

Israel's Imminent Prophetic Future

A brief commentary on Zechariah 12

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Zechariah is an Old Testament prophetic book that portrays the coming glory of the MESSIAH. Many scholars describe Zechariah as "the most Messianic of all the Old Testament books" because it contains eight specific references to the Messiah in its brief 14 chapters.

The 14 chapters of Zechariah fall naturally into two major sections: chapters 1-8, the prophet's encouragement to the people to finish the work of rebuilding the Temple, and chapters 9-14, Zechariah's picture of Israel's glorious future and the coming of the Messiah. The second major section of Zechariah's book, chapters 9-14, contains God's promises for the new age to come.

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I firmly believe that Zechariah 12 is currently the most important chapter in the Bible. I say this because I believe it contains a vivid and accurate description of an amazing event in Bible prophecy that will have its fulfillment in the very near future. I stress that this chapter relates to Israel's imminent future and not to what transpires following this huge transformational episode. For this reason it is imperative and urgent that everyone should read, study and seriously consider its plain implications. This will be a world shaking event that will powerfully affect every nation on earth. It will have a special application to the Church of Jesus Christ the Messiah.

The major theme of Zechariah is encapsulated in
Zechariah 1:3 (AMP)

³ *Therefore say to them [the Jews of this day], Thus says the Lord of hosts: Return to Me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you; it is the utterance of the Lord of hosts.*

Chapter 12 is particularly articulate to convey the crux of this intention. **The Lord of hosts** -- is a phrase frequently used in Haggai and Zechariah, implying God's boundless resources and universal power, so as to inspire the Jews with utter confidence.

From beginning to end (Zech 1:2-5, Zech 14:4) the whole message is to and concerning Israel.

Zechariah 12:1-3 (AMP)

¹ *THE BURDEN or oracle (the thing to be lifted up) of the word of the Lord concerning Israel: Thus says the Lord, Who stretches out the heavens and lays the foundation of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him:*

² *Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup or bowl of reeling to all the peoples round about, and in the siege against Jerusalem will there also be a siege against and upon Judah.*

³ *And in that day I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all peoples; all who lift it or burden themselves with it shall be sorely wounded. And all the nations of the earth shall come and gather together against it.*

Why is Zechariah 12 currently the most important chapter in the Bible? Of all the major issues that currently face our world and its future security, the one most likely to happen next is a massive attack on Israel by all Israel's nearby neighbors backed by Iran. The clear indications of such an attack have been proclaimed and demonstrated by feverish activities on the part of Iran together with Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Southern Lebanon. The attack, although made directly on Israel, will have devastating worldwide repercussions powerfully affecting every nation on earth. In many ways our world will be changed forever. If this proposed attack were to succeed and the State of Israel was annihilated, the whole plan of redemption as

revealed in the Bible would be derailed. Jehovah's plan to rule the world from David's throne in Jerusalem would immediately be made defunct. How strange that so few people seem to be vitally aware of this impending drama and the apparent proximity of it.

Every intelligent person must surely realize that something sinister and dramatic is happening in the Middle East. A small revolt that began in Tunisia has quickly spread to Egypt, Libya and many nations throughout the Middle East. It is spreading like a prairie fire. The world looks on but does not understand what is really happening or what the ultimate results of these events will be. Many people appear to be crying out for democracy, but the real power behind the movement will be seen to be an intention to establish radical Islamic rule. The sight on TV of "protestors" in Libya chanting "Allahu Akbar" – "Allah is the greatest" whilst launching rockets against Gaddafi forces is surely a clue about what is actually behind their plans. This reshuffling of power will eventually result in a massive attack against Israel with the intention of totally annihilating the Jewish State. When the inevitable does happen it will not only affect Israel. Every nation on earth will experience the consequence of it. What in particular will happen to Israel and Jerusalem as a result of these changes? These events will also have a startling effect on the Church and we need to be ready for dramatic changes. I would humbly challenge every Bible believer to carefully and prayerfully read the fol-

lowing verses, giving particular attention to the End Times context of the whole chapter. Read and study it with an open mind, free from any pre conceived concepts. Seek to understand what the prophet actually predicts from the very clear description he is given from God. What does Zechariah 12 actually predict and what will be the amazing ultimate result? If you study this chapter prayerfully I feel sure that you will reach the same conclusion that I propose.

