

How will
ISRAEL
Defeat
ISLAM
In The Imminent Future?

**An Examination Of The
Most Important Prophecies Of
Scripture In This Day.**

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How Will Israel Defeat Islam?

A Brief Preview Of What Zechariah 12 Predicts

We are currently living in the most critical period of all human history. If Islam could be successful in its plan to conquer and dominate the whole world, humanity would be damned to live out its entire future in a spiritual darkness that defies description. The kind of activities we are currently witnessing in the Middle East would be constantly enacted throughout the whole world. Every nation on earth would experience this unimaginable future.

The war which we will discuss may appear almost inconsequential to many people because of the insignificant size of modern Israel, which is much smaller than most states in the USA. A further reason is the amount of antagonism and hatred that exists towards Israel which is undoubtedly the most despised and hated nation on earth. Many nations believe that peace will never be achieved on earth until Israel has been totally driven from her present location or even completely obliterated.

The whole world at this present hour is under tremendous tension for many reasons. However, the greatest reason concerns what is happening in the Middle East and the fear that such horrific events may quickly spread to the rest of the world. The Muslims who are perpetrating these sinister acts, are extremely confident of attaining their ultimate purpose, whereas the Western world is neither sure about Islam's purpose, and even more unsure about what this horrific nightmare is all about. The West is even less sure about how it can possibly be thwarted and defeated. I personally believe that no human strategy can solve this monstrous problem that will require supernatural intervention to finally defeat this Satanically inspired plan.

The hatred that exists could only come from Satan and is directed primarily against Israel because the Jews are truly God's chosen people. This war, whatever the outcome, will tremendously effect and negatively change the whole world scene for several reasons. The first reason is that if this attack could possibly result in a victory for the Islamic nations involved, it could be the first step towards a world totally subjugated to the rule and cruelty of the most brutal regime that has ever existed. Thankfully the Bible clearly reveals that this will NOT be the case. When Israel, through the direct divine aid of Almighty God, wins a gigantic miraculous victory for Israel, this will certainly be the first step towards the worldwide reign of the Messiah from heaven. Everyone should realize that the initial establishment of this kingdom is finally at hand. Ancient prophecies from the past, which many will dismiss as

mythical unrealities, will be literally fulfilled and the Kingdom rule of God on earth will finally emerge.

An Abbreviated Account Of This Bible Prediction

1. Zechariah 12:2

2 "I will make Jerusalem and Judah like a cup of poison to all the nearby nations that send their armies to surround Jerusalem. TLB

All of Israel's nearby Islamic neighbors today are in an alliance described in Psalm 83, will launch a ferocious and hate filled attack Jerusalem. Asaph enumerates and identifies them.

Psalm 83:4-8

4 "Come," they say, "let us wipe out Israel as a nation. We will destroy the very memory of its existence."

5 This was their unanimous decision. They signed a treaty as allies against you--

6 these Edomites and Ishmaelites, Moabites and Hagrites,

7 Gebalites, Ammonites, and Amalekites, and people from Philistia and Tyre.

8 Assyria has joined them, too, and is allied with the descendants of Lot.

NLT

2. Zechariah 12:8-9

8 "The Lord will defend the people of Jerusalem; the weakest among them will be as mighty as King David! And the royal line will be as God, like the Angel of the Lord who goes before them! 9 For my plan is to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. TLB

God will defend Jerusalem and destroy all the nation's armies that come against it.

3. Zechariah 12:10-11

10 "Then I will pour out the spirit of grace and prayer on all the people of Jerusalem. They will look on him they pierced, and mourn for him as for an only son, and grieve bitterly for him as for an only child who died. TLB

Following the successful defense of Jerusalem, God will pour out His Holy Spirit on all the citizens of Jerusalem, eliciting a positive response from them.

The citizens will mourn over their deliverer as one would mourn the death of an only son who had died. (Yeshua is an only Son). The genuine grief and sorrow that Israel displays will amount to repentance towards the Messiah.

This abbreviated account cannot be easily misinterpreted. Such events have never happened previously. The only unknown factor is exactly when it might occur. It would seem that the time factor depends on the attacking forces and what they determine would be the critical moment to achieve success. At this point in time it would seem that these armies are fully and fanatically preparing now to launch a very imminent attack. This massive attack will soon be launched by all the nations on Israel's borders supported, instigated and driven by Iran. These nations are all Islamic nations, who believe that the land on which Israel is presently established is historically Islamic land. The attack will be launched with such force that initially it will appear completely capable of attaining its objective which is the total annihilation of Israel. But God will look with special favour upon Israel. Israel will place their trust in the Lord of heavens armies. Even the feeblest Israeli citizens will become mighty warriors like King David (Zechariah 12:8).

God will personally defeat and destroy all these attacking armies. He will supernaturally defend Israel and Jerusalem. Through Divine supernatural intervention, the attacking forces will be totally humiliated and brought to a demoralized defeat. So awesome will be the defeat that its repercussions will spread to all Islamic communities throughout the whole world. Millions of Muslims will finally realise that Yahweh is truly God, and the Holy One of Israel. Then the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon Israel. Her citizens will look on the Messiah who was once pierced for them and the whole world. The whole nation of Israel will recognize and mourn for the Messiah. Jerusalem then will be exalted above all the cities on earth. All nations will view Israel's exaltation. All of the predictions in Zechariah 12 relate to the presently imminent victory over their Islamic enemies and the return of Messiah to His kinsmen in Israel. The remainder of this prophetic chapter describes the remarkable things that will happen in respect of Israel's amazing immediate future. After this victory there will be a period of peace and prosperity for Israel that precedes Ezekiel 38-39, probably by several years. In this peaceful and prosperous period Israel will gain possession of much more territory that is presently occupied by her Arab neighbors. I am not sure how long this peaceful period will last but it will certainly continue until Ezekiel 38:11 when Israel will be living in peace.

Please realize and understand that this brief message is not a suggested script for a Star Wars movie. It is a sensational prophetic Bible picture of events that will actually happen in the foreseeable future. It was predicted in the Bible more than 3,500 years ago and may happen in our lifetime in the immediate future.

Both Iran and Iraq have demonstrated how difficult it would be to defeat the Muslim forces that are challenging the Western world today. It will require far more than human effort and strategies no matter how large, skilled and well equipped they may be, to defeat the forces that will attack Israel. The recent battles against Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan have demonstrated this truth. However, the war that will eventuate when Israel is finally attacked, will be enormously different from any other war in history. It is true that even in Israel's history since 1948, God has helped Israel to secure several amazing victories. However His presence in these wars has appeared to be somewhat discreet and scarcely discernible. Few people other than Israelis and some Christians have lauded God's role in Israel's previous victories, but this soon coming war will be very different in many ways. It will be a war different from any other since Old Testament days. God's presence, power and authority will be powerfully and visibly manifested for the whole world to see and stand in awe.

This will be a war directly against Satanic forces whose sole purpose and strategy will be openly against the God of the universe for the conquest and possession of the only city on earth that God has called "My City." Consider this fact. How could any human armies, no matter how well armed, hope to prevail against the armies of the Living God? It would be an impossible task. Almighty God will arise to defend and utterly defeat the armies that challenge His historic and prophetic link to Jerusalem. Zechariah 12:8 states plainly that Israel's army will be led by the Angel of the Lord who has often been manifested as the Son of God who is also the Messiah of Israel.

Spiritual Warfare

Let me seriously remind you that the imminent war we are describing is a very real spiritual battle. It is against the powers of darkness and Satan in a manner seldom if ever seen before. It will demand a dedication that is not manifestly present in the church today. Much of the so called "prayer" today is merely religious recitation. This kind of prayer will NOT suffice today. Israel is on the verge of threatened complete annihilation. If the town or city in which we live was under such a serious threat of demolition by a power with missiles and nuclear warheads, what would our prayers be like? Would they

be mild, loquacious religious recitations? Would we be bound by religious formalism? I don't think so. We would be persistent, whole hearted, and passionate seeking to take heaven by storm. Dear friends, this is the kind of prayers we should be voicing today, especially for Israel's safety and deliverance. One day soon, God will judge us for our lack of true prayer for Israel. Let us not wait for such a day let's storm heaven today. Let's add our fervent prayers to many who are already praying earnestly for God's chosen people.

Millions of people around the world are presently in a dilemma about the future of the world. The main reason for this quandary is the horrific and barbaric things that are happening in several countries of the Middle East. The great fear is that such activities may be successfully exported around the world to all nations. Many nations, including the greatest and most powerful nations on earth, have real fears that the forces behind these atrocious inhumane acts may soon direct their attention to them too. These once powerful nations in the West have been shocked to realize the great intensity of determination evidenced by these Islamic forces and the fact that once they have conquered Israel, they are determined to subjugate the rest of the world in the name of Allah. This message is not some kind of fatalistic fairy story about something that could never happen in real life. It is a predicted tragic series of events that will happen in real time in the imminent future. When it does, and it surely will happen, its effect will tragically reverberate around the globe. Such an outcome would plunge the whole world back into the dark ages of the 7th century with all the terrible horrific inhumanity of those dreadful cruel times. Every person on earth whether presently a believer in God and the Bible or non-believer, should give urgent attention to this message. It is vital to our safety, security and entire future life. The Bible is more vital to our future wellbeing than any other book in the world. No other book can predict the future in the accurate manner of the Bible.

