately 2,548 years ago – not too bad, to have a word of God preserved over that long. But I just think it is something really fun and significant; and what adds to it is that we have had communication from a rabbi from Israel, Shalom ber Shlomo, all excited about the fact that this day was coming today, and it is coming on the Sabbath. It was interesting to us when we talked about it, because of the fact that if you follow a lot with Judaism, they really study Torah, and they do not get a lot into the prophecies and into prophetic stuff to follow it. So, it is unique that he got a hold of us to say, “Are you aware that this is happening? You need to be aware that this day is coming, and people are actually following it and excited about it, because it is a prophecy about the days of Messiah!” And so, it was just great to us that he would communicate with us and pass on the excitement, and pass on the fact that here we are on the Sabbath, celebrating the very day that this prophecy was made by Zechariah.

So with all of that, I think it is worth it to read this prophecy. It is a little long, hopefully you have the Word in front of you and you can follow along, but I think that we should read this. I am starting at Zechariah 1, verses 1-6.

In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah the prophet, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo saying, “The Lord was very angry with your

fathers. Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Return to Me..." [and of course, we have the celebration of the return, where this is talked about]. "Return to Me," declares the Lord of hosts, "that I may return to you," says the Lord of hosts. "Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets proclaimed, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Return now from your evil ways and from your evil deeds."' But they did not listen or give heed to Me," declares the Lord. "Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever? But did not My words and My statutes, which I commanded My servants the prophets, overtake your fathers? Then they repented and said, 'As the Lord of hosts purposed to do to us in accordance with our ways and our deeds, so He has dealt with us.'""

He is saying, "The prophecies are fulfilled, what I told your fathers has come to pass. You are scattered among the nations, and all this destruction has taken place." Then verse 7, "On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah the prophet, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo, as follows:" So here is the prophecy.

Zechariah 1:8-11,

I saw at night, and behold, a man was riding on a red horse, and he was standing among the myrtle trees which were in the ravine, with red, sorrel and white horses behind him. Then I said, "My lord, what are these?" And the angel who was speaking with me said to me, "I will show you what these are." And the man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered and said, "These are those whom the Lord has sent to patrol the earth." So they answered the angel of the Lord who was standing among the myrtle trees and said, "We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth is peaceful and quiet."

Well, it does not seem like it is going to apply to the day we live in, but let's read on.

Zechariah 1:12-21,

Then the angel of the Lord said, "O Lord of hosts, how long will You have no compassion for Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, with which You have been indignant these seventy years?" The Lord answered the angel who was speaking with me with gracious words, comforting words. So the angel who was speaking with me said to me, "Proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, "I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and Zion. But I am very angry with the nations who are at ease; for while I was only a little angry, they furthered the disaster." Therefore thus says the Lord, "I will return to Jerusalem with compassion; My house will be built in it," declares the Lord of hosts, "and a measuring line will be stretched over Jerusalem."' "Again, proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, "My cities will again overflow with prosperity, and the Lord will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem.'""

Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, there were four horns. So I said to the angel who was speaking with me, "What are these?" And he answered me, "These are the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem." Then the Lord showed me four craftsmen. I said, "What are these coming to do?" And he said, "These are the horns which have scattered Judah so that no man lifts up his head; but these craftsmen have come to terrify them, to throw down the horns of the nations who have lifted up their horns against the land of Judah in order to scatter it."

Zechariah 2:1-13; 3:1,

Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a man with a measuring line in his hand. So I said, "Where are you going?" And he said to me, "To measure Jerusalem, to see how

wide it is and how long it is." And behold, the angel who was speaking with me was going out, and another angel was coming out to meet him, and said to him, "Run, speak to that young man, saying, 'Jerusalem will be inhabited without walls because of the multitude of men and cattle within it. For I,' declares the Lord, 'will be a wall of fire around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.'"

"Ho there! Flee from the land of the north," declares the Lord, "for I have dispersed you as the four winds of the heavens," declares the Lord. "Ho, Zion! Escape, you who are living with the daughter of Babylon." For thus says the Lord of hosts [Jehovah Sabaoth], "After glory He has sent Me against the nations which plunder you, for he who touches you, touches the apple of His eye. For behold, I will wave My hand over them so that they will be plunder for their slaves. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me.