Zechariah is a minor prophet with a major prophetic message, part of which is likely to be fulfilled in the very near future. When this happens Israel will emerge as an extremely prominent nation with great respect and will be recognized and honored by all the nations on earth. Zechariah graphically describes this amazing event. In the Message version of the Bible the prophet frequently refers to “On the Big Day” which is usually translated in other versions as “In that day.” In fact it will be a bigger day than almost anyone has ever yet imagined. A truly amazing and astounding time when Israel will arise as though from the dead! (Romans 11:15). Its fulfillment will take the world and most of the Church by complete surprise!

It is a massive End Time prophecy whose time for fulfillment will soon arrive. It describes a huge attack upon Israel launched by all her surrounding neighbors. This would constitute for Israel a war on five fronts involving rockets and missiles carrying weapons of mass

destruction. In the natural it may have the potential to completely destroy Israel. When it does happen it will change the world scene forever.

The stage is already set. The players are in the wings waiting to begin the world shaking scenario which is the total annihilation of Israel. Islamic history and prophecy predicts that the fulfillment will definitely happen.

The historic instances of fulfillment of Bible prophecies assure us that this prediction will be totally fulfilled. If Israel's enemies were able to succeed in their venture, the Bible would become obsolete and completely invalid. Its major prophecies would become futile and totally unreliable.

In the event that the major attack could succeed in its ultimate aim, the religious/political power of Islam would take over the whole world. Allah would be worshipped under duress by the peoples of every nation on earth. Shariah law would constitute the law in every nation on earth.

Zechariah 12:1. The burden of the word of the Lord against Israel.

The Burden: Chapter 12, begins the final oracle of the book of Zechariah. The first burden (*Massa*) covers

chapters 9 through 11, dealing mainly with the first coming of Messiah who was rejected, by the nation. The second prophetic *burden* deals with the return and the reign of the Messiah as King over Jerusalem.

The Word Of The Lord: The *Dabar i.e.* - speech or communication from *Yahweh* to Zechariah, regarding Israel. The reference here is to the Word, which is also the title given to Jesus (Logos) who is the chief focus here as the suffering Messiah, pierced, rejected and finally accepted by the nation. (John 1:1, Revelation 19:13) The Word in Revelation returns with power and great authority (Revelation 19:13) .

Concerning Israel: Israel as a nation ceased to exist in the Assyrian captivity, Judah however remained until the Babylonian captivity (605-586 B.C.). Scripture speaks of a united kingdom of Judah and Israel (Joseph) prior to the coming of the Messiah (Ezekiel 36-39). The name for the nation in 1948 was prophetic, the name Zechariah referred to was Israel, not Judah. Israel as a nation had disappeared almost 200 years before Zechariah was a prophet.

The Lord: (*Jehovah*) The Lord identifies Himself with three major events,

1. He stretches out the heavens (creator of the universe). The Hebrew word *natah* (stretches) is in the

perfect present tense. God is still actively in control of the heavens.

2. He lays the foundation of the earth (creator of earth)
Job 38:4-5

4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

5 Who determined its measurements? NKJV

3. He forms the spirit of man within him (creator of man and his spirit). The point being, He is the one and only God, there is no other. (Isaiah 44:6-8, 41:4).

Almighty God, Jehovah is the creator and supreme ruler of the universe and the creator of all mankind. He formed the spirit of man. This gives us an insight into man's creation. When man was created from the dust of the earth, the Lord then formed the spirit inside the newly formed human body. Man's human spirit was formed directly by God's Spirit. It was the very breath of God that fashioned the spirit of man within the body of clay (Genesis 2:7).