The reality is that a large contingent of Muslims living around the world today, but especially in the Middle East, are determined to conquer the whole world or literally die in the attempt. The conquest of Israel and then the USA would be the first vital steps towards the further attempted conquest of every nation on earth. Before we can make a proper assessment of this grim situation we must seriously try to understand the history of the deep and bitter hatred that Islam has towards Israel, the USA, and the rest of mankind. Only the Bible can supply this information and if we neglect or reject the Bible, we will never understand the origins and purpose of this hatred and its final effect on the world. What has now in the 21st century, become the greatest threat to our world, began in the ancient history of two persons. These identities are Ishmael and Isaac. Ishmael was a half-brother to Isaac and we should become aware of

the significance of both their lives. The present problem cannot possibly be understood or solved without paying serious attention to the ancient issues that caused such serious alienation between Islam, Israel and the rest of mankind. The main figure at the beginnings of this dilemma was Abraham, who is regarded as the “father” of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It is not merely a battle between mortal men. It is a war between Satan’s forces and the Kingdom of God.

The alienation between Ishmael and Isaac began when the sons of Ishmael rebelled against the ascendancy that God gave to Isaac and his descendants. This historic resentment has lasted throughout the centuries continuously growing greater throughout the years. Today, in the 21st century it is greater and deeper than at any other time in history. It fuels the determination of Ishmael’s Islamic descendants to completely annihilate modern Israel and take over its territory. The international media today gives a completely wrong concept of what the fight is all about. They have no desire to properly understand what is actually transpiring. They are helping all the nations on earth to foster the deepest resentment possible against Israel. The gross defiance against all Jews and especially those in Israel is in complete opposition to all that God holds dear. The battle that is presently unfolding will commit the nations on earth to a violent war against Almighty God, the creator and ruler of the universe including planet earth. This war that will begin in the Middle East, will eventually seriously effect and damage the whole world system of humanity in a multitude of ways. So great will be the impact that the world will change completely. It will directly and negatively affect the political, social, economic and religious state of every nation in a devastating detrimental manner. It will finally bring all nations to their knees before God.

We might be amazed to realize how many Muslims there are already in many nations of the world. For many years now they have been cleverly infiltrating the Western nations. Their numbers have increased exponentially and purposefully in a plan to eventually take over the nations of their penetration. This is particularly the case in the USA, where President Obama is finally revealing his true identity as a Muslim. He has quietly filled the White House with Muslims who are all awaiting the time when they can rise up and fully take over the nation that Barack Obama has already declared is a Muslim nation. It is a sinister and dark mystery how the American people and their government have allowed this awful situation to develop. The present state of America can only be attributed to Satan. A similar plan has been enacted in Britain where the Muslims are determinedly moving towards a day when their numbers will be sufficient to take over the leadership of the UK. This kind of plan is currently active but less developed in Australia, but when the time and

situation becomes suitable there it will definitely become a very difficult situation.

A major attack will soon be made on Israel. It is part of the Islamic plan to ultimately conquer and totally subjugate Israel and Jerusalem. Most nations around the world have no real idea of the great significance of this attack. They imagine that it is simply to gain some territory for the establishment of a new Palestinian state but it is much more than that. It is part of an Islamic plan to eventually completely wipe Judaism and Christianity off the earth and establish Islamic influence and rule in their stead.

Psalm 83:3-4

3 With cunning they conspire against your people; (Jews and Christians) they plot against those you cherish.

*4 "Come," they say, "let us destroy them as a nation, **that the name of Israel be remembered no more**" (New International Version).*

The Islamic attack will initially be on Israel which is regarded by Islam as the capital of both Judaism and Christianity. Israel is known to Islam as the "Little Satan." The second phase of their attack may well be on America that is known as the "Great Satan." The reason for this name is the fact that America was initially established on the same principles as was Israel, as one nation under God. This was partly because the first immigrants were Christians, fleeing from persecution. They saw themselves similar to Israelites fleeing from Egypt. In addition, many Jews who were made to flee from Spain in 1492 were also able to assist in the foundation of the new nation that ultimately became the United States of America. The founding fathers honored the Holy One of Israel and sought to establish spiritual identity with Israel. It is still the only nation to be established in this manner and until recently it faithfully maintained this role. Sadly, in recent years it has followed a reversal of this role and will undoubtedly suffer the severest consequences, probably at the hands of Islam.

Whether the war is initially ignited by an Islamic attack, or by a preemptive Israeli strike makes little difference, the result will be the same. Ultimately Jerusalem will remain as the capital of Israel or else it will be conquered and completely dominated by Islam. This statement is not meant to be a scare tactic. It is actually a realistic view of what is presently happening and may possibly eventuate in the very near future. If this attack led by Iran and her allies was successful, it could plunge the whole world back into the dark ages under a satanic rule of horrific proportions. Only the Bible gives us any hope that this will not transpire. Like the book of Revelation, Zechariah is largely a book of prophecies. Its purpose is to set forth a specific portion of the eternal prophetic program of God, which is also the theme of the book of

Revelation. Most of the people around the world today have no idea about what is really happening in the Middle East today. Many who think that they understand, believe that it is a merely a political war about territory. The Muslims however believe that Islamic nations have a historic claim to “Palestine” and are determined to reclaim it from what they regard as the Jewish usurpers. However, the only source that provides a true account of the history and prophetic future of “Palestine” is the Bible. Only the Bible fully explains the hatred that has always existed between the Arabs towards the Jews. This bitter deep seated hatred goes all the way back to the days of Isaac and Ishmael.

Zechariah 12 very is unique because verse 10 has obviously never yet been fulfilled i.e. the Holy Spirit will be poured out on all the house of David. It is also contemporary through the nations attacking her from on her very borders which they are waiting to do right now. All of Israel’s current neighbors are fanatically Islamic.

My Love For Israel

I gladly confess to a deep personal love for Israel, the land and its people. This is firstly because of God’s often stated eternal love for His people Israel. Various people often ask me why I am so interested in Israel and I usually reply, “Because I have been reading the Bible two thirds of which is about Israel and God’s prophetic purpose for her”. I realise that this love bias may positively affect my reading of prophecy in respect of Israel. I am personally “encouraged” to be very positive about Israel’s prophetic future because of all the positive and covenantal promises that God has pronounced about Israel’s prophetic future. However, in the earlier years of my Christian life I had no idea that Israel would play any notable role in the End Times plan of God. The limited teaching I sat under about Bible prophecy in those days applied almost solely to the Church, the pre-Tribulation Rapture and heavenly mansions. No mention was ever made about Israel and her essential prophetic role or future. I still held these views years later when I entered the ministry initially as an evangelist, then as a pastor, and finally as a missionary. It was while we were living in Africa that God gave me a powerful message about Israel. It was an extremely interesting message from the Spirit who plainly said: “I want you to get your attitude towards Israel into scriptural order”. He went on to say, “You will soon receive a request to speak at an International Conference in Jerusalem. You will become the main speaker. I want you to accept the invitation and plan to stay in Israel for one month. I will show you Israel from My perspective and teach you many things about the land and its people. I will cause you to love My people even as I do. I will also help you to teach the conference people what I teach you”. Returning home from the conference to our base in Africa we were filled with wonder about how this word might come to fruition. A few weeks later the phone rang in our isolated African home. Picking up the receiver I heard a

female American voice asking “Is that Pastor Rowlands?” When I answered positively the voice continued, “We will soon be holding our international conference in Jerusalem Israel, and we would like to invite you to be one of our speakers”. I quickly answered in the affirmative, “Yes I will be very happy to accept your invitation”. (They told me later, when we were together in Israel, that they were pleasantly surprised that I had agreed positively so quickly to the invitation. I explained that I had known that word of an invitation to speak in Jerusalem had reached me six weeks previously). I received my love for Israel at the Conference in Jerusalem. This was the beginning of our love for that land and its people that has continued and increased ever since. Soon after this conference I was invited to speak at the “Feast of Tabernacles” sponsored annually by the International Christian Embassy. I later also became the worship leader of this conference. It was a role that I filled for some ten years. During that decade my family and I became more and more in love with the Jewish people. This love continues to grow to this day.

Early in my studies about Israel after that occasion, I “discovered” Zechariah 12:9-10. I have cherished this chapter and verse ever since. For me it covers precisely what will transpire in Israel in the Last Days and how the nation of Israel will defeat her attackers and welcome her Messiah! Zechariah graphically describes this thrilling event.

Zechariah 12:9-11

9 It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. NKJV

Verse 9 tells us what God has determined to enact on the armies that attack Israel which are all Muslim nations. Following on from there, we read in verse 10, what the Lord will then do for Israel.

God will pour out His Holy Spirit on the entire House of David. (Israel).

It will be accompanied by the spirit of grace and supplications.

Israel will look with deliberate intensity on the One who was once pierced.

They will recognise Him as their promised Messiah.

They will grieve deeply for Him as for a first born son.

They will weep and mourn for Him as an only son.

This all suggests a very radical change in Israel’s attitude to their Messiah.

It actually amounts to a national repentance towards Israel’s Messiah.

