

Zechariah 12

1 This is Zechariah's other oracle (*massa*), the other at the beginning of chapter 9. Thus begins the last section in the last half of Zechariah.

The LORD introduces Himself as the Creator in Genesis, stretching out the heavens, breathing life into man. It is a way of declaring the certainty of the prophecy and the power over all mankind to fulfill it. (Isaiah 51:13)

Augustine used this verse to argue against a heresy that said our spirits were a part of God's spirit and that our body was created by the prince of darkness. It clearly says God formed our spirit in this verse. New Age today is on the same pride trip - one with God without repentance.

2 We can see the build up for this in our day. We saw a precursor to this when Israel became a nation in 1948 but they did not possess Jerusalem at that time. Zechariah emphasizes Jerusalem in this passage more than anywhere else in Scripture. We are not told why all the nations attack her, but we can see that senseless hatred even today. The excuse is Palestinian refugees but the motivation is demonic. For "cup" see Isaiah 51:17.

3 On that day will be used numerous times in this oracle. It points to a future time (like the NT kairós moment). Immovable rock is literally "heavy". The Jews of that day knew they were light weights and that to become heavy would be an act of God. Especially if all the nations together could not move her. (Joel 3:16) We have seen Israel attacked by forces that far outnumbered Israel's and yet they only injured themselves.

4 (Judges 5:22-23) War horses were the elite military - It would be like fighter jets guidance systems going out resulting in chaos. They would just have to retreat.

5 leaders=clans The false idea they held before, that Jerusalem could not be conquered, is now a reality when the LORD is their God.

6 firepot – In 1 Samuel 2:14 it is used for sacred temple service but in this passage for igniting the fire that consumes their enemies. (Isaiah 9:19-20) The vocabulary points to the ease of their enemies being defeated and the security of Jerusalem.

7 This may point to the line of David exalting itself over the rest of the nation. God humbles the proud. He gives grace to all of the remnant.

8 Three similes that were a great encouragement – (Jeremiah 20:11; 2Corinthians 12:9)

9 Summary of the above 8 verses.

10 12:10-13:1 is a literary and theological unit. Why is God going to pour out the grace in the above 9 verses? It's because of this passage. It is God's grace that pours out a new emotional disposition toward grace and supplication. (Romans 2:4)

"on me" - God is speaking - God is the one pierced! (Isaiah 45:22)

"pour out" – see Ezekiel 39:29 and Joel 2:28-29.

"pierced" - translated stabbed in 13:3. A different word is used in Isaiah 53:5.

This is the only OT reference to a nation mourning for one they stabbed.

Septuagint mistranslates it "treated spitefully" which doesn't fit with the mourning that follows. The piercing results in cleansing for sin in 13:1. Even rabbinical interpretations have suggested this is a future event.

"firstborn son" - See Genesis 22:2; John 19:34, 37; Revelation 1:13.

11 (Romans 11:25-26) "the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo may be referring to 2Chronicles 35:21-25.

12-14 There are seven Nathans in Scripture? Which one and why? Maybe David's son. See 2Samuel 5:14. Leaders (David's line) and priests (Levi's line) had a part in putting the Servant/ Branch to death, another detail pointing back to Jesus. Levi had a son named Shimei. This passage flows right into the redemption we see in the next verse.