I Will Make Jerusalem: Here the Lord God is speaking in the first person. God Himself will make Jerusalem the central focus of the nations in the last days. The prophetic role of Jerusalem, as the focal point of the nations is clearly established throughout scripture. The interaction of God with Jerusalem is clearly an eternal issue. (Isaiah 60:1-3) Who could possibly have imagined at the time when this prophecy was made,

when Jerusalem which was like a small insignificant village, it would one day become a city attracting international interest. Jerusalem is mentioned more than 2,000 times in the Bible and its glory increases and excels in the Last days.

Psalms 69:35-36

35 For God will save Jerusalem and rebuild the towns of Judah. His people will live there and take possession of the land.

36 The descendants of those who obey him will inherit the land, and those who love him will live there in safety. NLT

Psalms 2:6 *For the LORD declares, "I have placed my chosen king on the throne in Jerusalem, my holy city."*
NLT

Psalms 9:11 *Sing praises to the LORD who reigns in Jerusalem. Tell the world about his unforgettable deeds. NLT*

Psalms 76:2

2 Jerusalem is where he lives; Mount Zion is his home.
NLT

This verse cannot possibly be spiritualized. It so clearly and obviously pertains to the literal physical earthly city of Jerusalem in which God is going to "live." His

earthly headquarters will be in Jerusalem the city of David and of the great King Messiah.

Psalm 20:2 May he send you help from his sanctuary and strengthen you from Jerusalem. NLT

Psalm 87:7 At all the festivals, the people will sing, "The source of my life is in Jerusalem !" NLT

Jerusalem according to scripture will be the capital city of the King Messiah, from where He will rule the nations. (Zechariah 9:9-10, 14:16-17). Jerusalem, along with the Jewish people, according to Daniel's 70 Weeks (Daniel 9; 24-27) is the focus of God's prophetic program. Jerusalem will be in the front page media headlines in the End Times as the nations around Israel lay siege to the city.

Zechariah 12:2 (AMP)

² Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup or bowl of reeling to all the peoples round about, and in the siege against Jerusalem will there also be a siege against and upon Judah.

The imagery of a *cup of trembling* (from drunkenness) is translated from the Hebrew (*Ra'al*), meaning to reel or stumble as if drunk. The enemies that attack Israel will begin to behave like a drunken mob, totally irresponsibly and in an uncoordinated manner. God says

that in a coming day Jerusalem will intoxicate and stupefy the surrounding peoples who attack Israel.

The Siege Against Jerusalem: Very soon all the surrounding nations adjacent to Israel will attack the city of Jerusalem. Today, we see Jerusalem as the center of world attention, because of Islamic and the Western nations are focussed on the city. Islam with over 20% of the Earth's population, views the city as Islamic territory, rejecting Jewish claims to the city. The Jews in the land today, look back to their past, claiming a historical right to the city.

The Arab peoples surrounding Jerusalem have a passion for possessing the city that is not justified by history. Their ultimate aim is to completely destroy the world centre of Judaism and Christianity to which the Messiah will return and replace the Jewish government with Islamic and Shariah rule.

Psalm 83:4-8 (AMP)

⁴ *They have said, Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation; let the name of Israel be in remembrance no more.*

⁵ *For they have consulted together with one accord and one heart; against You they make a covenant—*

⁶ *The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, of Moab and the Hagrites,*

⁷ *Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, the Philistines, with*

the inhabitants of Tyre.

⁸ Assyria also has joined with them; they have helped the children of Lot [the Ammonites and the Moabites] and have been an arm to them. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!

There has never previously been such an alliance formed to attack and subjugate Israel in all history. The ten nations who are here enumerated as being combined against Israel, are never mentioned elsewhere as enemies united at the same time and for the purpose of annihilating Israel. Several commentaries make the same point. This must be an end-time prophecy!

The West (Europe and USA) have a cultural attachment to the city, because of their Christian heritage, and Israel's Western world outlook. Islamic populations in Europe and Islamic world wide hatred for the Jewish state, also places the capital Jerusalem in the center of world attention.

In the End Times the nations will come against the city of Jerusalem and its End Time Jewish inhabitants, laying siege on four separate occasions.

