God's Plan for Lasting Peace Zech. 9:9,10 Part 2

By Charles Feinberg

In this tenth verse we have the second element or factor in god's plan for lasting world peace. In verse 9 we saw the agent of peace. The king. The just king. The king endowed with salvation. The lowly, the humble king. Now the method of peace. In the first part of chapter 9 in Zechariah in verse 10, we have the method of peace. And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem. And there's a second part. And the battle bow shall be cut off. And he shall speak peace unto the nations. That’s the method of peace. Now this picture of the messiah with a one in the preceding verse. Lowly and just and riding upon a donkey. That picture with the one here of a mighty victor and conqueror. This picture, dual picture if you will, was so puzzling to the Jewish commentators and rabbis that they have to this hour resorted to a theory of two messiahs. One called messiah ben joseph, messiah the son of joseph. Joseph the son of Jacob mentioned in the book of genesis. A righteous one who comes in lowliness. And does the things that we find in the New Testament are done by our lord Jesus in his first coming. And then they have a theory of the second messiah who comes in after the way has been prepared by messiah the son of joseph. He is messiah the son of David. He comes in power and glory. Well, actually, are there 2 messiahs each with one work? Or one messiah with 2 phases to his work? you say well of course acts 1:11 this same Jesus that you see going up into heaven is going to return in like manner as you've seen him go. But remember, if you're dealing with unsaved in Israel, they don't admit. They will not recognize the validity of anything in acts. But you don't need to go as far as the book of acts. You need only to turn to this very same book of Zechariah the 12th chapter and the 10th verse. And there you have the proof that it’s the same wonderful messiah
who has a two fold work. Not two messiahs with a single work. In 12:10 in Zechariah we read and I will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication. And they shall look unto me whom they have pierced and they shall mourn for him as one mourneth for his only son and shall be in bitterness for him as one that is in bitterness for his first born. The picture there is of one coming back was been pierced on earth. He’s been here before. So that's one messiah with a twofold work. First coming and second coming. Not two messiahs. So Zechariah 12:10 remember it friends shows that there is but one messiah. And between verses 9 and 10 of our chapter have come all the beautiful glorious centuries of the Christian era. Our lord Jesus having laid the foundation of all peace in the blood of his cross. He now puts into effect peace for all the world. How does he do it? We read that I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim. You see now it’s no longer the donkey but it is the war chariot. And he mentions the war chariot. He mentions the horse, and he mentions the battle bow. He mentions Ephraim the northern kingdom, and Jerusalem the capital of the southern kingdom. Meaning, from all of the nation he's going to destroy all instruments of war from his people and by the same token from all the nations. Notice in Isaiah 9 verses 4 to 6 you have the same type of a sequence. And we might just as well look at it earlier for that matter. Isaiah 2 let's look at Isaiah 2 verses 2 to 4. In this great prophet Isaiah been called the great dean and peer of the prophets. Notice him in Isaiah 2:2 to 4. And it shall come to pass in the latter days. That’s the days of consummation. The days of final winding up of the affairs on earth for Israel that the mountain of the lord's house shall be established from the top of the mountains shall be exalted above the hills. Gods land above all. And all nations shall flow unto it. Oh the beautiful picture of no force being exerted except an inner desire, an inner force. All nations shall flow unto it. And many peoples, that’s nations, shall go and say come ye. Let us go up to the mountain of the
lord, to the house of the god of Jacob. He will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth a law and the word of the lord Jerusalem. Very beautiful you say, well that's all in an area of the spiritual of the religious. Yes but let's go on. And he will judge between the nations. That religious as they call it. That spiritual foundation has to be there. And he is going to judge between the nations and will decide concerning many peoples they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. It has something to do with conducting warfare. Nations shall not lift up sword against nation. And even more than that, they will not only not practice war, they're not even going to learn military science anymore. They won't know how to do it. Neither shall they learn war anymore. The old spiritual has, they're not going to learn war no more. War no more. And Isaiah 9 you have the same picture of the doing away with weapons of destruction and warfare and oppression. And the type of instrument that brings about death. And then messiah says the final word. Isaiah 9:4 because the yolk of his burden and the staff of his shoulder. The rod of his oppressor. Everything that speaks of oppression and domination and treading under god's people he says. Thou has broken as in the day of mideon when Gideon gave liberation in the time of judges to the people of Israel. That's one thing. Oppression is going to be gone. Then verse 5, all the paraphernalia war is going to be gone too as in Isaiah 2 and in Zechariah as were going to see. For all the armor to the arm men in the tumult. And the garments rolled in blood. What a picture. Warfare shall be for burning for fuel of fire. They won't need it anymore. And then the third reason the best of all, the capstone is because unto us a child is born. Unto us a son is given. Governments going to be upon his shoulder and his name shall be called wonderful counselor. mighty god, what's all this have to do with peace? Everlasting father, prince of peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace. There shall be no end upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom to establish it. And to
uphold it with justice and righteousness. Notice that. Justice and righteousness there again.
