

Zechariah 12

Scriptures:

Notes:

Jerusalem is mentioned nine times in this chapter. The Peoples or nations are mentioned six times. The end times are mentioned seven times. This chapter focuses on the nations and their attitude toward Jerusalem and God's response to both.

"The nations will increasingly focus upon Jerusalem in the last days."
(Lieth, 2002) page 234

Zechariah 12:1-14 – The Glory of God's City!

Scriptures:
Isaiah 42:5 -

Thus says God the LORD,
Who created the heavens
and stretched them out,
Who spread forth the
earth and that which comes
from it,
Who gives breath to the
people on it,
And spirit to those who
walk on it:

Ecclesiastes 12:7 - Then
the dust will return to the
earth as it was,
And the spirit will return
to God who gave it.

¹ The burden of the word of the LORD against

H4853 – a
prophecy, an
oracle (typically
of doom)

H1697 - message

Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the

H5186 – spreads
out

Notes:

'burden of the word of the Lord' – a
message of judgment or doom.

This chapter begins with a reminder
that God is able to do what he says.
It also serves to remind us that this
message is from God.

'who stretches out the heavens' –
expanding universe.

God created the universe and
everything in it (Isa. 42:5).

We are alive and exist because God
created us (Eccl. 12:7).

The same God who worked in the
past to create everything is working
today in the lives of His people.

heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and

H3245 -

forms the spirit of man within him:

H3335 – squeeze
into shape

H7307 – breath,
wind

H120 – 'adam'

Scriptures:

Revelation 14:9-10 - Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation.

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.

2 "Behold, ⁴I will make Jerusalem a cup of

H7760 – cause to
be

drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples,

H7478 –
staggering,
reeling

when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.

Notes:

'cup' – is often used as a symbol for judgment ([Rev. 14:9-10](#)).

'cup of drunkenness' – Nations are acting toward Jerusalem in ways that are irrational – as if their senses have been dulled by drugs or alcohol ([Psa. 75:8](#)).

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.

One of Islam's basis tenets is the total elimination of not just the nation of Israel but the elimination from the earth of all Jews.

God is sovereign over everything including Israel's enemies.

Before God delivers His people He will bring all the nations against her in war.

Scriptures:

Matthew 21:43-44 -
"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. 44 And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."

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.

Revelation 16:14 - For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Joel 3:1-2 -
For behold, in those days and at that time,
When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,
2 I will also gather all nations,
And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;
And I will enter into judgment with them there
On account of My people, My heritage Israel,
Whom they have scattered among the nations;
They have also divided up My land.

³ And it shall happen in that day that I will make

Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all

H4614 -
burdensome

H68 -

H5971 - nations

who would heave it away

H6006 - lift it,
move it

will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of

H8295 + H8295 -

the earth are gathered against it.

H622 -

Notes:

'heavy stone' - the gospel(???)([Matt. 21:44](#)). To reject the gospel is to invite judgment.

'in that day' occurs seven times in chapter 12. Usually points to a far future time period. In this case, it is pointing to the just before the Second Coming of Christ.

Even though all nations will gather against Israel, God will intervene and save and protect them.

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.

The hatred of Israel is fueled by Satan. He wanted to sit on the throne in heaven but ended up being banished from heaven ([Isa. 14:13-15](#)). 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.

'all the nations are gathered against it' - Hundreds of United Nations resolutions have been issued against Israel since it reformed as a nation. Almost more than the rest of the world combined. This is likely the battle described in ([Rev. 16:14](#); [Joel 3:1-2](#)).

Scriptures:

Revelation 16:14-16 -
For they are spirits of
demons, performing signs,
which go out to the kings of
the earth and of the whole
world, to gather them to
the battle of that great day
of God Almighty.

15 "Behold, I am coming as
a thief. Blessed is he who
watches, and keeps his
garments, lest he walk
naked and they see his
shame."

16 And they gathered them
together to the place called
in Hebrew, Armageddon.

⁴ In that day," says the LORD, "I will strike every

H5221 – "to strike
v. — to affect or
afflict suddenly,
usually adversely;
sometimes with
an implied divine
agent."

Notes:

This may be referring to the Battle of
Armageddon (Rev. 16:14-16).

horse with confusion, and its rider with madness;

H8541 – consternation
– "confusion (state) n.
— a mental state
characterized by a lack
of clear and orderly
thought and behavior."

H7697 - craziness

I will open My eyes on the house of Judah, and

will strike every horse of the peoples with

blindness.

H5788 -

Scriptures:

Joel 3:16 - The LORD also
will roar from Zion,

And utter His voice from
Jerusalem;

The heavens and earth
will shake;

But the LORD will be a
shelter for His people,

And the strength of the
children of Israel.

⁵ And the governors of Judah shall say in their

Notes:

The leaders will realize that their
strength is not in themselves or in
their people but in the Lord ([Joel
3:16](#)).

heart, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem are my

strength in the LORD of hosts, their God.'

H556 – "strength
support n. — a
support providing
strength to a
person or group
of people."

H3068 –
YHWH/Jehovah

H6635 - horde

H430 – 'Elohim'

Scriptures:
Zechariah 2:8-9 - 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. 9 For surely I will shake My hand against them, and they shall become spoil for their servants. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me."

