

Analysis of Zechariah

Starting with Chapter 12

CHAPTER 12

Chapter 12 starts out talking about a time period known as, "The Day of the Lord", which extends from the beginning of the Tribulations into the Millennial Kingdom. It starts out specifically talking about the siege of Jerusalem just prior to the battle of Armageddon.

GOD'S PHYSICAL PROTECTION of ISRAEL

Vs. 1 → This is the word/prophecy about Israel, from the God who "created" the universe and all that is within it.

Vs. 2 → During the period leading up to the Tribulations and the 7 year Tribulation period, God will make Jerusalem a lightning rod for world events. At this specific time, the land previously known as Judah and specifically Jerusalem will be under siege by the antichrist.

Vs. 3 → During this period the antichrist will use his vast power to gather the entire world with the purpose of removing all traces of Israel/the Jewish people/Christianity, from the face of the earth, but in attempting to do so, will himself be destroyed. This destruction will occur via, the battle of Armageddon.

Note: remember Britain lost much of its world empire because it tried to negotiate a compromise settlement between the Jews and Arabs

Vs. 4-5 → During this period God will protect Judah and Jerusalem.

Vs. 6 → Again God states that Jerusalem is the center of the world/issue/ conflict and will remain intact under God's protection.

Vs. 7 → God will save the people viewed as the "least of them" first and then the people viewed as "the most important" second, so that they will know that they are equal in God's sight.

Vs. 8 → It seems that during these days God will give the Jewish people living in Jerusalem supernatural powers. I am not sure how this will work but we can be sure that the basis of the power in Jerusalem is from God. In which Vs. 9 describes the outcome.

Vs. 9 → All the nations that are attacking Jerusalem will be destroyed. See Rev. 19: 11-21.

GOD'S SPIRITUAL PROTECTION of ISRAEL

Vs. 10 → God will pour out on the remaining Jews in Jerusalem/Israel the Holy Spirit as it relates to the Holy Spirit coming upon people in the Old Testament. Through this pouring out of the Holy Spirit three things will happen: 1) they will come under grace, 2) they will come under supplication/ submission, and 3) their keys will be opened as to the fact that Jesus was really their Messiah. The results of which will be mourning as if they had lost a child.

Note: It appears from this verse that "ALL" Jews in Israel at this time will be converted.

Vs. 11-13 → All of Israel will mourn for the great sins that they have committed. This will happen family by family, house by house, and one by one.

CHAPTER 13

Chapter 13, The National Cleansing of Israel

Vs. 1 → "On that Day", a fountain will be opened to Israel and it is the one that is filled with the blood of Christ. On that day the veil will be lifted from the eyes of all of Israel by grace, (see Zech. 12:10) so that they will see Jesus as their Messiah and believe, and be saved.

Vs. 2 → "On that Day", God will remove all of the idols, false prophets, and demons from the land. I am sure this means from Israel but I think it could also mean from all of the earth during Christ 1000 year reign.

Vs. 3 → This appears to have a twofold meaning: 1) Israel will revert back to Old Testament type judgment, 2) during the millennium there will be no need for prophecy as Christ will be on earth and can speak for himself.

Vs. 4-6 → This appears to say that, "On That Day" the false prophets will all be ashamed of their actions and try to distance themselves as far as possible from their prior life claiming to be farmers; any wounds received from their previous life would now be hidden from the rest of the people. However, there is a second interpretation for these three verses and that is that they are referring to Christ. To me this seems like a stretch.

Vs. 7-9 → Quote from Matthews Henry's Commentary, "Here is a prophecy of the suffering of Christ. God the Father gave order to the sword of his justice to awake against his son, when he freely made his soul an offering for sin. As God, he is called my Fellow. Christ and the Father are one. He was the Shepherd who was to lay down his life for the sheep. If a Sacrifice, he must be slain, for without shedding of the life-blood there was no remission. This sword must awake against him, yet he had no sin of his own to answer for. It may refer to the whole of Christ's suffering, especially his agonies in the garden and on the cross, when he endured unspeakable anguish till Divine justice was fully satisfied. Smite the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered. This passage our Lord Jesus declared was fulfilled, when all his disciples, in the night wherein he was betrayed, forsook him and fled. (See Matt.26:31 & Mark 14:27) It has, and shall have its accomplishments, in the destruction of the corrupt and hypocritical part of the professing church. Because of the sin of the Jews in rejecting and crucifying Christ, and in opposing his gospel, the Romans would destroy the greater part. But a remnant would be saved. And if we are his people, we shall be refined as gold; he will be God, and the end of all our trials and suffering will be praise, and honor, and glory, at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Vs. 8-9 → There are other writers of commentaries that believe verses 8-9 refer to Israel during the Tribulation period. They refer to Rev. 7:1-8 and Rev. 14:1-3.

CHAPTER 14, The second Coming of Christ- To Reign

Chapters 12-14 all talk about the second coming of Christ, however, chapter 14 is like a summary that pulls all of these events together including the first part of the Millennium. (Note: remember chapters 9-11 talked about Christ first coming) This chapter should be viewed a totally prophetic and speaks to a time period know as, "the end of the age".