Inseparably bound up with peace. From henceforth even forever. Who is going to do it? Well get
a new resolution in the Security Council or the UN. No they won't. The zeal of the lord of hosts
will perform this. God himself will do it through Christ our lord. You see no defenses for a
carnal reliance are going to be left. All symbols of earthly might and power are going to be
brought to nothing. It’s going to be done not by the meek lamb, but by the wrath of the lamb.
The lion roaring out of Zion as Joel tells us in the third chapter in the 16th verse. Well you say it
seems as if this agent of peace, that's the who. Here is the how. It seems that the how, the method
of peace is all negative. Destroys this, and destroys that, and cuts off this, and annihilates that.
Oh but there is a positive phase. There’s a constructive phase to his method of peace as well as
this very clearly defined destructive aspect. And here it is. And he after he's done all that cutting
away, all that breaking off, he shall speak peace unto the nations. Now in English, that's 2 4 6 8
words. And he shall speak peace unto the nations. In the original Hebrew, its but 3 beautiful
powerful words. With either shalom lagoyim [sp?]. He’s going to speak peace unto the nations.
Now that does not mean not by a long way. It does not mean that he's going to speak peaceably.
Or that he's going to teach peace. The thought is that by an authoritative word in all of his august
majesty he's going to command it. Just as he said to the Sea of Galilee when it was tempestuous
and raging. He still and it will all still. Then it's going to be accomplished by his word what men
on earth have sought to do by foundations and by all manner of organizations, leagues of nations
and United Nations. And all these devices that are the highest that man can do. This when our
lord Jesus says peace is going to be accomplished by his word. What men of the earth have
sought to do for ages by the use of arms and weapons and have failed. Now in Ephesians 2:17 in
that chapter in Ephesians. Ephesians 2, we find our lord related to peace in three ways. He made
peace by the blood of his cross. He came and proclaimed peace. He never was in Ephesus. It means by his messengers. By his servants. by his disciples and apostles. So he is our peace, he came and he made peace and he came and proclaimed peace. Threefold relationship of our lord Jesus to peace. But Ephesians 2 is speaking of our lord's relationship to giving peace to individuals here and now. Individual hearts that trust him. But in that day, the prophet Zechariah is talking about something else. He’s talking about speaking peace to the nation. Therefore he is the desire of all nations. Though they may not know it. The desire of all nations shall come. Haggai chapter 2 verse 7. Notice well that peace isn't the result. The peace conference is. Nor of peace pamphlets or books on peace. Plans on peace. Nor the preaching of social gospelizes. Be good to your neighbor and we'll have peace from here on out. No. peace can only be the result of the direct immediate activity of the glorified son of god. The prince of peace. And it’s going to be peace like a river. Peace in truth. Peace indeed. We’re told that there are certain birds that can be seen at Constantinople. They’re said to be always on the wing. They’re always flying. No one ever saw them rest. I’ve been in Constantinople or Istanbul more than once but I’ve not seen these birds. But those who live there tell us, nobody has ever seen them rest. But they're forever poised in midair. And the people, the nationals, they're called them lost souls seeking rest and finding none. They remind us of the words of the apostle Jude. In the next to the last book of the bible he speaks of the lost as wandering stars. Yes and these lost souls these birds in Istanbul put us in mind also of the weary footsore tired, exhausted, tempastos nations of the earth. Sick and tired of war. Yet not knowing how to get rid of it. Seek peace in their own way, and no wonder they can’t find it. No wonder they don't find it. They find it not. But you see this is not just the end of the elements for peace of a lasting nature. Gods plan. The who has been told. It’s the king messiah himself. The how? A destructive phase and a constructive phase. Now where, where is