I realise that the majority of Christian commentators whose comments I have read, suggest that the Gog and Magog in Ezekiel 38-39, will be the next war that Israel will have to contend with. However I strongly believe that Zechariah 12 and Psalm 83, will happen before all else. It is in fact the next big thing on the prophetic agenda. I believe too that Zechariah 12 could be launched any time in the immediate future and that many years might elapse after that victory before the fulfilment of Ezekiel's 38-39 prophecy. During the intervening years between the Psalm 83, Zechariah 12 and the Gog and Magog war, several years will pass, in which Israel will enjoy a considerable period of peace and prosperity, exalted above all the nations on earth. Israel will then evidently become the kind of nation that Ezekiel describes Ezekiel 38:10-12. It is very obvious that Israel at present is not a "land of unwalled villages," or towns without appropriate defences.

Ezekiel 38:10-12

10 "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme.

11 You will say, "I will invade a land of unwalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people—all of them living without walls and without gates and bars.

12 I will plunder and loot and turn my hand against the resettled ruins and the people gathered from the nations, rich in livestock and goods, living at the center of the land." (from New International Version)

Following The Attack In Zechariah 12

The prophecy in Isaiah 60 may well refer to this period of time immediately after the attack described in Zechariah 12. Numerous verses in this chapter predict how various Islamic nations will worship the Lord Yahweh in Jerusalem! The chapter begins with a powerful statement that we must fully understand. Isaiah 60:1-3

1 "Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all the nations to see! For the glory of the LORD is shining upon you.

2 Darkness as black as night will cover all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the LORD will shine over you.

3 All nations will come to your light. Mighty kings will come to see your radiance. NLT

Isaiah predicts that in the Last Days, "Darkness as black as night will cover the nations on earth." This darkness will not be a normal darkness such as night brings. It will be a spiritual darkness so thick and fearful that it will strike terror into every nation on earth. I believe that it refers to the spiritual darkness that Islam threatens to bring to the entire world. This darkness will

threaten to drag the world back into the dark ages of history when human life was so cheap, and barbaric torture was so prevalent. How tragic it would be if such an aim could be permanently realised. All humanity would live forever in gross spiritual darkness.

Into this darkness a brilliant beam of light will shine on Israel, illuminating the nation before the eyes of all the world. This is the light caused by the "Light of the World". Can you imagine this scene when the only light in a world filled with deepest darkness will be a super brilliant heavenly light that focusses solely on Jerusalem. The attention of every nation on earth will be upon this brilliantly illuminated city where the supreme glory of God will be seen.

All nations will gravitate towards this city in wonder and awe. They will come to honour and worship the One whose splendour fills the city with such glory. Isaiah assures us that even previously Islamic nations will be among the host of countries that will come to Jerusalem to honour and worship the Lord.

Isaiah 60:4-9

5 Your eyes will shine, and your hearts will thrill with joy, for merchants from around the world will come to you. They will bring you the wealth of many lands.

6 Vast caravans of camels will converge on you, the camels of Midian and Ephah. From Sheba they will bring gold and incense for the worship of the LORD.

7 The flocks of Kedar will be given to you, and the rams of Nebaioth will be brought for my altars. In that day I will make my Temple glorious.

8 "And what do I see flying like clouds to Israel, like doves to their nests?

9 They are the ships of Tarshish, reserved to bring the people of Israel home. They will bring their wealth with them, and it will bring great honor to the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he will fill you with splendor. NLT

These verses clearly indicate that numerous nations that were historically Islamic will be drawn to Jerusalem the city of the great King in order to surrender in worship to Him.

Why Is Zechariah So Important?

The book of Zechariah contains the clearest and the largest number of Messianic passages among all the Minor Prophets. In that respect, it is possible to think of the book of Zechariah as a kind of miniature book of Isaiah. Zechariah pictures Christ in both His first coming (Zechariah 9:9) and His second coming (9:10, 10:12 etc). In Zechariah 12 the Angel Of The Lord

(Messiah) will lead Israel to a sensational victory before His true identity is unveiled before the whole nation of Israel. Messiah will come, according to Zechariah, as Savior, Judge, and ultimately, as the righteous King ruling His people from Jerusalem (12:8–10).

Zechariah sets forth the clearest prediction of what will actually happen to Israel in the Last Days when the Muslim nations on her very borders will launch a vicious attack on Israel. It will be launched with such venom, power and angry determination that it will appear to be totally unstoppable. Initially it may appear to be absolutely inevitable that Israel will be brutally and completely conquered. The only power that would be able to avert such a disaster will be a supernatural intervention from Almighty God who will display His sovereign powers as He routs and destroys these enemies. Remember that all these nations that will participate in the attack, are all Muslim nations that Yahweh is determined to conquer (Zechariah 12:9).

The meaning of Zechariah's name is "Yahweh remembers," which is extremely appropriate especially to the purpose of his prophecies. His book brims over with the hope that God would remember His promises to His ancient people, even after all the time they spent outside the land. Like many of the prophets, Zechariah saw isolated snapshots of the future; therefore, certain events that seem to occur one after the other in Zechariah's prophecy, actually often have generations or even millennia between them. For a people newly returned from exile in Babylon, Zechariah provided specific positive prophecies about their immediate and distant future which was no doubt a great encouragement to them. Their nation would still be judged for sin (5:1–11), but they would also be cleansed and restored (3:1–10), and God would rebuild His people (1:7–17). Zechariah concluded his book by looking into the distant future, first at the rejection of the Messiah by Israel (9:1–11:17), and then at His eventual reign when Israel will finally be delivered (12:1–14).

This most momentous and cataclysmic event in all human history could be about to happen in the very near future. This event is described by Zechariah some 2,300 years ago. I believe its time of fulfillment is now arriving very soon.

This message is about an extremely serious world shaking fulfillment of prophecy.

It comes directly from the mouth of the Lord.

It is not about the dim and ever retreating distant future.

It is something that can happen any time now.

The stage is set, the situation is ready to explode.

Israel's enemies are thoroughly prepared and ready to attack.

The great majority of people, including Christians, are not ready for it.

It will be sensational when it happens.

It will be extremely great for Israel and devastating for her enemies.

We need to wake up and be prepared for this amazing event.

The whole prophecy is predicted in Zechariah 12

Read and believe it and be prepared and ready for it.

Has Zechariah 12 Ever Been Fulfilled Historically?

1. Despite many assertions to the contrary, Zechariah 12, particularly verses 9 and 10 have never previously been fulfilled. Many prophecies in Zechariah, several of which referred to the Messiah, have been meticulously fulfilled but not Zechariah 12.
2. Throughout history Israel has often been attacked. These attacks have usually been from tribes and nations within Israel's borders. However, in Zechariah 12, the nations' attacking are from outside Israel's borders.
3. With God's help, modern Israel has defeated numerous attacks by various nations living outside the borders of Israel. None of these attacks, and Israel's amazing victories, have climaxed with a nation-wide outpouring of the Holy Spirit with grace and supplications.
4. There has never been a nationwide repentance such as what is obviously described in Zechariah 12:10. The only time that there has been another national time of mourning such as that occurring in Zechariah 12, was at the death of king Josiah (2 Chronicles 35:25).
5. There has never been such a dramatic occasion when Israel has looked directly upon the person of Messiah, identifying Him by the scars He received when He was crucified at Calvary.
6. Such national weeping and mourning for the death of Messiah has never previously occurred in Israel. This period of mourning involved both religious and secular leaders. The only previous period of such national mourning was for the death of King Josiah.
7. Israel will not be mourning because they crucified the Messiah. The Romans actually crucified Him. Such a sentence could never have been carried out without appropriate Roman authority. Jews will actually mourn because they missed the opportunity to receive Him at that time.

Zechariah's Most Important Prophecy

Zechariah 12:1 The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him: (ESV).

Chapter 12, begins the final oracle of the book of Zechariah. The burden upon God's heart is firstly for Israel's successful defense and deliverance and also her future spiritual transformation. 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 Messiah as King over Jerusalem and subsequently the whole world.

Some Reasons Why I Suggest That Zechariah 12 Is Currently The Most Important Chapter In The Bible:

1. It is evidently the next major Bible prophecy to be fulfilled.
2. The stage is already set for the kind of event predicted in the Bible in Psalm 83, Zechariah 12 and Joel 3. Israel's enemies are now on her very borders.
3. If the attack were to succeed it would be the end of Israel, Jerusalem and their prophetic future.
4. It would also be the end of the Temple Mount as far as God's plans are concerned. Islam would then dominate the site and then the whole world.
5. The Bible would become obsolete and totally unreliable.
6. Both Judaic and Christian prophecy would be proven to be false.
7. The world would be ruled by the Beast and the Islamic Antichrist.
8. The world would be plunged into the deepest darkness from which it could never escape.
9. Instead of all these possibilities, the whole world will witness the return of the Messiah to planet earth.
10. This prophecy may present a very different scenario than the widely accepted one for the Second Coming return of the Jewish Messiah to earth.
11. Israel will be gloriously committed to their Messiah.
12. The True Church will include Messianic Jews and believing Gentiles in the One New Man (Ephesians 2:14-16).
13. The Holy Spirit will be poured out on ALL flesh. (Joel 2:28)
14. The Kingdom of God will be eternally established on earth with its capital in Jerusalem.

