

Zechariah 12-14

Bible Study

Chapter 12

The prophecies of chapters 12-14 are primarily for the end time

Phrase “in that day” (Day of the Lord) appears 16 times in chapters 12-14

Chapter 12 concerns **events happening before** Christ rules in the millennium

Deliverance of Israel and the judgment on its enemies (Primary focus in chapter 12)

Verse 1

“burden”= **prophecy** (margin)

“against” Israel— mistranslation
Better--(NIV): “**concerning**” Israel

The “burden” or prophecy is concerning the monumental **events** to occur at the end time

These events **will occur** because God who created all will bring them to pass

(Feinberg) (v1. last part) “The majestic picture of the Lord as creator and preserver is presented here to dispel all doubt and unbelief concerning the things predicted here”

Verse 2

Jerusalem will be as a cup of strong drink to the nations that come up against it

➤ Implies irrational emotions about controlling the city

The “cup” is a metaphor for God’s wrath....causing the enemies who “lay siege” to become reeling, incoherent men as if drunk(the nations lose the battle)

Verse 3

“in that day” (Day of the Lord) –when the siege of Jerusalem takes place

Jerusalem will be a “**heavy stone**” for “**all peoples**” who come up against it=

➤ Those who try to crush Jerusalem....will be crushed trying

Verse 3 (last part)

“**all nations of the earth** are gathered against it”

➤ Has never happened in the past... prophecy for the future

This corresponds to “all nations” coming to the Valley of Jehoshaphat to fight against Christ and suffering defeat:

(Joel 3: 1-2) “I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat...”

Verse 4 (the battle)

“In that day”—strike horses and their riders with confusion and madness
(paraphrase) “I will bewilder the armies drawn up against her...I will watch over the people of Judah, but blind all of her enemies”

Verse 5

The leaders will realize the people of the land receive **strength from God** to effect victory: “my strength in the Lord of hosts”

Verse 6 (first part)

The leaders are like a “firepan” used to carry hot coals to light a fire.....or a “fiery torch” to ignite a field of cut grain



Symbolic of the ease and complete victory over the enemy



Verse 6 (last part)

“devouring all the surrounding peoples” = (victory) ...The result ---the inhabitants will dwell safely in Jerusalem


Verse 7

To stress **God’s intervention** ----- he intervenes for the “**tents**” (outlying districts) first.....before the fortified capital

“house of David”=descendents in need of deliverance and salvation

“shall not become greater”—During deliverance there will be no superiority or ranking above others in the day of deliverance

Verse 8 “in that day” repeated twice:



1. God defending Jerusalem


2. God will strengthen the weak beyond their normal capabilities (strong like David)

The royal line of David will be known....
and empowered by God...as the Angel of the Lord went before Israel in ancient times

Verse 9

(“in that day”) God will deal with any nations that dare to come against Jerusalem

Now God makes known that **beyond** the judgment of nations he has **spiritual purposes**



Verse 10 (first part)

Time of pouring out of God’s spirit upon Israel leading to their conversion

“the Spirit of **grace and supplication**”—come from the same Hebrew root

➤ Refers to the Holy Spirit

Verse 10 (last part)

“**Then** they will look on *Me* whom they pierced” ...“they will mourn for him”

They will finally realize the Christ was the true
Messiah

They will show a spirit of repentance by mourning

An intense mourning like one would grieve for losing an only son or a firstborn son (last part)

Verse 11 “**in that day** there shall be great mourning in Jerusalem”

➤ A heartfelt repentance

“like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon...”

II Kings 23: 29-30

The slaying of Josiah, the only hope (last good king) before the fall of the Jewish nation

Hadad Rimmon is the site of a great plain near the city of Megiddo

It was famous in Israel’s past history

The name Armageddon comes from this name where the future war will take place:

(Rev. 16: 16) “And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon”

Mourning of the above tragedies is compared to the repentance of Israel once the Holy Spirit begins to work

Verse 12
Everyone in the land shall mourn



The nation will mourn by family groups and individuals as they mourn over Christ being rejected

The families of David from the highest to the lowest will mourn

Christ came from David's youngest son Nathan

Each family "by itself" and wives "by themselves"—**means** that all mourning **will be intense**...and each will want to be with God alone at that time

Verse 13
House of Levi—priestly family

Shimei was of the family of Levi....