"Sing for joy and be glad, O daughter of Zion; for behold I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," declares the Lord. "Many nations will join themselves to the Lord in that day and will become My people. Then I will dwell in your midst, and you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you. The Lord will possess Judah as His portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem... [the land of Judah, by the way, is known as the West Bank; the Lord will possess the West Bank] as His portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem. Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord; for He is aroused from His holy habitation." Then He showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord.

We can go on reading that story, which is phenomenal; I mean, the prophetic value of this! And here we stand in the day that this prophecy was voiced. I was thinking as I read it, "Here we are on the day this was voiced, but someday it is going to be said, 'Today it is fulfilled.'" I believe it is significant for us to be looking at it, because it is talking about Messiah coming to rule over the land – to repossess the land of Judah and Israel, to repossess Jerusalem as the holy city, to build once again the house of the Lord in Jerusalem. This is one of the greatest messianic prophecies that we have; and to realize that God stamped it with a day, it is almost like that prophetic significance of saying, "It was voiced on a day, it will come to pass on a day, and we will see it with our eyes and we will hear it with our ears." And I believe that we can be standing in that day.

There is no reason that today cannot be that day when we see the fulfillment of the Word of the Lord over His land and over His people; and we believe for the blessing. Part of this that is so great is how God's heart is turned back, and He says, "I was disciplining them, but the nations turned it into something of destruction, which I never planned and I never wanted"; and so, we see God then coming and turning His justice against the nations. I believe we are living in that day, because we have seen the day when the nations have turned. Look at the votes that have come over the last year and more in the United Nations, which represents the nations – they could not be more against Israel, and they could not be more against Jerusalem and against the Jewish people, than what we have seen coming out of the nations. They have turned against them to make what God meant as discipline, and what God meant as teaching for us in how to relate to Him, into destruction. But God will turn it; and they will return to Him, and He will return to them. I believe we are in the day when we will see it. The Lord of hosts will bring His hosts with Him to bring justice and judgment into the world, and I believe it is the time. So, let there be an excitement in our hearts.

It is interesting to me that this would land on a Sabbath, the proclaiming of rest to the people of God. We bless Israel today with Sabbath rest. We see that prophecy in the New Testament Scriptures, "There remains a Sabbath rest for those to enter into," and we believe that Israel will enter that Sabbath rest.

We also believe the part of the prophecy where it says, "And many nations will join themselves"; I believe we are first fruits of that. I believe the revelation that we have had, the thing that has been imparted to us by Shlomo and John's teaching. You look at John Stevens's teaching – my gosh, how far back does it go of celebrating the feasts and the connection with Israel? So, that has been imparted to our hearts, and I believe there are so many things that are coming together in this for us.

With all of our hearts today, we bless Jerusalem; we bless Israel; we bless the Jewish people; and we believe that it is time. It is time for the return of the Lord. We believe that it is time, as it says in verse 11, when "Many nations will join themselves to the Lord in that day and will become My people." That is part of the prophecies we see of Paul, that He is creating one new man that comes together before Him. And so, we release it, and we say, "Lord, why not today? We believe for Your blessings." Amen.

All right. Somebody should pray over this word. I mean, does somebody have a burden for it? Bruce, have you done anything yet this morning?

Bruce: No, and I have a burden for it. So, Father, we humble our hearts before You. We thank You. We come before You with tremendous thanksgiving in our hearts. Thank You for Your Word, thank You for Your people, thank You that we have been able to see and witness the fulfillment of so much of Your prophecies over Your people, over Your land; Your land, Lord, in Samaria and Judah, all of Israel, Lord. We see Your covering over that, that You will be a wall of immunity, You will fulfill every Word. And we stand together in a oneness to declare, "Let Your Word be fulfilled, that every single Word spoken from Your mouth that goes out will not return void without accomplishing that for which You sent it."

You sent this Word on this day many years ago, and Lord, we just combine our hearts in faith and a oneness together, saying, "Lord, fulfill every piece of this prophecy, including You again dwelling in Jerusalem and dwelling in Judea; that Your people, Your people, Father, that You have brought from every corner of the earth, You have brought them together, Lord, that they will know that You are their God and they are Your people. And the cry of Your heart is that You again will be a Father to these ones that You have gathered together. So, thank You, Father. Thank You, again, that we have been able to even go to Israel, and prophecies that appeared years ago to be impossible, You have fulfilled. Now, Lord, complete the work in Your name."

Amen.