The Word Of The Lord: Zechariah 12

The *burden* or speech or communication from *Yahweh* to Zechariah, regarding Israel. The reference is to the Word of God (Bible). It is also the title given to Jesus who is the chief focus as the suffering Messiah, pierced and rejected by the nation, but returning as the Messiah and King. (John 1:1,) The Hebrew word *Dabar* infers a heavy or weighty word. The Word in Revelation returns with power and great glory. Revelation 19:13

Revelation 19:11-16

11 And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself.

13 And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

15 And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." NAS

The Lord Identifies Himself With Three Major Events,

1. **He Stretches Out The Heavens.** The Hebrew word *natah* (stretches into the future, it is in the perfect present tense). God is still always perfectly and uniquely in control of the heavens. He is the God to whom nothing is impossible. The whole universe obviously including planet earth, is superbly managed by Yahweh.

2. **He Laid The Foundation Of The Earth** (creator of earth) Job 38:4-5
38:4 "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 Formed The Spirit Of Man Within Him** (creator of man and his spirit). The point being, He is the one and only true God, there is no other. (Isaiah 44:6-8, 41:4).

Almighty God, Jehovah is the creator and ruler of the universe and the creator of all mankind. He created and totally rules the universe and all its

affairs. Its eternal future is in His hands. Whatever He has predicted will eventuate in His time and season.

God's Plan For Jerusalem:

Here the Lord God is speaking in the first person. God Himself will make Jerusalem the focus point of His attention 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.

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

See Psalm 2:6, Psalm 9:11, Psalm 20:2, Psalm 76:2-3 etc

Jerusalem, according to the scriptures, will be the eternal capital city of the King Messiah, from where He will rule over the nations. (Zechariah 9:9-10, 14:16-17,) To emphasize the importance of both Israel and Jerusalem we should note that Israel is mentioned approximately 2,500 times in the Bible. Jerusalem is mentioned more than 80 times. Jerusalem, along with the Jewish people, according to Daniel's 70 Weeks (Daniel 9; 24-27) is the focus of God's prophetic clock. Jerusalem will be in all the international media headlines in the End Times as the nations around Israel lay siege to the city.

What Does The Immediate Future Of Israel Portray?

The certainty of the fulfilment of this prophecy of an attack on Israel, is undergirded by several reliable factors.

1. It is a clear Biblical prediction in Zechariah 12, Psalm 83 and Joel 3.
2. The attack and conquest of Israel and Jerusalem in the Last Days is a clear prediction in Islamic prophecy. The Islamic Caliphate plans to establish its headquarters in Jerusalem and from there to subjugate the whole world. The Muslim fanatics will never relinquish their determination to conquer Israel. The fulfilment of their whole prophetic future depends on such a victory.
3. The stage has already been set and the intention defiantly declared many times by Iran and her minions. Israel's enemies sit impatiently awaiting

what they deem to be the most appropriate moment to achieve their predicted destiny. Thankfully Yahweh has a totally different and contrary plan.

4. Zechariah 12 has never yet been wholly fulfilled, particularly Israel's massive victory followed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit with grace and supplications on the entire nation of Israel, including the subsequent prayers and national repentance of Israel.
5. This victory and the subsequent transformation of Israel will drastically change the entire world scene. The message of the Kingdom will be powerfully proclaimed by both Jews and Gentiles. There will be a prolific harvest into the Kingdom of God.
6. Israel will eventually be transformed into the state described in Ezekiel 38:11
Israel will be a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates' NKJV
7. The prophetic future for the Church, Israel and all nations will look decidedly different from the ancient traditional mode.
8. There are probably dozens of prophetic expectations in various churches and religious organizations concerning the Second Coming of Christ. All of them feature the Church prominently to the forefront. Most of them believe in a pre-tribulation rapture of all Christians. Virtually none of them expect Israel to occupy the major role predicted in the Bible.

What If The Messiah Returns First To His Jewish Brethren in Jerusalem As In Acts 1:6-11?

Following His resurrection Jesus spent forty days with His disciples. The main subject they kept introducing was about the Kingdom of Israel. Jesus did not deny that He would restore the Kingdom to Israel. He merely told them that the time was not yet for that to happen.

Acts 1:6-8

6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time

going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

9 After he had said this, he was taken to heaven. A cloud hid him so that they could no longer see him.

10 They were staring into the sky as he departed. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood near them.

11 They asked, "Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking at the sky? Jesus, who was taken from you to heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven."

The Lord's Return Was Predicted Initially To Jewish Believers.

The Angels told the Jewish disciples that He would return visibly.

He Will Return As You See Him Go, i.e. As A Jewish Rabbi.

He Will Descend To Jerusalem.

He Will Initially Be The King Of Israel, Returning To Jewish Believers.

Ultimately His Kingdom Will Also Include Gentile Believers.

Jewish And Gentile Believers Will Then Live And Rule Together.

This fresh possibility of Messiah initially returning first to the Jewish people, is certainly worthy of careful and serious consideration. It certainly appears so in Zechariah 12:10. It is obviously going to occur in the immediate future and every believer needs to urgently prepare for what will eventually become a global transformation. According to many prophecies the Messiah will initially return to Jerusalem. What more appropriate time could there be than when Jerusalem is under serious threat of total destruction? Messiah would thus fulfill the role that Israel has always expected, when Messiah would overthrow their enemies and establish His reign in Jerusalem.

The Siege Against Jerusalem:

Today, we see Jerusalem as the centre of world attention because of Islamic and the Western nations focusing on the city. Very soon the nations currently surrounding Jerusalem will attack the city. Islam with over 20% of the Earth's population, views the city as historically Islamic, rejecting Jewish claims to the land and the city. However, the Jews in the land today, look back to their past, claiming a verifiable historical right to the city. God says that in a soon coming day Jerusalem will intoxicate and stupefy the surrounding peoples who attack the nation. The Arab peoples surrounding Jerusalem have a consuming passion for possessing the city that is not

justified by history or Bible prophecy. This passion goes all the way back in history to the days of Isaac and Ishmael.

When Might This Attack Occur?

Since this prophecy has never yet been fulfilled, it must be in the future. Israel and Jerusalem are currently surrounded by alien Muslim armies. They are all repeatedly announcing that Israel must be obliterated. Israel's enemies are presently fully committed to this attack on Israel. Their weaponry has been fastidiously and fanatically prepared. The attack could be launched any time now.

Zechariah is a minor prophet with a major prophetic message, part of which is likely to be gloriously fulfilled in the very near future. After this happens Israel will emerge as an extremely prominent nation with great worldwide respect and will be recognized and honored by all the nations on earth. Zechariah graphically describes this amazing soon coming 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. It will be a truly amazing and astounding time when Israel may arise as though from the dead! (Romans 11:15).

It is a massive End Time prophecy whose time for fulfillment will soon arrive. It describes a vicious concentrated attack upon Israel launched by all her surrounding neighbours. This could possibly constitute for Israel a war involving rockets and missiles carrying weapons of mass destruction. In the natural it may have the potential to completely destroy Israel. When this attack 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 meant to be the total annihilation of Israel. Biblical history and prophecy tell us that this fulfillment will definitely happen. The historic instances of fulfilled 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 this major attack could succeed in its ultimate aim, the religious/political power of Islam would ultimately seek to take over and enslave whole world. Allah would be forcibly worshipped by the peoples of every nation on earth. Shariah law would constitute the law in every nation. However, Jerusalem according to scripture will be the capital city of Yeshua 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 main focus of God's prophetic clock.

In the very imminent future, three extremely important Bible prophecies may be fulfilled within a very short space of time. It is essential that we know about these and prepare ourselves for them.

1. A ferocious attack may be launched against Israel involving all her near neighbours and deliberately instigated by Iran. This will be by far the most devastating attack that Israel has ever experienced. The attack will be aimed at completely destroying and subjugating Israel for the glory of Allah. The main purpose will be to capture Jerusalem to establish it as the capital city of the new Islamic Caliphate.
2. Although Israel will be severely outnumbered and facing the real possibility of annihilation, God will personally save and deliver Israel, gaining a sensational victory for her. Although God has saved Israel from defeat numerous times previously, this will be by far the most powerful and awesome victory that Israel has ever experienced. It will be widely recognized as an awesome supernatural triumph.
3. After saving Israel from what may have looked like a certain disastrous defeat, God will pour out His Holy Spirit on the whole nation. Israel will then recognize that the “Angel of the Lord” who led them to victory, is actually their promised Messiah. The whole nation will go into bitter mourning and national repentance with appropriate prayer.

These three prophecies are legitimate Bible prophecies. God is bound to fulfil them as He is to fulfil every other recorded prophecy. The fulfilment will ultimately affect every nation on earth. The prophetic Bible predictions that are already evident in the earth, particularly in the Middle East and with regard to Israel and Jerusalem, clearly indicate that the Day of the Lord is truly at hand. The only book that accurately predicts the future is the Bible.

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 period of Judgment, when the nations of the world 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. This period, also referred to as, the *Day of the Lord*, is the transition between the rule of the nations, into the earthly rule of God. Zechariah and Joel both show the before and after events of “That day”. After “that day” day there will peace for Israel as the nations come under the rule of Messiah (Christ). Although the Hebrew word for day (Yom) is used, this phrase obviously does not mean a literal day of twenty four hours. It clearly alludes to a brief time period rather than a literal day. It is sometimes described as “at that time.”