1. Zechariah 12
2. Battle of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38-39)
3. Midpoint of the Tribulation period (Zech 14:1-2, Matthew 24:15-21) .

4. At Armageddon, at the conclusion of the Great Tribulation when the nations attack Jerusalem in their final assault (Revelation 16:16, Revelation 19:18-21, Zechariah 14:12).

A Heavy Stone: Zechariah 12:3 (AMP)

³ And in that day I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all peoples; all who lift it or burden themselves with it shall be sorely wounded. And all the nations of the earth shall come and gather together against it.

According to Jerome an early Church father, the reference here is to the contest, in which young men measured their strength by lifting heavy stones. In the same way the world will try to lift Jerusalem, into Islamic control. The stone will be too heavy, pitting the armies of God against the armies of men. Jesus uses this same picture of a heavy stone in Matthew 21:44, Isaiah refers to the stone as Messiah in Isaiah 8:14. Isaiah also refers to the cornerstone of Jerusalem, as Messiah the precious stone of Zion (Isaiah 28:16).

Isaiah 8:11-15

11 The LORD has said to me in the strongest terms:

"Do not think like everyone else does.

12 Do not be afraid that some plan conceived behind closed doors will be the end of you.

13 Do not fear anything except the LORD Almighty.

He alone is the Holy One. If you fear him, you need fear nothing else.

14 He will keep you safe. But to Israel and Judah he will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap that entangles them.

15 Many of them will stumble and fall, never to rise again. Many will be captured." NLT

Isaiah 8:12 obviously relates to Psalm 83:2-8 and the “crafty cons-piracy” that the Arabic nations that are united in order to destroy the Jewish State of Israel.

In Isaiah 28:16 the prophet obviously likens the Messiah to a stone. Could this be the same stone mentioned in Isaiah 8:14? I believe so.

Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.

All Gentile Nations: (*Goyim*) This refers to all nations other than Israel. In the end, the Muslim nations which come against Jerusalem to destroy the Jewish people and Jerusalem will be cut to pieces. Throughout history even leading up to these End Times events, Jerusalem has caused problems for the world. In A.D. 638, the Muslims conquered Jerusalem from the Byzantine

Romans. This was followed by the Crusades (A.D.1099-1187, 1229-39, 1240-44) when the nations of the West defeated Islamic powers to take back control of Jerusalem.

At a later date the Muslim nations rallied again and drove the Crusaders from Jerusalem. In World War I, Islamic powers (The Ottoman Empire), were defeated after they allied themselves with Germany. The West was again in control of Jerusalem, the lands of the Ottoman Turks were divided, creating new nations, many of which were given the names of their historical past, including Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Jordan. Jerusalem and Palestine (Judah) were under the control of the British, who because of Arab threats withdrew their promise to establish a Jewish State.

Islamic Claims Over Jerusalem

Muslims today claim Jerusalem as their third-holiest city. However, Jerusalem is not mentioned once in their holy book the Koran. In addition, throughout the centuries when Jerusalem was under complete Arab control, no Arab ruler or Islamic leader ever made Jerusalem the object of a religious pilgrimage. This fact displays a strange indifference toward a city which is now considered to be the third-holiest religious site in Islam after Mecca and Medina.

A new Jewish State only came into existence after World War II, after the nations voted it into existence at the United Nations. In a war immediately following the establishment of a Jewish State (May 1948), Jerusalem was conquered by the Jewish nation. Jerusalem was then a divided city in the hands of Jews and Muslims. In 1967, following the Six-Day War, Jerusalem was completely in the hands of the Jewish people, for the first time in over 2000-years. The conflict for Jerusalem continues to this very day, fulfilling the words of Zechariah who wrote in 520 B.C., when Jerusalem future seemed bleak. History is a living testimony to the words of Zechariah.