this to be found? We hear so often where shall peace be found? Where is it going to be found on a scale where it can be enjoyed by and everywhere. Well the kingdom of peace. We’ve had the agent of peace, the method of peace, now the kingdom of peace. And his dominion, that's his reign. His kingdom, his sovereignty. This is his realm. His dominion shall be from sea to sea. No definite articles. Just as broad as it can be. Not from as some say a sea galilee or the Dead Sea to the Mediterranean. No no no. but from sea to sea. And from the river, that's the Euphrates. To the ends of the earth. Alexander the great thought he had conquered all the world after he had planted colonies in the Punjab in India he sat down and viewed the mouth of the Indus ocean, sat down and wept. He said there was no more world to conquer. Well just a glance at a map of the world of that day, and you'll see how far astray he really was. He thought he'd conquered all the world. But he was wrong. God has reserved universal dominion for one and for him alone. That’s the heart of psalm 2. The nations want it. They want all rule for themselves. They want to throw off gods rule. God says oh no you don't. You’re talking about something that's absolutely useless and worthless. Because I’m setting my king on my holy hill of Zion and he’s going to rule from that place throughout all the earth in a lasting peace. Now messiah dominion is from sea to sea. As I’ve said, some try to restrict these designations to Palestine, but the words ends of the earth are never used. Notice that, they are never used in the Old Testament or anywhere else that I know of. In a restricted sense. In a limited sense. No this isn't something you bound off with some kind of fence. No. it is a universal picture. Psalm 72:8 to 11. That passage shows in what sense these words are used. Kings of Shiba and Siba shall bring gifts. His enemies shall lick the dust. They will bow down before him. And then the absence of all definite articles of the text make the universal sense of this passage clear and plain and lucid. Friends, no matter how alluring any plan of an isolated peace may sound it will never work. And we meet so many in our
own country yet. Why do we have to enter in and be interested in what happens with regard to the peace in the middle east or the peace of far east in Asia or the peace of Europe. Why do we need to be interested in that? Why don't we just stay home and tend to our knitting. I repeat friends, no matter how alluring the plan of an isolated peace may sound. It will never work. There is created if there is warfare in any part of the world. There is created a tremendous imbalance in gods spiritual moral economy. And it must be righted. On Adam and eves sin. It wasn't something they did and could let it alone or forget the consequence. No. they set up a intervention in the world. They set up an imbalance. God’s righteousness. Gods will had to be vindicated and was. Thank god by the seed of the woman at Calvary. And that settled the situation for the seed of Satan. There can never be peace of a lasting nature on one continent in one area in one country. Why it is absent on another. We have a god who is the god of the nations. All the prophets. Isaiah the great prophets. Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel Daniel. These prophets and Amos too. They mention nation after nation. You say well I thought he was a Hebrew or an Israelite prophet. What does he have to bother with somebody else. He’s meddling in the internal affairs of other nations. No no no no no. our god is a god of the nations. All the nations has as much right to speak authoritatively concerning them as he does about anything in Israel. He hasn't given up the nations because he's chosen Israel for particularly redemptive purposes in the earth to benefit them, but to benefit all the world. Just as Christ came to Israel, but he didn't come to them exclusively. He is the savior of the world. The nations of the earth, their rulers can they give permanent plan? Can they give us a permanent plan for peace, can they give permanent rest to their own land? Of course not. They can't give it to their own. Then how can they give it to others. But he who can give it to all the earth is going to be able to give it to any land. He is the one who shall bring peace and quiet. And it's not peace by some superior political strategy. Not