God’s Eyes Will Be Open Upon Israel:

Zechariah 12:4 *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. (AMP)*

The Lord’s eyes will be open in a more focused and intent manner over His people Israel. He will become directly involved in the conflict between the nations and Israel. 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, it is instinctively protected. The apple (pupil) of His eye is the lens through which God sees everything. God is saying in Zechariah 2:8, that Israel is the lens through which He views the world.

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

Psalms 34:15 The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their cries for help. NLT

Psalms 34:16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. NKJV

God will supernaturally intervene for His nation. He will cause the enemy horse and its rider to go blind, mad and confused. (The horses and riders are symbolic of military weapons). It is important to note that God is talking throughout the chapter. God is supernaturally aiding His people. Though the nations come against Jerusalem with intense fury, God will powerfully protect her. We may see a fulfillment of this any day now as predicted in Zechariah 12 and Psalm 83.

What could possibly avert or stop this intended attack? As far the Islamic nations are concerned they will allow nothing to distract or prevent them from the attack. For them it is a none negotiable plan. The prophetic future of Islam depends first on the conquest of Israel and Jerusalem. If the present Islamic warriors fail to conquer Israel, the whole future of Islam according to their prophecies, would be in doubt.

An Intoxicating Cup

Zechariah 12:2

2 I will make Jerusalem and Judah like an intoxicating drink to all the nearby nations that send their armies to besiege Jerusalem. NLT

Jerusalem will be front page in all the media headlines in the End Times as the nations around Israel lay siege to the city. The imagery of a *cup of trembling* (from drunkenness) is translated from the Hebrew (*Ra`al*), meaning to reel and stumble through drunkenness. God will cause Israel's enemies to become like a disoriented drunken mob. They will act in a completely irrational and uncoordinated manner. All discipline and order will vanish. Jerusalem will become like a poisonous chalice to Israel's enemies. Every kind of discipline in the attacking armies will dissipate. They will even begin to fire on each other and destroy one another.

The Heavy Stone:

According to Jerome, the reference here is to a contest, in which young men measured their strength by lifting heavy stones. In the same way the world, will try to lift Jerusalem into its mould. 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 of Messiah in Isaiah 8:14. Isaiah also refers to the cornerstone of Jerusalem, the precious stone of Zion.

Isaiah 8:14-17

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."

16 I will write down all these things as a testimony of what the LORD will do. I will entrust it to my disciples, who will pass it down to future generations. NLT

Isaiah says of the stone "He" will keep you safe, "He" will be a stone that causes people to stumble. Isaiah is obviously referring to a person not an inanimate stone.

The Messiah Is That Stone

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.

Isaiah 8:14

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. NLT

Zechariah 12:3

3 On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone, a burden for the world. None of the nations who try to lift it will escape unscathed. NLT

Psalms 118:22-24

22 The stone rejected by the builders has now become the cornerstone.

23 This is the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous to see.

24 This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

NLT

All Nations Will Be Judged Regarding Israel:

Muslims today claim Jerusalem as their third-holiest city. However, Jerusalem is not mentioned even once in their holy book the Koran. In addition, throughout the centuries when Jerusalem was under complete Arab control, no Arabic 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.

The present 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 utterly bleak. History is a living testimony to the words of Zechariah.

God Will Judge All Nations For Their Treatment Of Jews

Matthew 25:31-36

31 "But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne.

32 All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate them as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

33 He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

34 Then the King will say to those on the right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

35 For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home.

36 I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' NLT

According to these scriptures “All nations will be gathered in God’s presence” for a specific purpose, which is to pass judgment on them for their treatment of Jewish people. At this present time, there is more anti-Semitism in the world than ever before. So much of this hatred is completely without warrant. Israel should actually be honoured for all the blessings she has provided for the world. We should earnestly pray for our nation that it will never submit to such an unwarranted attitude towards Israel that this judgment of God will never come upon us.

Israel’s Military Leaders Will Trust In The Lord

The Governors Of Judah: The rulers (*Alluphim=Generals*) of Israel will see the supernatural deliverance taking place and will be emboldened by the heroics of the Messiah and the utter failure of Israel’s enemies. Their confidence in the abilities of the Israeli Defense Force will be transferred to a confidence in the Lord of Hosts their God.

Zechariah 12:5 *And the chiefs of Judah shall say in their hearts, The inhabitants of Jerusalem are our strength in the Lord of hosts, their God.* (AMP)

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

Israel Like A Blazing Firepan:

At this point Israel will defiantly fight off their enemies. The Israeli defense forces will become like a prairie fire sweeping through the ranks of their enemy. Their enemies will flee before them, filled with fear and terror.

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

Here the Lord assures Jerusalem’s position, the city will be saved, and rescued, regardless of the evil plans of the enemy nations. Asaph the prophet describes the end of this war from a different perspective, revealing the utter defeat of Islamic attackers that will completely demoralize them forcing them to recognize that Yahweh is not only the God of Israel. He is also over all the nations on earth.

Psalm 83:13-18

*13 Make them like tumbleweed, O my God, like chaff before the wind.
 14 As fire consumes the forest or a flame sets the mountains ablaze,
 15 so pursue them with your tempest and terrify them with your storm.
 16 Cover their faces with shame so that men will seek your name, O LORD.
 17 May they ever be ashamed and dismayed; may they perish in disgrace.
 18 Let them know that you, whose name is the LORD-(Yahweh) that you
 alone are the Most High over all the earth. (New International Version)*

Muslims are particularly afraid and fearful of anything that causes shame and disgrace which they believe is defaming to Allah. Such a defeat as the one predicted will surely demoralize them for whom Allah is totally undefeatable. This demoralizing defeat will cause a mass defection from Islam.

God Will Successfully Defend Jerusalem**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

God Himself will make Jerusalem the central focus in the last days. The positive prophetic role of Jerusalem, as the focal point of the nations, is clearly established throughout all scripture. The interaction of God with Jerusalem is clearly an eternal issue. Who could possibly have imagined at the time when this prophecy was made, when Jerusalem was like a small insignificant village, that it would one day become a city attracting continuous international attention and interest? Jerusalem is mentioned more than 2,000 times in the Bible and its glory increases enormously and excels in the Last Days.

Psalms 76:1-2

1 God is well known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

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

This verse cannot possibly be justifiably spiritualized. It definitely does not refer to a heavenly Jerusalem. 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. The focal point and centre of God’s earthly kingdom will not be in

Rome or any other earthly city. Without question it will be in Jerusalem. The immediate context before and after these verses clearly speaks of the earthly Jerusalem.

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. Most Christian commentators draw a very negative picture for Jerusalem in the prophetic future. This is in complete contrast to their view of the future for the Church. The predicted Bible truth about Israel's prophetic future however is an extremely positive one. Among many passages that present this view is –

Zephaniah 3:14-17 (AMP)

¹⁴ *Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice, be in high spirits and glory with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem [in that day].*

¹⁵ *[For then it will be that] the Lord has taken away the judgments against you; He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, even the Lord [Himself], is in the midst of you; [and after He has come to you] you shall not experience or fear evil any more.*

¹⁶ *In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear not, O Zion. Let not your hands sink down or be slow and listless.*

¹⁷ *The Lord your God is in the midst of you, a Mighty One, a Saviour [Who saves]! He will rejoice over you with joy; He will rest [in silent satisfaction] and in His love He will be silent and make no mention [of past sins, or even recall them]; He will exult over you with singing.*

The Lord Will Save Jerusalem:

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

This verse looks forward to the future salvation of the people of Jerusalem after their amazing deliverance. So Jerusalem and David's descendants do not get greater glory than the rest of Judah, the other inhabitants will be the first to supernaturally throw off their enemies. 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 Christians and Muslims. They too will have a first person view of the Messiah, when he reveals His true identity.

The Feeble Will Be Like King David:

Zechariah 12:8

8 On that day the LORD will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the Angel of the LORD going before them. (New International Version)

At this point, the feeble, - (Hebrew *Kashal*) or those who totter and stumble, which probably represents small children and elderly adults who will become empowered to be like King David. (The word 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.

The Messiah “In The Midst” Of Israel

The Messiah, as the Angel of the Lord will position Himself in the midst (centre) of Israel. Is the reference in Joel referring to the same time?

Joel 2:27 Then you shall know that I am in the midst (Hebrew # H 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.

Israel Will Be Like God:

Zechariah 12:8... And the royal descendants will be like God NLT

This verse reminds me of 1 John 3:2,

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. KJV

When does the Bible say that we will be “like God?” When we see Him! The descendants of David will see God and will be supernaturally transformed in that day, physically their exploits will be angelic in power, like supermen. 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).

Armies Gathered Against Jerusalem:

The armies of the earth will be gathered against Jerusalem in the end. Jerusalem is the immediate target of the Islamic armies. They fiercely believe it is their prophetic destiny to rid what they call Palestine from its Jewish presence. Sadly they presently have at least the tacit support of almost every nation on earth. This fanatical determination of Islamists will never be surrendered willingly. It can only be eradicated by the unquestioned absolute defeat of the Islamic forces. They will never peacefully surrender their ambition.