The Battle For Jerusalem - Zechariah 12:4-9 (AMP)

⁴ *In that day, says the Lord, I will smite every horse [of the armies that contend against Jerusalem] with terror and panic and his rider with madness; and I will open My eyes and regard with favor the house of Judah and will smite every horse of the opposing nations with blindness.*

⁵ *And the chiefs of Judah shall say in their hearts, The inhabitants of Jerusalem are our strength in the Lord of hosts, their God.*

⁶ *In that day will I make the chiefs of Judah like a big, blazing pot among [sticks of] wood and like a flaming torch among sheaves [of grain], and they shall devour all the peoples round about, on the right hand and on the left; and they of Jerusalem shall yet again dwell*

and sit securely in their own place, in Jerusalem.

⁷ And the Lord shall save and give victory to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be magnified and exalted above Judah.

⁸ In that day will the Lord guard and defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and he who is [spiritually] feeble and stumbles among them in that day [of persecution] shall become [strong and noble] like David; and the house of David [shall maintain its supremacy] like God, like the Angel of the Lord Who is before them.

⁹ And it shall be in that day that I will make it My aim to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

In That Day: This term refers to a Day of Judgment, when the nations are gathered against Jerusalem. The term is used throughout scripture. That day, appears twenty times in the book of Zechariah alone, referring to a special period, when God will judge the nations, and establish His kingdom. Although the Hebrew word for day (Yom) is used this phrase obviously alludes to a short time period rather than a literal day.

Joel 3:1-2

"At that time, when I restore the prosperity of Judah and Jerusalem," says the LORD,

2 "I will gather the armies of the world into the valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will judge them for harming my people, for scattering my inheritance among the nations, and for dividing up my land. NLT

This period, also referred to as, the *Day of the Lord* is the transition period between the rule of the nations, to the rule of God. Zechariah and Joel both show the before and after affects of “That day”. After “that day” day there will peace for Israel as the nations come under the rule of their Messiah (Christ). The prophet Joel clearly indicates that Jehovah God who will be dwelling in Zion will roar on the nations **from** Jerusalem.

Joel 3:16-17 (AMP)

¹⁶ *The Lord will thunder and roar from Zion and utter His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth shall shake; but the Lord will be a refuge for His people and a stronghold to the children of Israel.*

¹⁷ *So shall you know, understand, and realize that I am the Lord your God, dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. Then shall Jerusalem be holy, and strangers and foreigners [not born into the family of God] shall no more pass through it.*

The Messiah In The Midst (Center) Of Israel:

The Messiah, as the Angel of the Lord will position Himself in the midst (centre) of Israel.

Joel 2:27

27 Then you shall know that I am in the midst (Heb # 7130 Qereb) of Israel: I am the LORD your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. NKJV

Zechariah 8:3 "Thus says the LORD: 'I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the LORD of hosts, The Holy Mountain.' NKJV

Zechariah 2:10-11

10 "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the LORD.

11 "Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst . Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. NKJV

God's Eyes Will Be Favorably Upon Israel

Zechariah 12:4 (AMP)

*⁴ In that day, says the Lord, I will smite every horse [of the armies that contend against Jerusalem] with terror and panic and his rider with madness; **and I will open My eyes and regard with favor the house of Judah** and will smite every horse of the opposing nations with blindness.*

The Lord's eyes are open in a more focused and intent manner over His people, He becomes directly involved in the conflict between the nations and His people. God declares that His eyes are always on His people Israel. Further He says that Israel is the apple

(pupil) of His eye. The eye is the most sensitive part of the body. The eye is instinctively protected.

Psalms 34:15-16

15 The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their cries for help.

16 But the LORD turns his face against those who do evil; he will erase their memory from the earth. NLT

Zechariah 2:8 For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye. NKJV

God will supernaturally intervene for the nation. He will cause the horse and its rider to go blind, mad and confused. It is important to note, God is doing the talking throughout the chapter. God is supernaturally aiding his people. Though the nations come against Jerusalem with fury, God will protect her. This will find an ultimate fulfillment in the Battle of Armageddon, but we will see an earlier fulfillment any day now as predicted in Zechariah 12 and Psalm 83.

