

## Zechariah 12 and 13

“In (or, “on”) that day” is used 16 times in the second oracle making the majority of this oracle eschatological.

These last three chapters revolve around two future events:

- 1) The last siege of Jerusalem (not the siege of 70 AD)
- 2) The Messiah’s return (not his first appearing)

It seems to be clear that chapters 12,13,14 all speak of the final days

Basic story line:

- a) 12:5-9 - Jehovah will endow the princes of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem with supernatural strength to overcome all their foes
- b) 12:10-14 – Jehovah will pour out His Spirit of grace upon them, so that they will bitterly repent the death of the Messiah
- c) 13:1-6 – Israel will purify themselves from all ungodliness

### 12:1 – “An oracle. . .concerning Israel”

Notice it is not Judah ( the southern country) but is Israel. This is not talking about the Northern kingdom, but instead the reunited 12 tribes. Remember the two staves of the Good Shepherd

“The LORD who stretches. . .lays. . .forms. . .” and then “declares” means that He who has the power to create all has power to do what he has declared.

**12:2,3**– “Jerusalem” will be desired by the nations. But, when they surround Jerusalem to attempt to “drink” up her inviting contents they will become intoxicated.

A goblet filled with intoxicating drink to symbolize divine judgment is often seen in scripture. ( Isaiah 51:17; Rev 17:4-6)

Jerusalem is also described as an immovable rock that injures anyone who tries to move it. “Injure” could refer to the nations receiving hernias but the word “injure” means “to cut, gash, or lacerate deeply”.

“All the nations on earth are gathered against her”

- a) Zechariah 14:2 – “I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it.”
- b) Joel 3:9-16 – “Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war!. . .Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. . .Come quickly, all you nations. . .Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat. . .”
- c) Revelation 16:16-21 – “Then they (*the spirits of demons performing miraculous signs in verse 16:14*) gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. . . The great city split into three parts and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. . .”

**12:4-6** The three plagues are listed with Israel’s curses for disobedience to God’s covenant with them (Deut. 28:28)

- a. panic (confusion of the mind)
- b. madness

c. blindness

The driving force of these next verses is based on God having chosen Jerusalem. Remember Zechariah 3:2, “The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, . . .” and Zechariah 1:17, “The LORD will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem.”

The city of Jerusalem continues to stand because of God’s election. Judah sees the city and inhabitants enduring and they themselves outside the city receive the strength of God.

Judah begins to consume the nations fighting against Israel.

**12:7-8** – “The LORD will save the dwellings of Judah first, so that. . .” means that this deliverance will occur in such a way that no part of the reunited nation of Israel will be able to take credit for it

“The dwellings of Judah” are a reference to the “dwellings,” or shelters, huts or tents outside the city of Jerusalem in contrast to the fortresses and buildings inside the city of Jerusalem. It points out the utter defenselessness of these “dwellings of Judah” which are delivered first.

All will realize the victory was the Lord’s.

The principle of verse 7 is seen in:

- a) Jeremiah 9:23-24
- b) 1 Corinthians 1:29, 31
- c) 1 Corinthians 12:22-26
- d) 2 Corinthians 10:17

**12:9** – Is a summary of the chapter so far.

There is no intention in this verse to indicate that this is God’s desire or wish to do these things if Israel will cooperate as some may want to read into the verse where NIV says “I will set out to destroy.” This would be a weak way of ending as section that began as verse one does by saying:

*“This is the word of the Lord concerning Israel. The Lord, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the spirit of man within him declares: ‘I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling.’”*

The purpose of these verses is to tell us what God will do and what is destined to happen at the hand of the Sovereign Lord. Concerning the Sovereign Lord: 2 Pt. 2:1-3; Jude 4

**12:10** – Once again beginning with God: “I will pour out.”

The topic switches from physical deliverance to spiritual deliverance.

(Same pattern as Deut. 30:1-10.)

Notice here that conversion is the result of the Spirit being pour out.

Without the Spirit there is no recognition of sin, no repentance and no conversion.

**“Spirit of Grace”** (this Spirit is the Holy Spirit) is the Holy Spirit producing in the mind of man the experience of the grace of God. This experience of grace exposes the soul of man to his sinfulness and he becomes knowledgeable of his sin and guilt. (His response is to cry out to God in prayer, thus, the “Spirit of Supplication.)

- a) Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.

- b) John 6:37 – “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.”
- c) John 6:44 – “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.”

(John 6:60-63 – “On hearing it, many of his disciples said, ‘This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?’ . . . Jesus said to them, ‘Does this offend you? What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you they are Spirit and they are life.’ ”

**“Spirit of Supplication”** is the response of man to the recognition of his sin exposed by the Spirit of God. Grace opens man’s eyes to understand and he follows with sorrow and repentance.

- Isaiah 32:14,15 – “The fortress will be abandoned. . .till the Spirit is poured upon us from on high.”
- Isaiah 44:2,3 – Do not be afraid, O Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring.”
- Jeremiah 31:31, 33 – “ ‘The time is coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.’ . . . ‘This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,’ declares the LORD. ‘I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.’ ”
- Ezekiel 36:26-27 – “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”
- **Ezekiel 39:27-29 – When I have brought them back from the nations . . .I will show myself holy through them in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, . . .I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel.”**

Because of the convicting work of the Spirit Israel will turn to the Messiah with mourning.

**12:10** – “They will look on (or, “to”) the one they have pierced.”

*The Expositor’s Bible Commentary* says:

“The most common meaning of the Hebrew preposition translated “on” is “to” (see NIV margin), and there is no good contextual reason to depart from it here.”