Leaders
mourn



Verse 14
And all the rest of the people shall
mourn as well

Chapter 13
The cleansing of the remnant

Verse 1

“In that day”

At the return of Jesus Christ ...continues the theme from chapter 12

Now God responds to their repentance (mourning) and **what he will do**



“a fountain shall be opened” **For cleansing** (last part)--“**for sin and uncleanness**”

Cleansing sin by Christ’s blood

(Rev. 1: 5)... “who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood”

The word of God as a
cleansing agent:

(Eph. 5:26) “that he might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word”

Holy Spirit’s help to turn
from sin

Verse 2

“In that day”---**deception** will be cleansed

“I will cut off the **names** of the idols”
“they shall no longer be remembered”



An end to idolatry

Names of **false gods removed** from the language

Zephaniah 3:9
9 “For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, That they all may call on the name of the Lord, To serve Him with one accord.

Verse 2 (last part)

“I will cause the prophets and unclean spirit **to depart from the land**”

False prophets

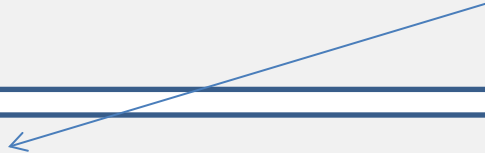
“Unclean spirit” (only place used in O.T.)
Empowered by Satan

Verse 3

False prophets were such a plague through out time that eliminating them completely is expounded

“if anyone **still prophecies**= Anyone who dares to prophesy falsely will be dealt with

(last part) “Thrust”—same verb as ‘pierced’ in Zech. 12: 10



(Expositors) “Thus indicating that the feelings and actions shown in piercing the Messiah will be directed toward the false prophets”

Verse 4 “in that day”

(Paraphrase) last part: “No one will wear prophet’s clothes to try to fool the people then.”

Verse 5 “ I am no prophet, I am a farmer”

To free themselves of connection with false prophecy they will disavow any connection with the prophetic office

Summary: Verses 1- 6—prophecy of the cleansing of the people

Verse 6
Reveals the **Messiah** as the one who
cleanses

“to him”—does not refer to the false prophet
of the previous verses

Reflects back to “on Me whom they pierced” of chapter 12: 10

“wounds between his **hands**”—original
Hebrew

They mourn (remorse and repentance) and
are cleansed when they realize the wounds
he received

Verse 7 (striking the shepherd prophecy)

Christ applied this verse to
himself
(Mat. 26: 31)

“awake o sword”
The **sword** is symbolic of
high judicial power

“Against My Shepherd”
For God’s judgment against sin

“The Man”—refers to his humanity

“My Companion”—refers to his deity...as part of the God family

(middle verse 7)

“strike the Shepherd and the sheep will be scattered”

Apostles were scattered on the night he was turned over to the authorities

Scattering of Jews in AD 70 when Romans destroyed Jerusalem

End time fulfillment

(last part verse 7)

“I will turn my hand against the little ones”

“the little ones”= the remnant

For correction and refinement...to bring to repentance

Verse 8-9


Concerns the **scattering** and refinement of the flock

➤ The context of the next chapter– 14 shows this to be an end time setting

Verse 8

Because of Judgment: Two thirds die and one third left– (the remnant)

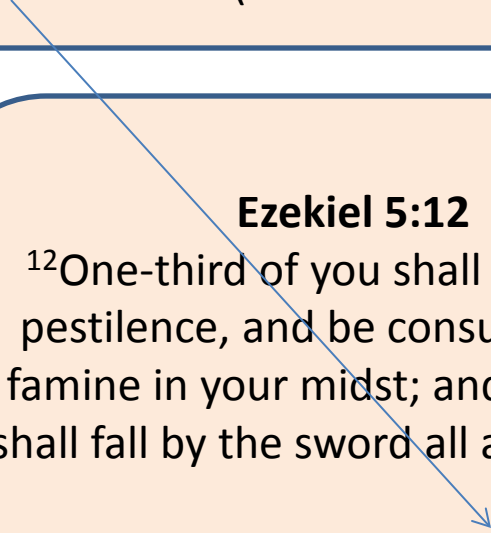
Jeremiah 30: 7
“Time of Jacob’s trouble



Ezekiel 5:12

¹²One-third of you shall die of the pestilence, and be consumed with famine in your midst; and one-third shall fall by the sword all around you;

and I will scatter another third to all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.