Israel's Military Leaders Will Trust In The LORD

The Governors of Judah: The rulers (Alluphim: Generals) of Israel who will see the supernatural deliverance taking place and be emboldened by the heroics of Messiah and the fall of Israel's enemies.

Zechariah 12:5 (AMP)

⁵ And the chiefs (Alluphim = Generals) of Judah shall say in their hearts, The inhabitants of Jerusalem are our strength in the Lord of hosts, their God.

They will understand that the strength of the people comes from the LORD. The Generals of the Israeli army will transfer their confidence from the Israeli Defense Force to the LORD of heaven's armies.

Like A Blazing Fire: At this point the nation fights off their enemies which surround the city. The Israeli defense forces will become like a prairie fire sweeping through the ranks of their enemy.

Zechariah 12:6 "On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a brazier that sets a woodpile ablaze or like a burning torch among sheaves of grain. They will burn up all the neighboring nations right and left, while the people living in Jerusalem remain secure.

NLT

Psalms 83:14-15

14 As a fire roars through a forest and as a flame sets mountains ablaze,

15 chase them with your fierce storms; terrify them with your tempests. NLT

Jerusalem Will Remain Secure: Here the Lord, assures Jerusalem's position, the city will be saved and rescued regardless of the plans of the nations.

Zechariah 12:6 while the people living in Jerusalem remain secure. NLT

The LORD Will Save Jerusalem: This verse looks forward to the future salvation of the people of Israel after their amazing deliverance. So Jerusalem and the David's descendents do not get greater glory the rest of Judah, the land of Judah, (Israel) and the inhabitants will be the first to supernaturally throw off their enemies.

The House of David: This refers to the Jews the literal descendents of David, who are in Jerusalem in the End Times. This does not mean that every descendent of David knows they are such. God however, knows who is who in the whole process of redemption. The Hebrew word house - *bayith* clearly signifies all the descendants of David.

The Inhabitants of Jerusalem: This signifies all who are living in Jerusalem at the time that Israel's enemies launch their devastating attack upon Israel and Jerusalem. This will include some Christians and many Muslims.

The Feeble Among Them: At this point, the weak, (*Kashal*) or those who totter and stumble will become empowered to be like King David. (The word feeble in Hebrew means, to stumble, stagger, totter through frailty in the lower legs. This description sounds remarkably like peripheral neuropathy that affects the balance). These remarkable events precede the national conversion of Israel. When the attack is first launched Israel is initially caught off balance. Once the battle is enjoined by the Angel of the Lord, Israel will recover her equilibrium.

Israel Will Be Like God: The descendents of David, will be supernaturally empowered that day, physically their exploits will be supernatural in power. The army of Israel will literally be like (similar to) God. They will exercise supernatural power under the leadership of the Angel of the LORD (The Messiah).

God Will Seek To Destroy: The LORD plans to destroy the armies of all the nations which attack Israel. The nations on every border of Israel today are Islamic nations each of which harbors a determined purpose to rid the area of its Jewish presence. Their cruel aim will rebound upon their own heads. They will be destroyed instead of Israel.

Islamic Armies Against Jerusalem: The nations of the earth will tacitly support the armies that are gathered against Jerusalem which is the ultimate target of

the Islamic armies. The enemy nations fiercely believe it is their prophetic destiny to rid what they call Palestine from its Jewish presence. Sadly they presently have the tacit political support of almost every nation on earth. This fanatical determination will never be surrendered willingly. It can only be eradicated by the unquestioned absolute defeat of Islamic forces. They will never willingly surrender their ambition.

The Spiritual Salvation Of Israel

God's ultimate purpose is not only to restore the people of Israel to their ancient land. It is finally to restore them to Himself in their original living relationship. In order to facilitate and achieve this prophetic purpose He will pour out His Holy Spirit upon all the descendants of David in Israel.

