



ZECHARIAH

A Glorious Future!

The Glory of the God's City!

Zechariah 12:1-14

Message #13 of 15 – S1021

Sermon given on November 6, 2022



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Glory of the God's City!

Zechariah 12:1-14

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Zechariah 11**
- Today, we continue a series through the book of **Zechariah: A Glorious Future**
- In 2005 I had the blessing of travelling to Israel
- As a believer, that trip changed how I read my Bible
- Instead of the places being something I had read about, I could see them
- One of the places I went to was Jerusalem
- As far as cities go, it was pretty unimpressive
- But spiritually, it was a radical experience
- I walked the very streets Jesus probably walked
- I walked on the Temple Mount where Jesus preached
- I walked through the Garden where He spent His last night praying
- I had Communion in a garden where His tomb may have been located
- I went into one of the tombs – an empty tomb reminding me of our Lord's resurrection
- Just looking at the city you would wonder why the world has such strong feelings about this city and nation
- The reason is because God chose Jerusalem **1 Kings 11:34**

And to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there.

- And because God chose Jerusalem, where He said He would dwell with His people, God's enemies want to control it or destroy it
- Jerusalem is where God's plan of redemption has been playing out and where it will come to its ultimate fulfilment
- Let's pray and look at what this chapter says about that - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Glory of the God's City!**

- Chapter 11 had some hard things to say to the leaders of Israel and Jerusalem and points us all to the Good Shepherd
- Zechariah was used as an illustration of the response of the Jews to the first coming of their Messiah
- They sold Him for thirty pieces of silver
- From a human perspective we might think God would be done with Israel and Jerusalem for what they did to Jesus
- That's how this chapter seems to start out
- **Zechariah 12:1a**
- 'burden of the word of the Lord' = a message of judgment or doom.
- Their response as a nation to the arrival of the Messiah was going to cost them something
- Before He tells them what is coming, the Lord gives them His credentials
- **Zechariah 12:1b**
- God reminds them what He has done as evidence that He can do what He says is coming
- 'who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundations of the earth'
- The James Webb telescope has revealed that the universe is even bigger than we previously knew
- I can't wait until they build an even more powerful telescope
- God created a universe that is so vast that humans will never be able to measure it – why?
- So that we would look at it and marvel at the wonders of God!
- 'and forms the spirit of man'
- We are alive because God made us and created a spirit to give us life
- If God can do that, He can do what He says next
- **Zechariah 12:2**
- Zechariah lived in the sixth century before Christ. Islam didn't begin until the 7th century after Christ.
- All the nations around Israel are Islamic.
- Thirteen centuries before Islam existed God predicted the conflict that exists today between Israel and the nations around her.
- God also had a plan for what He was going to do about it.

- ‘cup of drunkenness’ – Nations are acting toward Jerusalem in ways that are irrational – as if their senses have been dulled by drugs or alcohol

- It will lead to their destruction **Psalm 75:8**

For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is fully mixed, and He pours it out; surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth drain and drink down.

- As God prepares the world to experience judgment for wickedness, for hating Him, and rejecting their only hope of salvation, He causes them to focus on Jerusalem

- **Zechariah 12:3**

- ‘in that day’ occurs seven times in chapter 12 = end times

- The demonic hatred of Israel that many feel will drive them to try to eliminate its existence.

- But God will protect them from annihilation.

- Messing with Israel would be like trying to grab a porcupine with your bare hands, except instead of being poked – judged eternally

- The hatred of Israel is fueled by Satan.

- He wanted to sit on the throne in heaven but ended up being banished from heaven **Isaiah 14:13-15**

For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ ¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.

- Since God wouldn’t let Satan have His throne, the next best thing would be for him to sit on the throne in Jerusalem.

- But for that to happen the Jews must be eradicated.

- Satan will turn all nations against Israel - But it won’t work

- **Zechariah 12:4-8**

- This whole chapter, as well as the next two, are referring to the last days, the time leading up to the Second Coming of Christ

- Just as God has done many times in history He will supernaturally deliver Israel from her enemies **Zechariah 4:6**

This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts.

- Next comes the consequence of coming against Israel

- **Zechariah 12:9**

- Those nations who reject God's gracious offer of salvation will have to face His judgment.

- 'I will seek to destroy' – If God seeks to do something, nothing can prevent Him from doing it **Haggai 2:11**

I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms. I will overthrow the chariots and those who ride in them; the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.

- The Bible teaches clearly that there is only one way to be saved **John 14:6**

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

- Most of the Jews are far from God and those who seek God do not want His Son **1 John 2:23**

Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

- You cannot have God without Jesus

- Thankfully, God will make a way for His Chosen People to meet Jesus

- **Zechariah 12:10a**

- The people of God must receive the Son of God and that is only possible by the Spirit of God.

- Maybe in something like the day of Pentecost when the church was born, God will pour out His Spirit on His people, the Jews

- And the Spirit will open their heart to see the truth

- **Zechariah 12:10b**

- The apostle John said this was speaking of Jesus **John 19:34-37**

But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. ³⁶ For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

- Because God has poured out His Spirit upon them, they will know that Jesus is God the Son, the Messiah, the Savior of the world

- And they will know that they and their people are guilty of rejecting Him for two thousand years

- And the response will be universal in the Jews who remain

- **Zechariah 12:10c-14**

- This mourning is the result their recognition of great sin
- This is not a mourning of despair but of repentance
- They know they are guilty of great sin against God
- God who has done so much for the Jewish people for millennia
- In the next chapter, we see God's forgiveness and cleansing
- God has a glorious future planned for the Jews
- But first He has to open their eyes and deal with their sin **Romans**

- **11:26-27**

And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob: ²⁷ for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins."

- It will be a glorious day when the Jews look upon Him whom they pierced – their Savior/Messiah
- How about you – here or online? Have you looked upon your Savior?
- It wasn't just the Jews who nailed Jesus to that horrible cross – it was your sins and mine
- When Jesus talked with Thomas after the resurrection **John 20:27**
Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."
- Jesus will forever bear the marks of what He did to save you
- He was pierced so that you could be forgiven of all your sins
- If you have repented, then look upon Jesus and rejoice
- But if you have not, your sins are not forgiven
- Judgment is coming to this wicked, God-hating, Christ-rejecting world
- To escape the judgment and have the blessed hope of a glorious eternal future look upon Him your sins pierced and repent
- Let's pray and ask God's Spirit to be poured right now - **Pray**