by some great secretary of state who may come on the scene somewhere. Or some minister of foreign affairs. In some countries it’s called by a different name then our secretary of state. My dear friends, it’s not by their efforts, it’s not by their diplomacy, it’s not by their tact. It’s not peace, just by wishing it. And it's not peace at a cheap figure, it’s not peace at any price, but peace at infinite price. What was the price? Nothing more. Nothing less friends. Don’t ever forget it. Then the life of the son of god. Peace I give unto you. My peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled. Neither let it be afraid. Yes. Our lord Jesus speaks peace to the heart and the world doesn't know what it is. It can't give it. It won’t even take it when it has been purchased by the lord of glory. But god says I’m making it possible. It’s not peace for one but for all. God so loved the world, not just the world of Israel. Not just the world of some nation in the western hemisphere or in the eastern hemisphere. Not certain stratum, certain plain of society. It is for all. For all. I’m sure some of you have heard missionaries return from India, and before they have been describing things there very long. Almost inevitably I would say. They come to tell about some of the marvelous structures in the land of India. And a so missionary from India told how he had visited the Taj mahal T A J and then M A H A L. it's that temple of unusual architectural beauty. It’s made of white marble. Made by a young emperor whose young empress died. I don't know how long they'd been married but apparently not married very long. And he was just desolated. He was grief stricken beyond consolation. And he said I am going to erect a monument, a memorial to her and to her name and to her beauty that will never be forgotten. It'll be of world renowned. Be spoken of everywhere. And so he made the Taj mahal. Beautiful. Made of white marble. One of the peculiar features of that building is the number of arches that it has. And as you near the entrance, the one who's guiding you through the attendant would tell you that if you whisper a
word inside the building, it will be echoed and reechoed. Sounded and resounded from every arch. So one missionary tells us that as he proceeded into the building, he breathed that word Jesus which is as an ointment poured forth in the believer’s ear. And instantly, the echoes resounded, reverberated from every part of that building. The effect was electrifying. Soul inspiring. Heart uplifting. and I tell you this hour my dear friend when our lord Jesus Christ speaks the word peace in that coming day of which Zechariah is speaking in chapter 9 verse 9 and 10. When he comes, speaks the word peace, it’s going to resound throughout the vault of heaven. The corners of earth and the earth with its teeming billions is going to thrill at the sound of it. Then will the earth know and enjoy and realize peace. And not before that. Believe it. Not one moment before that. the earth will know peace through the glorious Shiloh, the peace bringer. Oh may that hur be hastened. May our zeal empell us to serve our lord Jesus Christ exceptably. In the meantime get the word out to the very ends of the earth. And don't forget friend may your eyes, may the eyes of all of us be fixed upon Christ. The lord of glory. The prince of peace. Let them be fixed on him and him alone. And not upon the plans. Futil plans of men. isn't that a most remarkable never seen elsewhere plan of world peace. And the most marvelous thing about it is friends, that it’s workable. He will put it into effect. he will make it work. I reread it this once before we close in prayer. Rejoice greatly o daughter of Zion. Shout o daughter of Jerusalem. Behold thy king cometh unto thee. He’s just and endowed with salvation. He’s lowly riding upon a donkey. Even upon a colt the offspring of a she donkey. And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem. And the battle bow shall be cut off. And he shall speak peace unto the nations. And his dominion shall be from sea to sea. And from the river to the ends of the earth. oh lord god our father, how many hearts through the years. How many mothers, how many wives that have been widowed. How many sisters and brothers have
mourned and wept the loss of loved on the battlefield. How the earth, the soil of the earth has been drenched with the blood of those who have fought in battles. And oh the very earth seems to shriek out just as it did at the murder of Cain when he murdered Abel. What a murderer he was, the ground cried out. It does too. Cries out that there might be an end to it. Peace. Bring peace to our land, to all lands. Bring peace to hearts as they enter into Christ’s salvation. We pray in his blessed name. Amen.