

Message #15

Zechariah 12:1-14

Verse 1 starts off this amazing chapter by revealing five important points:

- 1) This data is a “burden”—this word means this is going to be heavy load to carry. This will not be a light matter. This will be heavy, hard and tough to bear. God at times does give His people hard things to bear—but He is with us, helping us to bear them (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 512).
- 2) This is the Word of God—God’s Word is declaring this heavy burden. God’s Word always is fulfilled literally so what is described here will happen.
- 3) This Word concerns Israel—The specific burden data has to do with national Israel.
- 4) This Word comes from a sovereign God who made the heavens and the earth—God is in total and complete sovereign control over everything including burdens. He spoke the heavens and earth into existence and He can speak burdens into and out of existence. He is the sovereign God who will accomplish and create anything.
- 5) This Word comes from a sovereign God who forms the spirit of man within him. That word “form” means God predestined, planned, designed and created every spirit that is in every human being (*Ibid.*, p. 361). This certainly is contrary to the Devil Mormon cult that says spirits previously existed in another world and then came to earth to indwell some temporal body. Joseph Smith invented that lie. God is the One who creates a spirit and puts it within every human. It did not previously exist.

So this is about what is going to happen to Israel. God says look at the heavens and the earth, I made them; look at man, I made him and this is what I also will do pertaining to Israel.

GOD WILL ONE DAY DELIVER ISRAEL FROM ALL WORLD POWERS AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THE NATION WILL REPENT AND RECEIVE HER REJECTED MESSIAH AND SHE WILL HAVE A GLORIOUS KINGDOM OF PEACE, BLESSING AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Now as near as we may decipher, there are three specific future realities promised by God.

FUTURE REALITY #1 - God will cause nations of the world to be against Jerusalem and Israel. **12:2-3**

Verse 2 begins with God saying, “Behold, I am going.” God says take a serious look at this because this is exactly what I am going to do.

According to **verse 2**, God will cause nations to come up against Jerusalem like those who have been drinking too much wine out of a cup. God will cause the nations to come up against Israel with the goal of consuming her, like you would wine. God says I am going to bring nations right into Israel, specifically to Jerusalem and they are coming to siege it. These nations will not be coming to Jerusalem to visit holy sites or to honor God or Israel. They are coming there with the mindset we are going to take it.

This will happen “in that day.” That phrase is used some six times in this chapter (v. 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11). That day has not yet occurred. There has never been a point of time in which all nations of the world have targeted Jerusalem and Israel to take it. God will literally turn the minds of all nations to try to do just that. In fact, we agree with Dr. Feinberg, who said this will ultimately occur at the end of the Tribulation in what is called the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:13-16).

At that moment, God will cause unclean spirits to gather all nations to come against Israel and to Jerusalem like a bunch of drunken soldiers and Jerusalem will be like an immovable rock and it will be there where God will destroy them.

This assault that these nations are bringing against Jerusalem and Israel will be that which God uses to crush them.

FUTURE REALITY #2 – God will destroy all nations who come against Israel. **12:4-9**

In these verses we learn what God promises to do. There are eight amazing predictions made in these verses. I cannot find anywhere in history where these things have happened yet:

Prediction #1 - God will cause all horses and all riders to be crazy. **12:4a**

We believe at this point in the Tribulation things will be very primitive. The first few years of the Tribulation have brought major destruction to the world. The infrastructure has been totally destroyed. So travel literally will be by horse and weapons will be primitive as well.

Prediction #2 - God will cause all horses to be blind. **12:4b**

Now if you are riding on a known trail, a blind horse can do quite well. However, during the Tribulation there will not be nice trails, so horses will need to travel by various routes and a blind horse will present serious problems.

Prediction #3 - God will cause Israelis outside of Jerusalem to realize they are strong because God is with them and making them strong. **12:5**

Israel as a nation will begin to think in terms of the fact that God is with us again. Just like back in the days of the Exodus; He once again is on our side.

Prediction #4 - God’s people will aggressively and successfully go on the offensive. **12:6a**

For the most part, Israel is on the defense, not the offense. At this point, she will go on the offensive against every nation in the world.

Prediction #5 - God will cause Israel to dwell on their own sites in Jerusalem. **12:6b**

Think of what is predicted here. Jews will be populating all Jerusalem. Presently in Jerusalem there are about 497,000 Jews, 281,000 Arabs and 14,000 who say they are Christian. This will be a special time for Jews only. It is their city and only Jews will occupy it. There will be no dome of the rock and no Muslims in any part of Jerusalem.