God Will Destroy These Enemies:

The Lord plans to destroy the armies of all the nations which finally 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.

Judgment For Seeking To Divide God’s Land

Joel 3:1-2

1 "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

“At that time”, 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 effects of “that day”. After “that day” there will peace for Israel as the nations come under the rule of their Messiah (Christ). These verses predict the fate of the nations that actually seek the division of Israel.

A Spectacular Victory

When this military victory is actually achieved, Israel will probably not realize immediately to whom they owe the victory. Initially in the heat of the battle, they may only realize that somehow the tide had turned and that they had miraculously achieved an amazing victory against all apparent odds. However, they will soon realize that some miraculous personage has made all the difference between supernatural victory and colossal defeat. I believe it may be at this point that they begin to cry Matt 23:38-39

39 For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" (New International Version)

When the heat of the battle has subsided and the nation revels in the wonder of victory, they will begin to search for the One who achieved for them such a victory and discover who had turned the tide against the encroaching enemies. What a perfect moment to render thanksgiving and homage to their unexpected deliverer who has rescued the nation from possible annihilation. What a perfect moment to realize that their deliverer is their long promised Messiah who has done what they have always believed He would do which was to restore the Kingdom of Israel. This is what they had asked Him immediately after His resurrection and finally it was happening now before their eyes. Acts 1:6

6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (New International Version)

Armies Against Jerusalem

The nations of the earth will tacitly support the Islamic armies that are gathered against Jerusalem which is the immediate target of the Islamic armies. The enemy Islamic nations fiercely believe it is their prophetic destiny to rid Palestine from its Jewish presence. Sadly they presently have the political support of almost every nation on earth. Their 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.

God Will Destroy Israel's Enemies Zechariah 12:9

The LORD plans to destroy the enemy armies of all the nations which attack Israel. The nations on every border of Israel today are Islamic nations each of which harbors a bitter 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.

The Salvation Transformation Of Jerusalem:

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;*

These verses vividly describe an amazing event that will happen when the people of Israel suddenly discover the identity of their deliverer. This prophetic moment appears to occur in the aftermath of the battle that has been decided in their elated favour.

God has poured forth His Holy Spirit on the entire house of David. His Spirit came with God's amazing grace often described as unmerited favour.

God does not visit Israel because they have earned His favour.

He comes in mercy because He is literally the God of eternal mercy.

The Spirit also comes with Spirit inspired supplications.

The whole nation mourns with great sadness of heart for Messiah.

Israel is in great bitterness for One they will recognize as a firstborn son.

This prediction, that Israel will see someone who was once "pierced," is amazing because it is God Himself who is speaking—hence God is the One who was "pierced." This appears to fit later descriptions of Jesus Christ's suffering. Indeed, the New Testament specifies that this prophecy is truly Messianic.

The Holy Spirit will come upon the Nation with grace, i.e. unmerited favour. God is not visiting Israel because of their exemplary behaviour or their religious keeping of the Law, but because of His abundant grace and mercy. This verse indicates a future time when the Jewish people will successfully plead for the mercy of God. This will happen when they see "the one they once

have pierced.” Zechariah’s verse is mentioned in [John 19:36-37](#) when Jesus, hanging on the cross, was pierced with a spear: “These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: ‘They will look on the one they have pierced. He has already declared (Zechariah 12:8) that Israel will become like God, which reminds me of the verse that says: ‘When we see Him, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is.’ This grace will also be accompanied with supplications i.e. appropriate prayers. God will lovingly provide Israel with everything necessary for their repentance and acceptance.

In addition to the idea of a “pierced” God, is the concept of the “only child.” Zechariah’s mention of a “firstborn son” bears an unmistakable connection to Jesus as God’s Son. The Hebrew word *bekor* was translated in the [Septuagint](#) as *prototokos*, the same term used for Jesus in [Colossians 1:15](#): “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn [*prototokos*] of all creation.” And, of course, there is [John 3:16](#), which includes a reference to Jesus as God’s “one and only Son.”

Zechariah 12:10

They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for him as for a firstborn son who has died. NLT

Here Jesus the previously pierced One, is clearly identified also as Jehovah. If you identify the person speaking and then telling the reader they shall look on Me, we 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 previous piercing.

Zechariah records that the people of Israel will look on Him intently. This will not be a passing cursory glimpse. It will be an intense and penetrating scrutiny that will utterly convince them of His true identity. This Messianic prophecy has not yet been completely fulfilled. Jesus has been “pierced,” but there will still be a future time when all of Jerusalem will see Him and mourn their ill treatment of Him. At that time, they will cry out to God for mercy, and He will answer them by saving them from their enemies: “On that day the LORD will shield those who live in Jerusalem. I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem” ([Zechariah 12:8-9](#)).

In summary, [Zechariah 12:10](#) predicts the piercing of the Son of God, the Messiah, fulfilled at the first coming of Jesus Christ when He died on the cross and was pierced by a spear in His side ([John 19:36-37](#)). The complete fulfillment of this verse awaits the last days when the Jewish people will plead for mercy from the One who was pierced.

God Will Pour Out His Holy Spirit:

Again, we see that 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 definitely happen. All the powers of hell cannot defuse the supreme 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 Yahweh the God of the universe. The Spirit predicted is not "a" spirit, it is the Ruach Ha Kodesh, the Holy Spirit who is God. 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 fresh out pouring He will be poured out on the whole nation.

Upon The Descendants Of David:

Anyone of genetic 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 persons' DNA. He even knows the number of hairs on their heads. Here the descendants of David, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem are referenced. The House of David, in particular to demonstrate God's faithfulness to David, and the linkage to Messiah, who is a "Son of David". The literal descendants of David, who are in Jerusalem in the end times. This does mean every descendent of David knows they are such. God however, knows who is who in the whole process of redemption. The Hebrew word (*bayith* House) clearly signifies all the descendants of David.

The Inhabitants Of Jerusalem:

Although the present population of Jerusalem is mainly Jewish, people of numerous other nations and 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 and deliverance 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 concerning Yeshua 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. It will be to Israel a free, gratis, unmerited favour. Just as salvation is to the Gentiles. The word "*Ruach*" which means wind, breath, mind, and spirit, 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 periods for both Jew and Gentile. The Jews will not receive this outpouring and transformation because they have always been exemplary and obedient in their national conduct before God. Often, the opposite of this has often been true. But God originally chose them as His own peculiar people and they have and will always remain as such. On their journey through the centuries at least a remnant of them have remained faithful to God to the best of their knowledge of Him. For this He will ultimately bless and reward them.

The Spirit Of Supplications:

This is another way of saying "intense and specific prayer", but particularly the prayer of request. At this point, the nation cries out in repentance, calling on the Lord to intervene against the nations. I personally believe that this prayer will definitely echo the words of Jesus when Israel cries out "Blessed are you who comes in the name of the LORD." A prophetic picture of this End Times supplication can be seen in the book of Joel. Following this prayer, like Paul the blinkers are removed from the nation's eyes and they, as a nation, will see Jesus as their Messiah, the Redeemer of Israel.

Isaiah 59:19-20

19 So shall they fear The name of the Lord from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.

20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," Says the Lord.

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 truly God, the Holy One of Israel.

Mourning For The Only Son:

The Jewish nation will mourn their 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. This verse intimates that the whole nation will mourn deeply in respect of God's "first born only son". They will recognize and identify Him, acknowledging and embracing Him. The fact that the whole nation of Israel will mourn bitterly for the Messiah clearly indicates a complete change of heart for Israel. They now gladly recognize and accept the One they formerly rejected, knowing Him to be the long promised Messiah.

The Land Itself Shall Mourn

The nation will mourn their historic 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 had been obedient. During the Diaspora, when the Jews were scattered abroad throughout the world, Israel's former territory 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 began to blossom once again. (Isaiah 35:1-2) It became one of the most highly productive agricultural nations on earth. The nation will mourn the death and destruction which came upon the land, by Israel not knowing their Messiah at His first 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).

Every Family Will Mourn:

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

Zechariah 12:13. 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].*

All The Families That Remain:

Zechariah cites that 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 David and Nathan. Families of Shimei and Levi, which were 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.

Zechariah 12:12-14

*12 "All Israel will weep in profound sorrow, each family by itself, with the husbands and wives in separate groups. The family of David will mourn, along with the family of Nathan,
13 the family of Levi, and the family of Shimei.
14 Each of the surviving families from Judah will mourn separately, husbands and wives apart. NLT*

The Coming Transformation Of Israel:

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 military, social and political. Glorious transformations will occur in the aftermath of Holy Spirit outpourings firstly on Israel (Zechariah 12:10) afterwards upon all flesh (Joel 2:28).

The Lord Will Save Jerusalem, The House Of David

This verse looks forward to the future spiritual salvation of the people of Israel after their amazing physical deliverance, so Jerusalem and its citizens do not get greater glory than the rest of Judah. The land of Judah, (Israel) and its inhabitants will be the first to supernaturally throw off their enemies. Here the Lord particularly assures Jerusalem's position that 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

This refers to the Jews the literal descendants 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 for house i.e - *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 who surrender to the Messiah. Every inhabitant of Jerusalem at this momentous time when the Messiah reveals His identity to all the witnesses of His intervention and deliverance, cannot fail to be convinced of His glorious role and authority.