⁶ In that day I will make the governors of Judah

like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery

torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the

H398 – burn up,
consume

surrounding peoples on the right hand and on

the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in

⁷ her own place—Jerusalem.

Notes:
Fire is a symbol of judgment.

As the nations come against Israel in the hopes of destroying her, it will be them that is destroyed. It is like straw attacking fire.

God always has His eyes on Jerusalem. The Jews are the 'apple of His eye' ([Zech. 2:8-9](#)).

Scriptures:

7 “The LORD will save the tents of Judah first, so

Notes:

H3467 – deliver,
defend

that the glory of the house of David and the glory

H8597 – honor,
majesty

of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not become

greater than that of Judah.

Scriptures:

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.

Exodus 23:20-21 - Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.

21 Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.

⁸ In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants

H1598 – hedge
about, protect

Notes:

We do not need to be strong to be victorious in the Lord (Zech. 4:6). God will save His people through His people. He will make His people supernaturally stronger than they are.

'the house of David shall be like God' = the coming of the Messiah.

of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them

H3782 –
stumbling,

'Angel of the Lord' – led them through the wilderness (Exo. 23:20-21).

in that day shall be like David, and the house of

David shall be like God, like the Angel of the

H4397 -

LORD before them.

Scriptures:

Haggai 2:22 - 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.

⁹ It shall be in that day *that* I will seek to destroy

H1245 – search
out

H8045 -

Notes:

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 ([Hag. 2:11](#)).

all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Scriptures:

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."

2 Corinthians 3:12-15 - Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech— 13 unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. 14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. 15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.

2 Corinthians 3:16 - Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

Ezekiel 39:29 - And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel," says the Lord GOD."

Joel 2:28-29 - And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. 29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

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."

10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on

the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace

H7307 -

H2580 - kindness, favor

and supplication; then they will look on Me

H8469 - earnest prayer, entreaty

H5027 - look intently at

whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him

H1856 -

H5594 - to lament

as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for

H4843 -

Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

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."

Matthew 27:23-25 - Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?"

But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!" 24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of

this just Person. You see to it." 25 And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

Notes:

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

As the Jews are in the midst of their greatest distress, God will intervene and save them. In the time of 'Jacob's trouble', the Tribulation, the Antichrist will break the false peace and wage war on God's people. About two-thirds of the Jews will die as they attempt to escape. Those who survive will be protected by God in the wilderness. After Jesus returns and defeats all His enemies, He will present Himself to the Jews and they will recognize Him as their Messiah and be saved (Rom. 11:26).

The Jewish people are far from God. Even those who say they worship Him do not do so in Spirit and in truth because they reject their Messiah Jesus (2 Cor. 3:12-15). These next verses remind us that their rebellion does not change God's plan to save them and make them His people in Christ (2 Cor. 3:16).

Why do the interpreters capitalize Spirit?

"Spirit" - (Ezek. 39:29; Joel 2:28-29)

'they will look on Me whom they pierced.' - Jesus was pierced in His hands, feet, and side at the crucifixion (John 19:34-37). Jesus still bore the marks of being pierced after the resurrection (John 20:27).

It is not God's desire to just save the Jews physically from their enemies - He wants to save them spiritually.

It is the outpouring of the Spirit of grace and supplication that will cause the Jews to see Jesus as their Messiah and repent and be saved.

Even though it was a Roman soldier who pierced Jesus' side, the Jews were the ones who handed Him over to the Romans and bear the guilt of that sin (Matt. 27:23-25).

Scriptures:

2 Chronicles 35:22-25 -
Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight in the Valley of Megiddo.

23 And the archers shot King Josiah; and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded." 24 His servants therefore took him out of that chariot and put him in the second chariot that he had, and they brought him to Jerusalem. So he died, and was buried in one of the tombs of his fathers.

And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

25 Jeremiah also lamented for Josiah. And to this day all the singing men and the singing women speak of Josiah in their lamentations. They made it a custom in Israel; and indeed they are written in the Laments.

¹¹ In that day there shall be a great mourning in

Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon

in the plain of Megiddo.

Notes:

Is this referring to a specific event in history? Probably referring to the death of King Josiah (2 Chron. 35:22-27).

This mourning will be over the realization that for two thousands years they have been guilty of rejecting and crucifying their Messiah.

¹² And the land shall mourn, every family by

Notes:

What is the significance of mourning in solitude? May point to the reality that repentance must be on an individual basis.

Why are these people named? May point to different families and/or groups of people. Sense may be that everyone will repent and be saved.

itself: the family of the house of David by itself,

"No person can repent for another. Everyone must come to God personally. God has no grandchildren." (Lieth, 2002) page 256

and their wives by themselves; the family of the

"In that day, as each person fully realizes in his heart the awfulness of the death and long rejection of the Messiah, the mourning will be so intense that each person will mourn apart from the rest with almost inconsolable grief." (Kaiser, 1992) Page 422

house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by

themselves;

Scriptures:

¹³ the family of the house of Levi by itself, and

Notes:

their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei

by itself, and their wives by themselves;

Scriptures:

¹⁴ all the families that remain, every family by

Notes:

itself, and their wives by themselves.

[Top of chapter](#)