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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Zechariah 12.

(2014)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Zechariah 12.

Topics.

- God formed the spirit within man.
- On that day God will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all nations.
- On that day God will strike every horse with blindness.
- On that day God will make Judah like a flaming torch among sheaves.
- On that day God will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
- On that day God will destroy all nations that attack Jerusalem.
- When they look on me, on him whom they have pierced.
- On that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem as in Megiddo.

INTRODUCTION: the following introduction is quite long, but it does help understand the background of Zechariah, to skip the introduction scroll down to Zechariah chapter twelve. As Haggai encouraged the returned Jewish exiles to rebuild the Temple, Zechariah encouraged them to repent and renew their covenant with God. Such spiritual renewal would be necessary for the people to be ready to worship God once the Temple was rebuilt (about 515 B.C.). Zechariah accused them of doing the very things their ancestors had done before the exile. He was concerned about social justice for widows, orphans, and foreigners. As the people endured opposition from the non-Jewish inhabitants of Judea, Zechariah reassured them of God's abiding comfort and care and that He would continue his covenant with Israel.

The Messianic hope was rekindled during Zechariah's ministry by the ordination of Joshua as priest and Zerubbabel as governor. From Zechariah chapter one through to the end there is a beautiful message of comfort and encouragement for the people of Israel during the era of Zechariah and for those who are rebuilding the temporal Temple of God, but as the visions progress through the chapters the focus slowly shifts from the era of Zechariah and transcends time to a future age where God is building an eternal Temple in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The visions then progress to Jesus returning in glory and climax's in the final chapter with Christ reigning from Jerusalem as King over the entire earth and ends with the promise that the Lord would establish his rule over all the earth (Zechariah 14:9).

The historical background: twenty years after untied Israel returned from their seventy years in captivity to Babylon, the Temple was still a blackened ruin and the discouraged people did not see how it could be restored. At this critical moment God raised up the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the Jews to rebuild the Temple. The prophecies of the two men were delivered almost at the same time. Zechariah gives a series of eight symbolic night-visions, to encourage the Israelites to complete the Temple.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

Key verse: Israel will weep when they, look on him whom they have pierced (Zechariah 12:10). This verse shows us that not only does this chapter contain a message for the people of Israel in the time of Zechariah, but it also has contained within its local message a prophetic message for a future day when Israel with great sorrow will weep when they see their Messiah, King and Saviour who they

crucified. As this prophetic message of Zechariah approaches its glorious end, it leaves the local era of Zechariah and transcends through history and time climaxing to the final outcome of God's eternal plan of salvation and the future glory of Jerusalem to be established on earth.

God formed the Spirit within Man.

Zechariah 12:1-2 ----- ¹The 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. ²"Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering (trembling in KJV) to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah.

God formed the spirit of man within him means gave him life it a reflection to God breathing life into Adam who was formed from the dust of the earth.

Siege: from Strong's Concordance means to hostilely assault and confine the people of a fortress or stronghold in and cause great distress and from the English Dictionary means a military effort or operation in which troops surround an enemy's fortifications and cut off all outside access to force surrender over a prolonged and tedious period of time.

Trembling or staggering: means to be anxious and shake terribly with uncontrollable fear or anger. The LORD is about to make Jerusalem a city the surrounding nations will fear.

In the time of Zechariah applied to Greece: in chapter nine the LORD says He will make Judah His bow and Israel its arrow and when Greece comes against them the LORD will appear over Israel and protect and save them. God will tread down the armies of Greece, then Israel will shine like the jewels of a crown in their own land (see, Zechariah 9:12-17), but it also echoes another day in which the LORD will save and protect Jerusalem when all the nations of the earth will gather against it. (Zech. 12:3) (Zech. 12:10).

The Common expression in this chapter is, "On that Day," when the word day is used figuratively it can be referring to: -

- A period of time embracing a series of events.
- Generations.
- Many days.

The Day of the LORD sometimes encompass an entire series of events over a unspecified period of time and at other times the Day of the LORD only refers to that particular day of Christ's return or God's judgment. It is the context the expression is used in that determines if it is referring to one day or a period of time or a series of events.

On that Day God will Make Jerusalem a Heavy Stone for all Nations.

Zechariah 12:3 ----- ³On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it.

On that Day: refers to the Day the LORD makes Jerusalem a heavy stone and a cup of trembling to the nations that come against it. The words, "Jerusalem will be a heavy stone for all who lift it," means whoever goes against the city of Jerusalem to destroy it will not prevail against Israel.

On that Day God will Strike every Horse with Blindness.

Zechariah 12:4-5 ----- ⁴On that day, declares the LORD, I will strike every horse with panic, and its rider with madness. But for the sake of the house of Judah I will keep my eyes open, when I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. ⁵Then the clans of Judah shall say to themselves, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem have strength through the LORD of hosts, their God.'

When Jerusalem is surrounded by her enemies God will fight for them. He will strike their enemies horses with blindness and panic and their rider with madness. In contrast to this the inhabitants of Jerusalem will be encouraged and have strength because they will know that God is with them.