The Feeble Among Them Are Made Strong

At this point, the weak (*Kashal*) or those who totter and stumble through physical imbalance, 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 neuropathy that affects the physical balance. When the attack is first launched, Israel may be initially caught off balance. Once the battle is enjoined by the Angel of the Lord, Israel will quickly recover her balance and equilibrium. These remarkable events will precede the national conversion of Israel.

Israel Will Be Like God Himself

The descendants of David will be supernaturally empowered in 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 capable leadership of the Angel of the LORD (the Messiah). Like Moses of old, they will see God face to face (Exodus 34:11, 24:29, Deuteronomy 34:10)

Zephaniah 3:14-20 Presents Positives For Israel Including

14 Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

15 For the LORD will remove his hand of judgment and will disperse the armies of your enemy. And the LORD himself, the King of Israel, will live among you! At last your troubles will be over, and you will fear disaster no more.

16 On that day the announcement to Jerusalem will be, "Cheer up, Zion! Don't be afraid!"

17 For the LORD your God has arrived to live among you. He is a mighty savior. He will rejoice over you with great gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will exult over you by singing a happy song."

18 "I will gather you who mourn for the appointed festivals; you will be disgraced no more.

19 And I will deal severely with all who have oppressed you. I will save the weak and helpless ones; I will bring together those who were chased away. I will give glory and renown to my former exiles, who have been mocked and shamed.

20 On that day I will gather you together and bring you home again. I will give you a good name, a name of distinction among all the nations of the earth. They will praise you as I restore your fortunes before their very eyes. I, the LORD, have spoken!" NLT

These Verses Proclaim:

A strong reason for singing and shouting with rejoicing. Verse 14
 God's judgments against Israel are ended. Verse 15
 Israel's enemies are defeated and cast away. Verse 15
 The King of Israel will be in the midst of Israel. Verse 15
 Israel will not experience fear or evil any more. Verse 15
 Jehovah will be a mighty Saviour for Israel. Verse 17
 He will rejoice over Israel. Verse 17
 God will exult (glory, revel) over Israel with singing. Verse 17
 Israel will inherit a good name of great distinction above all nations. Verse 20
 All the nations will praise Israel when God restores their fortunes. Verse 20.

One of the many things that thrills me about this wonderful prediction is the promise that the King of Israel will be "in the midst of Israel." I believe this refers to God's personal presence in Israel's very midst during the intense time that Israel is under attack from her nearby enemies. This is surely the time when God reveals Himself to Israel as their Messiah (Zechariah 12:10).

This Is Not The Rapture:

Although God clearly declares to Israel (Zechariah 3:15) that He has returned and is "in the midst of them" this is not the rapture. It is a return to earth that is made specifically to Jerusalem and its citizens. The rapture that may happen much later, is only to the clouds above the earth.

Acts 1:10-11

10 As they were straining their eyes to see him, two white-robed men suddenly stood there among them.

11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here staring at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. And someday, just as you saw him go, he will return!" NLT

Zechariah Also Confirms This Promise About Living In Jerusalem

Zechariah 8:1-3

¹ *The LORD of Armies spoke his word.*

² *This is what the LORD of Armies says: I am very jealous about Zion. I am fiercely possessive of it.*

³ *This is what the LORD says: I will return to Zion and live in Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth. The mountain of the LORD of Armies will be called the holy mountain.*

The Spiritual Salvation Of Israel

God's ultimate purpose is not only to physically restore the people of Israel to their ancient and ancestral home land. It is finally to restore them to Himself in their original vital 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. The return of Jews to their ancient homeland does not fulfill the whole purpose of God. He will ultimate bring Israel back to Himself in the land.

A Special Prayer

Supplication is another way of saying intense and intentional prayer, but particularly the prayer of request. At this point, Israel will cry out in repentance, calling on the LORD to get involved against the nations that are arrayed against their nation. I personally believe that this prayer will definitely include the words of Jesus when Israel welcomes their Messiah and cries out "Blessed are you who comes in the name of the LORD" (Matthew 23:39).

Matthew 23:37-39 (AMP)

³⁷ *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, murdering the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a mother fowl gathers her brood under her wings, and you refused!*

³⁸ *Behold, your house is forsaken and desolate (abandoned and left destitute of God's help).*

³⁹ *For I declare to you, you will not see Me again until you say, Blessed (magnified in worship, adored, and exalted) is He Who comes in the name of the Lord!*

This was a message for calamitous times that would come upon a certain generation. It also predicted that the forecast desolation would continue until a specific moment in time.

It Was Addressed To The Citizens Of Jerusalem

The passage began with a specific reference to Jerusalem to which city and people Jesus emphasized His deep concern. He had longed to draw its

population to the safety of His wings but sadly they had refused His welcome. As a result of their refusal to come to Him, He predicted that the city would experience a prolonged period of desolation. He also predicted that they would see Him again (Matthew 23:39).

It Contained A Time Frame

Contrary to the opinion of many today, Jesus did not say that the people of Jerusalem would never see Him again. In fact He clearly implied that they would, but only when a certain thing happened. He predicted that He would be sought at a time that He specifically forecasted. The critical moment for His return will coincide with the willing readiness of His people to cry out the prophetic welcome, “Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord”. This will happen immediately after the resounding defeat of the armies that have attacked Jerusalem. As soon as the Israeli citizens realize that their victory has been accomplished by their promised Messiah they will loudly express this welcome.

It Predicted A Joyful Welcome

Jesus said they would never see Him again UNTIL the citizens of Jerusalem would cry out “Blessed are you who come in the name of the Lord.” That predicted moment will come very soon when Israel, having been deserted by many nations, will cry to God out for His help. The Amplified Bible helps us to understand what is strongly implied by this greeting (*magnified in worship, adored, and exalted*). This will be the kind of welcome that Jerusalem (and Israel) will give to their Messiah when He appears to them.

It Promised A Visible Appearance

Jesus predicted a visible appearance. He said “You will not SEE ME again UNTIL you will say, “Blessed are you who come in the name of the Lord.” In fact the appearance of the “Angel of the LORD” who is actually the Messiah, will be not only visible but literal and tangible. At the time and place of Christ’s ascension and return to His Father the angels declared:

Acts 1:9-11 (AMP)

⁹ *And when He had said this, even as they were looking [at Him], He was caught up, and a cloud received and carried Him away out of their sight.*

¹⁰ *And while they were gazing intently into heaven as He went, behold, two men [dressed] in white robes suddenly stood beside them,*

¹¹ *Who said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into heaven? This same Jesus, Who was caught away and lifted up from among you into*

heaven, will return in [just] the same way in which you saw Him go into heaven.

His ascent was clearly visible to His (Jewish) followers.

He ascended from the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

He will come again to them in the same manner (visibly to Jerusalem).

The return trip will be from heaven to earth.

It Implied A Glorious Restoration

Jesus vividly described the desolation that would happen to Jerusalem because its citizens had rejected Him. Since this predicted desolation would happen because of His rejection, it is clearly implied that His return would bring an end to the desolation and something more glorious than ever

In Acts 3:17-21, Luke presents a further factor that would delay the return of the Lord. He states that Jesus would remain in heaven until a “final restoration of all things spoken by the prophets” occurred. I believe that this predicted restoration will involve the Church as well as the Jews. I also believe that the fulfillment of this promise will happen when the awakening forecast by Joel occurs.

Joel 2:27-32

27 Then you will know that I am here among my people of Israel and that I alone am the LORD your God. My people will never again be disgraced like this.

28 "Then after I have poured out my rains again, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams. Your young men will see visions. NLT

In the midst of these events, the blinkers will be removed from the nation's eyes and as a nation they will look again upon their Messiah, the Redeemer of Israel.

Isaiah 59:19 *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]. (AMP)*

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 Yahweh as the person speaking, who tells the reader “they shall look on ME whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son”, one must conclude that the one pierced is none other than the **LORD (Yahweh)** in the person of Yeshua. The distinguishing features that identify Him are the marks (scars) of His piercing. Although Roman soldiers actually drove the nails into His body, it was Jewish leaders who had cried out for Him to be crucified (Mark 15:4, Luke 23:21, John 19:6, 15). From the whole context of this chapter it is clear that God implicated the Jews in the death of the Lamb of God. They became the Hebrew priests who offered the very lamb whose sacrificial death atoned for the sins of all humanity.

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 as the whole nation finally recognizes the true identity of the one who was crucified by the Romans in Jerusalem.

In That Day

In that day, when Messiah returns 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 Day of the LORD is a special term in the Bible used to refer to a period of time when God directly intervenes in human affairs in judgment or in blessing. The Day of the Lord we are presently waiting for in our time frame will begin with the coming of the Messiah to Jerusalem (Zechariah 12) and will continue through the tribulation period (seven years), and on through the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth until the time of the "new heavens and new earth." (Revelation 21)

The Messianic Transformation Of Israel

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 to all nations (Revelation 7:9-17). The number 144,000 is meant to be a symbolic number rather than a literal one. It symbolizes people from every tribe of Israel. Twelve is also the number symbolizing government. There will be a transformed spiritual atmosphere of reverence for God around the world. It will be an international atmosphere of awe and wonder toward God through a new realization of His sovereignty. 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. I personally believe that this period of time, between Zechariah 12:10 and the war of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38 and 39) will be a remarkable period of transformation for Israel, the Church and the whole world. Many of the traditional views about End Times that are part of Church theology, will be seen to have been mistaken ideas. We will all have a fresh concept of how the ends of the ages will occur. One thing about it is sure, it will be far more glorious for the Israel of God than we have ever imagined. All Nature Will Rejoice To Welcome The Appearance Of The Great Creator.