Zechariah 12:10-12 (AMP)

¹⁰ *And I will pour out upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace or unmerited favor and supplication. And they shall look [earnestly] upon Me Whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him as one who is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

¹¹ *In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of [the city of] Hadadrimmon in the Valley of Megiddo [over beloved King Josiah].*

¹² *And the land shall mourn, every family apart: the*

[kingly] family of the house of David apart and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan [David's son] apart and their wives apart;

I Will Pour Out The Spirit: Again, we see the LORD is the source of the Spirit's outpouring. Jehovah clearly identifies Himself in this verse, as "Me whom they pierced". There is no doubt about God's prophetic intention. When God says "I will" it will happen. All the powers of hell cannot defuse the intention of God. Nothing can alter His determined purpose. He will clearly demonstrate His unquestioned ultimate authority and power. All the nations on earth will witness the defeat of every false religion and the absolute supreme authority of Yaweh the God of the universe. This outpouring of God's Spirit will eclipse all previous visitations. On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit was poured out on 120 disciples. In this new predicted outpouring He will be poured out on the whole nation.

The House of David: Everyone of Davidic descent would be considered part of the house of David. God knows the family line of every human ever to live. He has a meticulous record of every person's DNA. Here the descendents of David, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem are referenced. The House of David, in particular will be targeted to demonstrate God's faithfulness to David and the vital linkage to the Messiah, who is a "Son of David" (Luke 20:41).

The Inhabitants of Jerusalem: Although the present population of Jerusalem is mainly Jewish, people of other religions are also living in Jerusalem. There are many Muslims and a relatively small number of “Christians” living in Jerusalem all of whom will be vividly conscious of the amazing preservation of Jerusalem and all its inhabitants. They will also be confronted by the dynamic revelation that their deliverer is in fact the long promised Messiah of Israel.

The Spirit Of Grace: As a result of God’s Spirit of grace which is poured out on the whole nation, the citizens will call out to God and repent over Jesus the Messiah. This whole exercise of deliverance and salvation is a manifestation of the boundless grace of God. What God accomplishes for Israel will be purely the result of His grace and graciousness. The word (*Ruach*) means wind, breath, mind, spirit, the term and also refers to the Holy Spirit. In Hebrews 10:29 the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Grace. Only through the Holy Spirit and the grace of God can anybody find Jesus. This is true in both the Old and New Testament period for both Jew and Gentile.

And Supplications (*Tachanuwn*) is another way of saying intense and intentional prayer, but particularly the prayer of request. At this point, the nation will cry out in repentance, calling on the LORD to get involved against the nations. I personally believe that this prayer will definitely echo the words of Jesus when Is-

rael welcomes their Messiah and cries out “Blessed are you who comes in the name of the LORD” (Matthew 23:39).

Following this prayer, like Paul the blinders are removed from the nation’s eyes and as a nation, they will look upon their Messiah, the Redeemer of Israel.

Isaiah 59:19 (AMP)

¹⁹ So [as the result of the Messiah’s intervention] they shall [reverently] fear the name of the Lord from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him and put him to flight [for He will come like a rushing stream which the breath of the Lord drives].

Then They Will Look Upon Me: The one who is speaking is obviously the **LORD** of Hosts, the Holy One of Israel, the great I AM. It is therefore Him that Israel will look upon. Following the prayer and supplication, the nation will see their God and their Messiah. Christ will descend upon and into the midst of a nation calling out to their God. Comparing Zechariah 12:10 with Zechariah 12:1 and 12:3 (*Thus says the LORD*) makes it clear that the Me they look upon is the LORD God - Yahweh - Himself. This is astounding and wonderful evidence that Jesus the previously pierced One, is actually God, the Holy One of Israel.

Whom They Pierced: Here Yeshua is clearly identified as Jehovah. If you correctly recognize Yaweh as the person speaking, who tells the reader they shall look on **ME**, one must come to the conclusion that the one pierced is none other than the **LORD**. The distinguishing features that identify Him are the marks (scars) of His piercing.

Mourning For Him...The Only Son: The Jewish nation will mourn their initial rejection of the *First Born*, who was crucified. In the Hebraic culture the first born son has a special place of honor in the family structure. The time will be a period of national examination, mourning and repentance.

