

Zechariah 12:1-9

1. Chapter 12-14 is the last section of the book
2. 12:1 begins the second *massa* or “oracle of the word of the Lord” or “burden of the word of the Lord ”
 - a. 9:1 was the “oracle (burden) of the word of the Lord is against the land of Hadrach and Damascus is its resting place.
 - b. 12:1 is the “oracle (burden) of the word of the Lord concerning Israel.
3. Oracle #1 (ch. 9-11) spoke of:
 - a. the Lord (Alexander) marching through the nations and arriving in Jerusalem and was followed by the true King Messiah coming to Jerusalem on a donkey to reign
 - b. the Lord appearing over his people to protect them and establish them in the land
 - c. the Lord restoring the land and gathering the people of Judah and Joseph from the nations
 - d. the destruction of the northern nations (Lebanon, Syria, Bashan), the detested Good Shepherd followed by the foolish, worthless shepherd who abandons the flock .
4. Oracle #2 (ch. 12-14) speaks of:
 - a. Physical salvation of Israel and Jerusalem when surrounded by the nations (Restoration)
 - b. Spiritual salvation of the Jews (Renewal)
 - c. Removal of idolatry
 - d. Striking the Shepherd
 - e. Invasion of Jerusalem, but deliverance provided with the arrival of the Lord
 - f. Establishment of the Kingdom Age
5. Chapter 12-14 is clearly eschatological
 - a. 12:1-9 – Jerusalem delivered from invasion by the nations (world)
 - b. 12:10-13:9 – The Lord’s salvation and power effecting the various people groups of Israel.
 - c. 14:1-21 – Development and details of chapter 12-13 in connection with the “day of the Lord.”
6. Chapter 11 spoke of judgment on Israel for rejecting the Good Shepherd (killed, destroyed, eat one another’s flesh) after being handed over to the foolish, worthless shepherd who eats and tortures them before abandoning them.
7. Chapter 12 speaks of total victory
8. “In that day” or “on that day” is used 16x in this oracle (ch. 12-14) which is a huge clue that these are eschatological events.
9. All of this oracle can be fit into two basic events that occur in a single time frame:
 - a. The final siege of Jerusalem by the nations
 - b. The arrival of the Messiah to bring deliverance/salvation to Israel and establish his kingdom
10. This oracle concerns Israel or all of the twelve tribes, even though Jerusalem and Judah are mentioned.

12:1 – “The oracle 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:

1. "The oracle of the word of the Lord" introduces this as a new section.
2. This section is about the complete renewal and restoration of Israel physically and spiritually.
3. Since the Lord is the creator, he can also be the one who completely restores the creation. All three will be restored by the one who created them:
 - a. Stretched out the heavens
 - b. Founded the earth
 - c. Formed the spirit of man

12:2 – **"Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah.**

1. The Lord will use Jerusalem to overthrow the nations
2. Jerusalem is mentioned 11x in 12:2-11
3. "a cup"
 - a. The nations gather to drink this cup
 - b. What the nations hope to gain from Jerusalem is not made clear: resources?, wealth?, defeat of Israel's power in the world? Spiritual? Position at the head of the world?
 - c. The cup metaphor occurs both positive and negative
 - i. Blessing
 1. Psalm 116 13 – "I will lift up the cup of salvation"
 2. Psalm 23:5 – my cup overflows
 - ii. Judgment
 1. Isaiah 51:17 – "Wake yourself, wake yourself, stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the Lord the cup of his wrath, who have drunk to the dregs the bowl, the cup of staggering.
 2. Jeremiah 25:17 – "So I took the cup from the Lord's hand and made all the nations to whom he sent me drink it."
 - iii. Also,
 1. In Revelation
 2. In Gethsemane
4. This event is also:
 - a. Zechariah 14:2
 - b. Joel 3:9-16
 - c. Revelation 12:16-21 – "
5. Siege against Jerusalem will be a siege against all of Judah (and, likely, all Israel)

12:3 – **"On 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.**

1. "a heavy stone"
2. "all the peoples" refers to "all the nations of the earth"
3. The nations have gathered against Jerusalem
4. The nations will be hurt laying siege against Jerusalem

12:4 – **"On 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.**

1. The Lord will keep his eyes open to help Judah
2. But, against the nations the Lord will:

- a. Strike every horse with panic
- b. Riders with madness
- c. Horses of the nations with blindness

12:5 – “Then the clans of Judah shall say to themselves, ‘The inhabitants of Jerusalem have strength through the Lord of hosts, their God.’

- 1. Here begins the identifying of the classes and divisions of Israel effected by the Lord.
 - a. The clans (12:5)
 - b. The inhabitants of Jerusalem (12:5)
 - c. The tents of Judah (12:6)
 - d. The house of David (12:7)

12:6 – “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.

12:7 – “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.

- 1. The tents of Judah would be either:
 - a. The military outside the city
 - b. The lower class living in tents outside the city
- 2. Salvation comes first to Judah(outside city, soldiers, lower class) which is distinguished from the house of David (royalty, government) and inhabitants of Jerusalem (city dwellers, citizens, elite)

12:8 – “On 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.

- 1. Elevation of Israelites:
 - a. All inhabitants will be exalted as if they were David – their performance in battle would be as heroic as David himself
 - b. The house of David will be exalted as if they were God – their leadership in the battle would be similar to Israel following the Angel of the Lord himself

12:9 – “And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

- 1. 12:3-9 – the nations final action and fate is described and settled