All The Families That Remain Will Mourn

Zechariah cites that two of these 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

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toward God through a new realization of His total sovereignty. 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 and coincide with the promised outpouring of the Spirit on all flesh Joel 2:28. The two events are clearly linked. During this time the proclamation and harvesting of the kingdom of God will increase exponentially. The reapers of the harvest will be comprised of an army of Jewish and Gentile workers constituting the ONE NEW MAN whom Paul spoke of (Ephesians 2:14-18).

The Transition Of Church Into The Kingdom

Luke 12:32 *"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 from the traditional Church of this present era. The true Church will become a spiritual army which is also a bride without spot, wrinkle or any such blemish (Ephesians 5:27). Obviously many great changes will have to occur to enable the Jews to recognize and accept their new relationship to a largely Gentile Church. But the Church too will require a possibly more drastic change to enable it to merge with Israel into the One New Man.

A World Wide Influx Of Muslim, Hindus Etc - Converts To Messiah

Powerful shockwaves will reverberate around the religious world as multitudes of former adherents from all false religions surrender to a new revelation of Jehovah God and His Messiah.

Psalm 86:8-10

8 Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord; no deeds can compare with yours.

9 All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name.

10 For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God.

(New International Version)

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(New International Version)

Psalm 95:3

3 For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

(New International Version)

Psalm 96:5-6

5 For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

6 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. (New International Version)

A Kingdom Witness Around The World

The Gospel of the Kingdom (Matthew 24:14) will be proclaimed powerfully around the entire earth with amazing supernatural results. This program will be carried out by a company of servants comprised of Messianic Jews and Gentiles that will be seen as the One New Man company (Ephesians 2:15). The promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit on ALL flesh will only happen after the Messiah is “in the midst of Israel.”

Joel 2:27-29 (AMP)

²⁷ *And you shall know, understand, **and realize that I am in the midst of Israel** and that I the Lord am your God and there is none else. My people shall never be put to shame.*

²⁸ *And afterward I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.*

²⁹ *Even upon the menservants and upon the maidservants in those days will I pour out My Spirit.*

The opening phrase of verse 28 has very clear reference and application to the preceding verse. The Spirit will not be poured out on all flesh until after God (in the person of the Messiah) is in the midst of His people in Israel (v27) “In the midst” (Hebrew *qereb*) means to be in the very centre of. Not hovering over, but in the very heart of Israel. God is going to take centre stage with His ancient covenant people in the geographic centre of Israel. This amazing

prophecy will (Joel 2:27-28) be fulfilled in the very near future. Zechariah 9:9 refers to the first coming of the Messiah whereas verse 10 speaks of His second appearance.

Zechariah 9:9-10 (AMP)

⁹ *Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O Daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King comes to you; He is [uncompromisingly] just and having salvation [triumphant and victorious], patient, meek, lowly, and riding on a donkey, upon a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

¹⁰ *And I will cut off and exterminate the war chariot from Ephraim and the [war] horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off; and He shall speak the word and peace shall come to the nations, and His dominion shall be from the [Mediterranean] Sea to [any other] sea, and from the River [Euphrates] to the ends of the earth!*

Zechariah 9:15-17 (AMP)

¹⁵ *The Lord of hosts shall defend and protect them; and they shall devour and they shall tread on [their fallen enemies] as on sling-stones [that have missed their aim], and they shall drink [of victory] and be noisy and turbulent as from wine and become full like bowls [used to catch the sacrificial blood], like the corners of the [sacrificial] altar.*

¹⁶ *And the Lord their God will save them on that day as the flock of His people, for they shall be as the [precious] jewels of a crown, lifted high over and shining glitteringly upon His land.*

¹⁷ *For how great is God's goodness and how great is His beauty! And how great [He will make Israel's] goodliness and [Israel's] beauty! Grain shall make the young men thrive and fresh wine the maidens.*

Zechariah 10:9-12 (AMP)

⁹ *And though I sow them among the nations, yet they shall [earnestly] remember Me in far countries, and with their children they shall live and shall return [to God and the land He gave them].*

¹⁰ *I will bring them [all Israel] home again from the land of Egypt and gather them out of Assyria, and I will bring them into the land [on the east and on the west of the Jordan, into] Gilead and Lebanon, and room enough shall not be found for them.*

¹¹ *And [the Lord] will pass through the sea of distress and affliction [at the head of His people, as He did at the Red Sea]; and He will smite down the waves of the sea, and all the depths of the [river] Nile shall be dried up and put to shame; and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down and the scepter or rod [of the taskmasters of Egypt] shall pass*

away.

¹² *And I will strengthen [Israel] in the Lord, and they shall walk up and down and glory in His name, says the Lord.*

Israel's Ongoing Future

Through an amazing victory over Gog and Magog and all their allies, (Revelation 38 and 39) Jehovah God will be again be magnified (exalted, uplifted) before the eyes of all the nations on the earth. God will gloriously and emphatically demonstrate His superior and supreme authority to the whole world. I believe this will happen some years after the victory of Psalm 83, and Zechariah 12. This amazing victory will again change and transform the way that Yahweh is perceived throughout the whole world. A new and much greater sense of awe will invade the hearts of all mankind that will powerfully affect the attitude of all the nations. After this, God's emphatic authority will be recognized and acknowledged universally. The time period until these surprising and astounding events happen will be very brief indeed. When it all transpires the whole world will be forever changed. It would surely require every person to find out as much as possible about these events and discover how they might affect them. It would also be wise to discover what we need to do in order to prepare for these amazing events and the aftermath they will initiate. Certainly every Christian and church should investigate how to adjust to the prophetic future and be relevant to the situations that will occur as a direct result. The first step in such a process will be to recognize the seriousness and implications of all that is beginning to transpire right now. In this set of circumstances we need to *Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.* Isaiah 55:6 NKJV

In recent years many people, including Jew and Christians, have been paying attention to the phenomena of "Blood Moons". These are related to predicted lunar eclipses particularly when they occur on the dates of Biblical Feasts. These occurrences' when witnessed in recent times have signaled amazing events for Israel. For example recent occurrences' happened in 1948 and 1967 both of which dates held special significance for the State of Israel. The next predicted time when this phenomena will happen coincides with the Feast of Tabernacles in September 2015. Could the amazing prediction of Zechariah 12:10 happen on or close to that date? The Prophet Joel made a prediction concerning Blood Moons in Joel 2:30-32

Joel 2:30-32

30 I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

31 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

32 And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls. (New International Version)

Verse 31 perfectly describes a lunar eclipse and predicts that when this one occurs during the Feast of Tabernacles in 2015, many people in Jerusalem will call upon the name of Yahweh and will be saved. How wonderful and glorious this event will be when the ancient city of Jerusalem finally becomes a major site in God's End Times plan! It will be particularly exciting that this amazing event will happen during or just after the celebration of this ancient Feast, given originally to His people Israel but also designated for fulfilment to the church!

Very few people, including most Christians have ever yet seen the implications of this attack and the dramatic conclusion in which Zechariah describes an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the whole nation of Israel. Surely this will lead to an amazing transformation of Israel? If so many people have never recognized the reality of this amazing prophecy, in Psalm 83, Joel 2 and 3 and Zechariah 12, how much true understanding do they have of other apparent prophecies? For example, a multitude of books have been written strongly suggesting the Rapture will be the next major prophecy to be fulfilled, but what if this is not the case? Supposing that the church, together with Israel, will experience together what is known as the great Tribulation period? Imagine that if such a company known as "The One New Man" (Ephesians 2:15) will be responsible for the harvesting of the innumerable company mentioned in Revelation 7:9-15? How many other prophecies may have been misinterpreted or misunderstood? I am still investigating this possibility with the suggestion that many other "theories" concerning the prophetic future may happen in a very different way than we have supposed. Israel's prophetic future may be very different to what we have presumed. Perhaps we shall have to wait and see?

Ezekiel 39:25-29

25 "Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will now bring Jacob back from captivity and will have compassion on all the people of Israel, and I will be zealous for my holy name.

26 They will forget their shame and all the unfaithfulness they showed toward me when they lived in safety in their land with no one to make them afraid.

27 When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them

from the countries of their enemies, I will show myself holy through them in the sight of many nations.

28 Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind.

29 I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD." (New International Version)

The news of this amazing victory will be told around the world. It will be featured on every TV channel as headline news. The astounding news and description of the war will spread like wild fire among the Islamic nations wherever they exist. It will cause shock waves in all nations but the Islamic countries in particular will be shocked beyond measure. They immediately recognize that such a victory should never have happened to an attack launched in what they perceive to be the Will of Allah. I believe this will lead to many Muslims leaving the Islamic Faith and embracing Jesus as their true Saviour and Lord.