In That Day: In that day, when Messiah comes to Israel in power and authority the whole nation will mourn over Him. Each family will mourn, and men and women apart will mourn.

The Land Shall Mourn: The nation will mourn their rejection of the Messiah, who died for the sins of the nation. The actual land of Israel will mourn the lost years of the relationship the nation could have had, if they were obedient. During the Diaspora the land of Israel became like a desolate wilderness as though in mourning because of the absence of the people of Israel. With the return of the outcasts the land has begun to blossom once again. (Isaiah 35:1-2) The nation will

mourn the death and destruction which came upon the land, by Israel not knowing their Messiah at His coming. According to Paul not only will the land of Israel mourn, all creation will mourn waiting expectantly for the manifestation of the Kingdom and the children of the kingdom.

Romans 8:19-22 (AMP)

¹⁹ *For [even the whole] creation (all nature) waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God's sons to be made known [waits for the revealing, the disclosing of their sonship].*

²⁰ *For the creation (nature) was subjected to frailty (to futility, condemned to frustration), not because of some intentional fault on its part, but by the will of Him Who so subjected it—[yet] with the hope*

²¹ *That nature (creation) itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and corruption [and gain an entrance] into the glorious freedom of God's children.*

²² *We know that the whole creation [of irrational creatures] has been moaning together in the pains of labor until now.*

Every Family Will Mourn: The mourning will be personal as each family will recount their own hardness of heart in rejecting the Messiah. Leading the national mourning will be the leaders of the house of Levi, i.e. the extended priesthood of Israel.

¹³ *The [priestly] family of the house of Levi apart and their wives apart; the family of Shimei [grandson of Levi] apart and their wives apart;*

¹⁴ *All the families that are left, each by itself, and their wives by themselves [each with an overwhelming individual sorrow over having blindly rejected their unrecognized Messiah].*

Wives By Themselves: This will be a time of personal self-reflection, the women and the men will be separated as the nation mourns in holiness, this is not a time to be distracted with sexual desire, but a time of examination. This description of the national mourning clearly displays the Hebraic manner of mourning.

All The Families That Remain: Zechariah cites two of them are sacred families (Zechariah 12:13), *the family of the house of Levi*, which was God's tribe, and in it particularly the family of Shimei, which was a branch of the tribe of Levi (1Chronicles 6:17). However, he also indicates that all the families of Israel that remain will engage in the national mourning in respect of the Messiah.

The Coming Transformation:

The fulfillment of this amazing prophecy in Zechariah will initiate tremendous changes throughout the whole world. The transformation will initially be a spiritual

one but the immediate repercussions will be religious, social and political.

The Messianic Transformation Of Israel. Zech 12:10, etc. Israel will become a Messianic nation symbolized by the 144,000 in Revelation 7:3-8. They will comprise an army of servants of God that together with Messianic Gentile believers will bear faithful witness of the kingdom (Revelation 7:9-17).

There will be a transformed spiritual atmosphere around the world. It will be an international atmosphere of awe and wonder toward God. The change in the heavens will transmit to the earth changing the conscious awareness of the nations. Every nation will become conscious of the reality of the God of the universe.

The Transformation Of The Church: God's presence in the midst (centre) of Israel (Joel 2:27) will precede the promised outpouring of the Spirit on all flesh. Joel 2:28 The proclamation and harvesting of the kingdom of God will increase exponentially.

Transition Of Church Into Kingdom Mode: Luke 12:32

32 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom NKJV

The universal Church will be transformed inwardly and outwardly. It will be almost unrecognizable to the traditional Church of this present era. The true Church will become a spiritual army who is also a bride without spot, wrinkle or any such blemish (Eph 5:27).

A World Wide Influx Of Muslim, Hindu Etc, Believers Into Messiah: Powerful shockwaves will reverberate around the religious world as multitudes of former adherents from all false religions accede to a new revelation of Jehovah God and His Messiah.

A Kingdom Witness Around The World: Matt 24:14. The Gospel of the Kingdom (Matthew 24:14) will be proclaimed powerfully around the entire earth with amazing supernatural results.

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