I will keep my eyes open, when I strike every horse with blindness: means God will make sure the blindness and panic does not touch the people of Israel. This is similar to the plagues of Egypt when God put a division between His people and the people of Egypt. From that time on God afflicted the people of Egypt with all sorts of plagues, but they did not touch the people of Israel.

On that Day God will Make Judah like a Flaming Torch among Sheaves.

Zechariah 12:6-7 ----- ⁶"On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch among sheaves. And they shall devour to the right and to the left all the surrounding peoples, while Jerusalem shall again be inhabited in its place, in Jerusalem.⁷"And the LORD will give salvation to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not surpass that of Judah.

God will make Judah extremely powerful they will destroy whoever comes against them.

The LORD will give salvation to the tents of Judah first: refers to the people of Israel dwelling outside the walls of the city of Jerusalem, many of them maybe poor simply because they are living in tents. It does not necessarily mean they will literally be living in tents since it carries the idea that they will dwell in safety in their own land there will be no enemies to hurt or harm them.

The glory of the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not surpass that of Judah: means the people who live in the city of Jerusalem will not be exalted above those who live outside the city. This is teaching that God exalts a person not based on their gifts, abilities, talents, prestige, position, wealth, riches or fame, but on their faithfulness to Him.

On that Day God will protect the Inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:8 ----- ⁸On that day the LORD will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the LORD, going before them.

God says, even the weakest amongst the people will become like David. David was a very skilled in warfare and a mighty man of valour and courage in battle. Add to this they will be as the Angel of the LORD going before them which means they will be invincible no enemy will be able to stand against them.

On that Day God will destroy all Nations that Attack Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:9-10 ----- ⁹And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. ¹⁰"And I (the LORD) will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

All the nations of the earth at the time of Zechariah refers to the surrounding nations in the Middle East that gather against Jerusalem (Zech. 12:2-3, 6), but contained in this chapter and especially in these verses is an echo of a future age and a future time when all the armies of the nations of the earth will gather together to destroy Jerusalem and be utterly destroyed.

When they look on me, on him whom they have pierced: many, today who believe Jesus is God mistakenly use this verse to support their theory that God the Father and Christ the Son are the one and same person. They reason that because it was the LORD who said to Zechariah, "When they look on me, on him whom they have pierced," Jesus must be God, but Zechariah is speaking prophetically as the voice of Christ not as the voice of God the Father.

God the Father did not become Christ the Son nor did Christ the beloved Son become God the Father.

Words of comfort and encouragement: since the teaching that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states: -

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim: -

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

For further information see the title: -

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity) in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

NOTICE: the people of Israel are weeping for Christ, not for themselves, their morning is for the suffering and pain they caused him, they are broken and devastated at the way they treated him and cry for mercy and grace (Zech. 12:10). This is a great contrast to the fasting and weeping Israel did in the name of the LORD during their captivity, their sorrow and weeping then was not for God, but for their own suffering and loss.

On that Day there will be Great Mourning in Jerusalem as in Megiddo.

Zechariah 12:11-14 --- ¹¹On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. ¹²The land shall mourn, each family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; ¹³the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves; ¹⁴and all the families that are left, each by itself, and their wives by themselves.

Mourning as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo; refers to the mourning for Josiah the king of Judah who was killed in Hadad-rimmon which was a place in the valley of Megiddo.

- The archers shot King Josiah. And the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am badly wounded." ²⁴So his servants took him out of the chariot and carried him in his second chariot and brought him to Jerusalem. And he died and was buried in the tombs of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. ²⁵Jeremiah also uttered a lament for Josiah; and all the singing men and singing women have spoken of Josiah in their laments to this day. They made these a rule in Israel; behold, they are written in the Laments. (2 Chron. 35:23-25).

Josiah removed from the House of the LORD: -

- The altars that were in the two courts.
- The male cult prostitutes.
- All the vessels made for Baal and Asherah (a goddess associated with Baal and her images) and for all the host of heaven.

Josiah removed from the cities of Judah: -

- The priests who made offerings in the high places and burned incense to Baal and worshipped the sun, the moon and all the constellations.
- The horses and the chariots that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun.
- The altar in the valley of the Son of Hinnom so the people could not offer their sons or their daughters as an offering to Molech.
- All the mediums, necromancers, the household gods, the idols and all the abominations.

Josiah removed from the land of Samaria:-

- The altar at Bethel, erected by Jeroboam who made Israel to sin.
- The Asherah (A goddess associated with Baal and her images).
- All the altars and the shrines of the high places and all the priests who ministered at them.

It is recorded that there was no king like Josiah who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might or that had kept a Passover like the Passover Josiah held, all the priests, the Levites, Judah and Israel and the inhabitants of Jerusalem were present.

- The story of Josiah King of Judah is recorded in (2 Kings 23) and (2 Chron. 35).

SUMMARY: a day is coming when Jerusalem will be a fearful city to all nations, God will protect the city from any nation that attacks and it will emerge victorious. There will be great mourning in Jerusalem when the people of Israel see that their Messiah is the one they pierced and they will become a glorious nation. This chapter is majestically echoing a future age when Christ returns as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign.

The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish.

The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End.