

Zechariah: Chapters 12-14: All Nations Shall Worship Him

Zechariah's final written prophecy stays focused on the Messiah, vividly portraying Good Friday events and proclaiming victory in His suffering and death on the cross. Zechariah ties these important events together with the inauguration of the "Day of the Lord," the time at which full vindication for God's people will be revealed.

Part 1: Zechariah 12:1-9. The Lord Will Give Salvation

Read Zechariah 12:1-9. A Heavy Stone

1. This passage contains some vivid imagery of how God will use Jerusalem and Judah to achieve His complete victory in the battle against His enemies. What are these images and creations? (See verse 2 and others that follow.)
2. In this passage the expression "on that day" ties this prophecy to the end times. What will be the fate of the enemy nations who attack Jerusalem?

How does this symbolize the end of *all* time?

3. Look again at verses 1 and 9. What right does God claim for Himself? Why does He make this claim? Does this disturb you or fill you with hope?
4. Look again at verse 2.

Read Isaiah 63:1-6. (Another colorful reading is Jeremiah 25:15-29.)

What does the cup of wine represent? (Can you think of a more recent patriotic song that uses this symbol?)

What does it mean when God chooses His people to be the wine that makes other nations stagger with drunkenness?

5. According to verses 7-9, who will receive salvation first? Who will come next? What message does this send to the rest of Israel?

Part 2: Zechariah 12:10-14. Look on the One They Pierced

Read Zechariah 12:10-14.

6. Some commentators take the word translated as "pierced" to really mean something less violent, such as "insulted". How is it possible for God to be pierced as Zechariah predicts in verse 10?

Read John 19:34-37.

7. In verses 11-14, Zechariah lists those who will mourn for the One who was pierced. What was the significance of Hadad-rimmon in Megiddo?

Read 2 Kings 23:29-30. (Another account is found in 2 Chronicles 35:20-25.)

8. Other clans who will mourn are listed. Who were these?

Clan of David

Clan of Nathan (Nathan is listed as an ancestor of Jesus in Luke 3:31.)

Clan of Levi

Clan of Shimei (Shimei is listed in Numbers 3:18.)

This list indicates that the mourning will be led by both civil and religious leaders.

9. These mourners actually appear in the New Testament.

Read Luke 23:27-31.

Who were the mourners and what was the reason for the mourning?

Why does Jesus tell the mourners not to weep for Him?

Part 3: Zechariah 13:1-6. Cleansing from Sin; Idolatry Cut Off

Read Zechariah 13:1.

10. In verse 1, Jeremiah writes of a fountain which would cleanse believers from sin. This cleansing was foreshadowed in the time of Moses.

Read Numbers 8:5-7.

This practice was done before burnt sin offerings and offerings for atonement were offered. (The entire process appears in Numbers 8:5-22.)

Zechariah had also described this process for the high priests (see Zechariah 3:4-9). Now he predicts that the cleansing will be available for all. Ezekiel makes a similar prophecy.

Read Ezekiel 36:25.

Their predictions have come true.

Read 1 John 1:7.

Read Acts 22:16. (words spoken to Saul after the experience on the road to Damascus)

How does this cleansing take place?

Read Zechariah 13:2-3.

11. False prophecy and idolatry were still problems after the exile. Verse 3 seems particularly harsh, but the practice was in obedience to laws given by Moses (Deuteronomy 13:6-11.)

Read Deuteronomy 13:6a,9-10a.

Read Matthew 10:34-37. Jesus also warned about “enemies” within a family.

Read Zechariah 13:4-6.

12. Because of these harsh laws, false prophets would take precautions to avoid being prosecuted. What steps are mentioned?

Part 4: Zechariah 13:7-9. The Shepherd Struck, the Sheep Scattered

Read Zechariah 13:7-9.

13. **Read Zechariah 11:16-17** from the class two weeks ago. How would you describe this shepherd? What should have happened to him?
14. In contrast, describe the shepherd in Zechariah 13:7. How is this “Good Shepherd” treated?
15. Jesus quotes verse 7 on the way to Gethsemane. **Read Matthew 26:31.** How was this prophecy fulfilled?
Read John 10:11.
How were the scattered sheep gathered together again?
16. According to Zechariah, how does this result in the salvation of a faithful remnant?

17. For what purpose does God allow his children to undergo sufferings in this world?

Read Romans 5:3-5. (Another passage is Romans 8:18-39.)

18. Why did God reduce Israel down to a remnant? How did this accomplish His greater purpose of salvation for all nations?

Read Isaiah 44:5.

Part 5: Zechariah 14. The Coming Day of the Lord

Read Zechariah 14:1-2.

19. These verses contain a prophecy about how the world will treat believers. What should believers expect?

Read John 16:33.

Read Zechariah 14:3-15.

20. How is the Lord depicted saving His people?

21. Verse 8 describes flowing fresh water. What is the source of this water? (Similar passages are Ezekiel 47:1-12 and Revelation 22:1-5.)

What do you think is significant about the water flowing in two directions? (also Revelation 7:9-10)

What is the fulfillment of these prophecies? (also John 4:9-14, John 7:37-39)

Read Zechariah 14:16-21.

22. **Read Leviticus 23:33, 39a, 42-23.** What did the Festival of Booths commemorate? How was it celebrated?

Supplemental Readings

Isaiah 63:1-6

Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in His apparel, marching the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save."

Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress?

"I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and tramped them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments and stained all my apparel. For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come. I looked but there was no one to help; I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold; so my own arm brought me salvations, and my wrath upheld me. I trampled down the peoples in anger; I made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured their lifeblood on the earth."

John 19:34-37

[O]ne of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says "They will look on the one they have pierced."

2 Kings 23:29-30

In his days Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt went up to the King of Assyria to the river Euphrates. King Josiah went to meet him, and Pharaoh Neco killed him at Megiddo, as soon as he saw him. And his servants carried him dead in a chariot from Megiddo and brought him to Jerusalem and buried him in his own tomb.

Luke 23:27-31

And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never nursed!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Numbers 8:5-7

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Take the Levites from among the people of Israel and cleanse them. Thus you shall do to them to cleanse them: sprinkle the water of purification upon them, and let them go with a razor over all their body, and wash their clothes and cleanse themselves."

Ezekiel 36:25

[God speaking to the house of Israel] I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he (God) is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Acts 22:16

And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.

Deuteronomy 13:6,9-10a

If your brother, the son of your mother or your son or your daughter or the wife you embrace or your friend who is as your own soul entices you secretly, saying 'Let us go and serve other gods,' which neither you nor your fathers have known, ... you shall kill him. Your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. You shall stone him to death with stones ...

Matthew 10:34-37

Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Zechariah 11:16-17

I am raising up in the land a shepherd over the land who will not care for those being destroyed, or seek the young or heal the injured, or nourish the healthy, but devours the flesh of the fat ones, tearing off even their hoofs. "Woe to the worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and right eye! May his arm be wholly withered, his right eye wholly blinded!"

Matthew 26:31

Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'"

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Romans 5:3-5

We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Isaiah 44:5

One will say, "I belong to the Lord"; another will call himself by the name of Jacob; still another will write on his hand, "The Lord's" and will take the name Israel.

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

Leviticus 23:33,39a, 42-23

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

"On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of the land, you shall celebrate the feast (the Feast of Booths) of the Lord seven days.

You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."