Prediction #6 - God will deliver Jews outside of Jerusalem first so that those in Jerusalem don't think they are more important. **12:7**

All Jews will realize that God is doing this for all Jews.

Prediction #7 - God will cause every Jew to be strong like David, and to be strong in their relationship with God. **12:8**

David was a mighty warrior, a fearless fighter. He received a special anointing from God and that special relationship with God will be upon every Jew.

Prediction #8 - God will purpose to destroy all nations who come against Jerusalem. **12:9**

This kingdom that will be established for Israel will not come by negotiation; it will come by Divine domination and destruction. This kingdom will come via Divine force. Nations will not willingly give Israel her city or land.

FUTURE REALITY #3 – God will cause Israel to mourn over what she did to Jesus Christ.
12:10-14

Israel will finally recognize Jesus Christ by the grace of God. **God will use His Spirit to pour out grace on the nation Israel and on those in Jerusalem so that they finally realize who Jesus Christ was.** To come to terms with Jesus Christ, in any dispensation, is a tremendous work of Grace. Now the identity of this Person is spelled out in this verse. There are five key identification statements made in this text:

Identification #1 - The Person is God (“Me”)—God pours out and the Person is “Me.”
Notice what is stated: “They will look on Me.” They will see Me.

Identification #2 - The Person was pierced—This is a God-produced conviction that comes when they actually see the One who was nailed to a cross.

Identification #3 - The Person will cause Israel to mourn—the mourning is over Him as a Person. They are mourning over all that happened to Jesus Christ.

Identification #4 - The Person being mourned is an only Son—Jesus Christ is God's only Son, and the nation is mourning over Him that way.

Identification #5 - The Person being mourned is a firstborn Son. The entire nation will mourn over Jesus Christ as a firstborn son.

Now the mourning that this Person will cause will be a very unusual and specific mourning:

In **verses 11-14**, God reveals eight mourning realities:

(Mourning Reality #1) - There will be great mourning about this Person in Jerusalem. **12:11a**

When this happens the city will mourn over Jesus Christ and what they did to Him.

(Mourning Reality #2) - There will be mourning comparable to Hadadrimmon. **12:11b**

Now the mourning being referred to here occurred in the valley of Megiddo, when Judah's godly King Josiah was killed in a battle with Pharaoh Neco in 609 B.C. (II Kings 23:29-30; II Chron. 35:22-17). Hadad Rimmon was near Megiddo. We do not think this is a coincidence because the valley of Megiddo will be the very place of the battle of Armageddon.

The difference is the mourning over Josiah was because he was dead. The mourning for Jesus Christ will occur when they see Him alive.

(Mourning Reality #3) - All Jewish people in the Promised Land will mourn over what they did to Jesus Christ. **12:12a**

The Spirit of God will literally convict every person in Israel.

(Mourning Reality #4) - Every family member connected to King David will mourn. **12:12b**

There are four specific families listed who were all known to be right with God; but they will all mourn. All political and civil and religious rulers will mourn over what happened to Jesus Christ. We have all sinned and we are not right with God until we come to terms with that.

What this indicates is that every Jew is taking this personally. Every individual comes to terms with his or her own sin as it relates to Jesus Christ. Even the heroic line of David and the Kingly family will mourn over what happened to Jesus Christ.

(Mourning Reality #5) - Every family member connected to Nathan will mourn. **12:12c**

Nathan was a son of David and brother of Solomon (II Sam. 5:14). What this shows is that fathers will mourn over their sin and so will sons individually mourn. Some have said this Nathan is a prophet (II Sam. 7:2), which would mean even those most skilled in the Word of God and know the will of God would mourn when they see Jesus Christ. All will realize their sin was responsible for His piercing.

(Mourning Reality #6) - Every family member connected to Levi will mourn. **12:13a**

All priests will mourn over what happened to Jesus Christ.

(Mourning Reality #7) - Every family member connected to Shimei will mourn. **12:13b**

All priests who have Temple responsibilities and teaching responsibilities will mourn over Jesus Christ.

(Mourning Reality #8) - Every individual of every family in the world will mourn. **12:14**

People in the world will come face to face with the reality of Jesus Christ. They will all individually realize what He did and what they did.

The mourning will be so overwhelming that each family member will want to be alone. This will be a godly sorrow produced by the Holy Spirit.

What is so interesting is that this all comes after God has so wonderfully delivered Israel.

Have you ever mourned over your sin? Have you ever privately mourned over what Jesus Christ had to do for you to save you?