The emphasis here is “looking to” the Messiah in faith:

- a) Numbers 21:9 – “So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.
- b) Isaiah 45:22 – “Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.
- c) John 3:14-15 – “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

Notice: This is quoted in John 19:37 as being fulfilled.

- "and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

But, this occurrence is not the final and complete fulfillment. It is an event in the progressive fulfillment of the whole. The fulfillment of this and many other verses partially fulfilled with Jesus' first coming and in the church age have yet their fullest fulfillment yet in the future. John did not mean that the prophecy had exhausted by his recognition that this was the Messiah that they would have to "look to."

"They will mourn" gives examples of their mourning. It will not be a national day of mourning, or mourning a calamity that has befallen others, but the mourning of the Israelites that day will be masses of individuals mourning their individual recognition of sin just as if each of them had lost their only son.

**12:11** – Josiah's death from the battle at Megiddo in 2 Chronicles 35:20-22.

Jeremiah composed an eulogy at Josiah's death, and so did many other singers, who bewailed Josiah in dirges, which were put together as a collection of national songs and preserved even after the Babylonian captivity. (2 Chronicles 25:25) It would be similar to the death of JFK or MLK in our country.

**12:12-13** – The famous royal line of David and the average line from David.

The important priestly line of Levi and the average family of Shimei who was the basically unknown son of Gershom who was the son of Levi.

In other words, every one responds the same intense way from the "rich and famous" to the "common man." Even the wives and entire households are seriously devastated.

The mourning is emphasized to be very sincere.

**13:1** – "On that day" is that day in the future where this mourning occurs.

"a fountain will be opened. . .to cleanse them from sin and impurity" is well attested to in the OT and NT:

- a) Isaiah 41:18 – "I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water and the parched ground into springs."
- b) Isaiah 35:6 – "Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs."
- c) Numbers 8:7 - The water of sprinkling used to remove sin and uncleanness from the purification of the Levites at their consecration.
- d) Numbers 19:9 – The sprinkling-water prepared from the sacrificial ashes of the red heifer for purification from the defilement of death.
- e) John 1:7 – "the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."
- f) John 5:6 – "This is the one who came by water and blood – Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth."

**13:2** – The removal of all the physical manifestations of sin.

## The Sequence of Salvation:

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1) Grace                                       | 12:10    |
| 2) Conscience of Sin                           | 12:10b   |
| 3) Mourning                                    | 12:11-14 |
| 4) Salvation; Cleansing                        | 13:1     |
| 5) Consecration; or the<br>Righteous Lifestyle | 13:2-6   |

### 13:3-6 - False Prophecy

After the exile in Zechariah's day is seen in Nehemiah 6:12-14 done by a man trying to manipulate circumstances.

Matthew 24:4,5 "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ.' "

24:11, "and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people."

In that day if any one prophecies or has engaged in false prophecy he will deny it.

"Wounds" were used by the ecstatic crowds to move themselves into a place of spiritual arousal during false worship services including false worship of God.

- a) 1 Kings 18:28 – "So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. Midday passed and they continued their frantic prophesying . . ."
- b) Leviticus 19:28 – "Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves I am the LORD."
- c) Leviticus 21:5, "Priest must not shave their heads or shave off the edges of their beards or cut their bodies."
- d) Deuteronomy 14:1- "You are the children of the LORD your God. Do not cut yourselves or shave the front of your heads for the dead."
- e) Jeremiah 16:6 – "Both high and low will die in this land. They will not be buried or mourned, and no one will cut himself or shave his head for them."
- f) Jeremiah 41:4,5 – The day after Gedaliah's assassination, before anyone knew about it, eighty men who had shaved off their beards, torn their clothes, and cut themselves came from Shechem. . . bringing grain offerings and incense with them to the house of the LORD."
- g) Jeremiah 48:37

## The Poem (13:7-9)

13:7 – "Sword" is "*hereb*" that is the word used in Ps.22:20 and speaks of the violent end of God's shepherd.

"the man who is close to me." Is used in Leviticus to mean a 'near neighbor.' Here it means this shepherd dwells with, stands next to, or is equal to the LORD. So these verses said by Jesus,

- a) John 10:30, "I and the Father are one"
- b) John 14:9, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."

In 11:17, the worthless shepherd would be struck.  
Here the Messiah's death is an act of God. (Isaiah 53:10 and Acts 2:23)  
In 12:10-14 it was an act of Israel.

When the shepherd is struck the natural reaction is the sheep will then scatter since there is no one to care for them.  
Israel's striking of the shepherd resulted in the fulfillment of the covenant curse of being scattered (Deut. 28:64; 29:24-25)

Jesus quotes this verse before his arrest in Matthew 26:31 in application to his disciples, but the ultimate fulfillment was 70 AD and Israel has been scattered since.

**13:8** – A reference to those who make it out of the dispersion climaxing in the 144,000 in Rev. 7 and 14.

**13:9** – Refine in fire.

Ezekiel 20:32-38- Israel will be refined in tribulation like they were refined in the wilderness.

**32** “You say, “We want to be like the nations, like the peoples of the world, who serve wood and stone.” But what you have in mind will never happen.

**33** As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I will reign over you with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath.

**34** I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered—with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath.

**35** I will bring you into the wilderness of the nations and there, face to face, I will execute judgment upon you.

**36** As I judged your ancestors in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will judge you, declares the Sovereign Lord.

**37** I will take note of you as you pass under my rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant.

**38** I will purge you of those who revolt and rebel against me. Although I will bring them out of the land where they are living, yet they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord.

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Ezekiel 37, 38, 39

144,000

- Revelation 7
- Revelation 12
- Revelation 14