Verse 8 (last part)
“one third left in it” (alive)



Verse 9
The one third will go through the **fire** (of the Great tribulation)

Refining of silver and gold symbolic of the **purifying process**---to produce a better character

Verse 9
Those going through purification of trial—will become converted

“They will call on My
name”

“I will say this is My
people”

“And each one will say:
‘The Lord is my God’”



Chapter 14
Messiah's return and reign

Verse 1

Time frame: **"the day of the Lord is coming"**

God's intervention in mankind's affairs:

➤ To judge the nations and rule over the earth

Verse 1 (last part)

State of affairs in Jerusalem of **great difficulty**: the cities spoil has been divided

Verse 2

The final siege of Jerusalem by the nations

"the nations are gathered against Jerusalem" (first phase of the battle)

Leads to terrible events in the city

(last part)

A captivity, deportation takes place but a remnant of the people remains

Verse 3
God responds to intervene

The Messiah will fight against the nations
“The Lord will go forth and fight...”

Will fight as a king who leads in the battle:

(Isaiah 31:4) last part

⁴ ...So the Lord of hosts will come down
To fight for Mount Zion and for its hill.

Verse 4
“And his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives”
“shall be split in two..... “from east to west”

(Middle of verse)
“making a very large valley”

As a means of escape for the
remnant of God’s people

Verse 5
“Then you shall flee through My mountain valley...”

(middle part)
“as you fled in the days of Uzziah...”
A famous earthquake around 751 BC that lingered in the memory of the people

Verse 5 (last part)

“The Lord my God will come, and **all the saints with (You)**” ----- (Him -margin)

Christ will return with the “saints”= literally Holy Ones:

Includes angels and those converted people resurrected at Christ’s return
(I Cor. 15: 52; I Thess. 4: 17)

Verse 6 (“in that day”)

A period of **darkness** which signifies a period of **judgment**

(Joel 2: 1-2)

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; **For the day of the Lord is coming**, For it is at hand:

² A **day of darkness** and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness

Verse 7

“Shall be *one day*”= a unique extraordinary day

Only God knows what is its character

Light will shine at night.... Because God’s light of truth will begin to shine on mankind

Verse 8 (“In that day)
“living waters shall flow from Jerusalem” (an arid area)

“toward the eastern sea” —Dead Sea
“western sea” --Mediterranean

Will give physical water all year round
“summer and winter”

The Holy Spirit will also flow out from the Messiah at Jerusalem

Verse 9 (“In that day”)
The Lord shall be king **over all the earth**

“The Lord is one, And his name one”

No more multiple gods

Deuteronomy 6:4

⁴“Hear, O Israel: [£]The Lord our God,
the Lord *is* one!

Verse 10

Changes in the topographical nature of the land

The land around Jerusalem will be leveled and the city raised

Verse 11

Jerusalem will be secure and safe

Verse 12

The prophecy returns back to the final battle at Jerusalem----- where chapter 14 began with details not touched upon....**how** God **will deal** with the nations gathered:



1. God will send a plague against the forces who are against him and Jerusalem

Verse 13 (“In that day”)

2. A panic against the enemy that will cause them to turn on each other

Last part: (paraphrase) “will fight against each other in hand to hand combat”

Verse 14

3. All the in the nation will rally against the foe

“The wealth of the nations gathered”----- a reversal of verse one last part

Verse 15

Even animals suffer because of the sin and evil of men

Verse 16 (after the smoke of the battle clears)
The reign of the Messiah begins

The judgment of the nations is over
and those remaining will seek a
relationship with the ruling Christ

Those left of the nations will keep the Feast of
Tabernacles....sending a representative to Jerusalem

Verse 17

Those refusing to worship the Messiah will have the blessing of rain withheld

Verse 18

If Egypt does not keep the Feast of Tabernacles:

Will not receive rain

Or a plague as a witness to other nations who refuse to come

As a means to teach them who Christ really is and the need to learn from him

Verse 20 (In that day)

God's **purpose** for man to be fulfilled: To be Holy People (Ex. 19:6)
HOLINESS TO THE LORD....to be engraved:



In public life----- "the bells of the horses"

In religious life----- "the cooking pots in the Lord's house"

(v. 21) In private life----- "every pot in Jerusalem"

Verse 21 (last part)---the last **“in that day”**

“There shall **no longer be a Canaanite** in the house of the Lord of hosts”

In contrast to being Holy

Represents those who are morally or spiritually unclean

There will be no more rebellious, idolatrous...(spiritually unclean people)..... symbolical Canaanites



It is a way of saying that all will be HOLY in the kingdom----a fitting way to end the book of Zechariah