Note: Some liberal scholars believe that this chapter should be taken and spiritualized or musicalized or that it refers to the church- all of which are incorrect.

Chapter 14

Vs. 1-2 → These verses are talking about the events that will be taking place during the latter portion of the Tribulation period. There will be many wars/battles all during the Tribulation period with the last half; the Great Tribulations period (3 ½ yrs.) seems to be in a constant state of war. Specifically they are talking about the siege, capture, and plundering of Jerusalem. At this point half of the people will be captured and half will be spared.

Major points in time:

- 1) Antichrist comes to power and signs a seven year peace treaty with Israel.
- 2) Jewish temple is rebuilt in first half of Tribulations. At the mid-point of the Tribulation period the antichrist sit on God's thrown in the temple and claims to be God.
- 3) During the last half of the Tribulation period the antichrist takes over Israel which culminates in a siege and destruction of Jerusalem during the latter days of the Tribulations.
- 4) During this same time period the 200 million man army from the east marches on the antichrist army in Israel.
- 5) The events that take place when these two armies come together are recorded in Zech.14:3-21 & Rev. 19:11-21.

Vs. 3 → When all seems lost and it looks like the city will be utterly destroyed and all of the people killed, Christ will return and do battle for the Jews.

Vs. 4-5 → This clearly states that Christ will return east of Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives and the mountain will be split, making a place of safety for the remaining Jews. The last sentence of verse 5 states that Christ will not come alone but will be joined by “all the holy ones”. See Rev.19:11-21

Vs. 6-7 → This will be a very unique day, “a day known to the Lord”. It would appear that God may suspend some of the normal or natural laws that govern the earth during this time period. We know that this will be a non-natural day because Rev.1:7 states, “Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the people of the earth will mourn because of him.” Our current, “line of sight” law, based on our current physics, currently would prevent this from being possible.

Vs. 8 → I think this verse has a dual meaning: 1) there will be literal river formed because of the split in Mount Olives which will now make Jerusalem a seaport city and allow the currently dry land to be refreshed, 2) because this will be the capital city from which Christ will rule it will also be the Spiritual capital of the world from which, “living water will flow out” to the world.

Vs. 9 → At this point there will be only one king of the earth, Christ. Satan, the antichrist, the false prophet and all of their followers are either locked away or in hell. See Isa.9:6 and Rev.19:15

Vs. 10 → Currently Jerusalem is surrounded by very rugged hills that are not very well adapted for comfortable human living. However, when Christ returns and splits the Mount of Olives the landscape will be changed and Jerusalem will be, “lifted up” or elevated, and the surrounding hills will be turned onto a beautiful smooth valley. This verse also gives the land marks that will determine the size of this valley.

Vs. 11 → This verse simply states that Jerusalem will be the safest place on earth at this time. This is understandable given it is the capital for Christ’s earthly government.

Vs. 12-15 → Zechariah now has a flashback of what will happen during the battle when Christ returns. From these verses it would appear that the nations of the earth gathered at Jerusalem begin to fight among themselves and are stricken with a plague that will destroy their bodies. At this point it appears that Judah attacks them and all of them are killed, (see Rev.19:21) and their wealth will be taken by Judah.

Vs. 16 → This verse states that the survivors of the nations that attack Jerusalem will be required to go to Jerusalem each year to worship the Lord and to celebrate at the Feast of Tabernacles. There are a variety of points which need to be clarified in this verse, which is listed below:

- 1) The word survivors has been defined by different bible scholars as follows:
 - 1) all of the people of that specific nation who were left in their homeland during this war (both saved and unsaved) plus the military people of that country who survived the war, 2) all of the people of that specific nation who were left in their homeland who were saved or helped the Jews during this period, 3) all the people of that specific nation who are saved.

Note: based on my understanding of the Bible, Christ's second coming is to 1) judge Satan and his followers and remove them from the earth, 2) provide the people living at this time with a world free of the influences of Satan to see if they will be able to live a sinless life, 3) reward his church with positions of authority within his worldly government. Also, based on Rev. 19:21 I do not think any unsaved people will make it into the millennium.

- 2) The history of the Jewish faith suggests that prior to the death of Christ all Jews were required to go to Jerusalem to worship and celebrate specific days deemed to be holy. When Christ came he changed this by requiring his disciples to go out, "to the ends of the earth" to spread the gospel. Now based on this verse it would appear that this will once again change and all people will be required to go to Jerusalem each year to worship the Lord and celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

Vs.17 → As we have already proven with scripture earlier in this study that children will be born during the millennium period, it is believed that some of these will rebel against God and refuse to worship him. Remember during this millennium period man still has his sin nature. Scripture also states that Christ will, "rule with a rod of iron", therefore, "withholding the rain." I think this indicates that Christ will withhold their ability to provide for life's necessities.

Vs. → 18-19 → Egypt is used as an example as to what will happen to any nation that does not go to Jerusalem to worship and celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. The Bible does not tell us why Egypt is singled out by name. However, my opinion is that they were the first nation to persecute the Jews, therefore, will be watched very closely by God. Just an opinion!

Vs.20-21 → To me this appears to say that the nation of Israel will once again be totally dedicated to serving God and all that they have and all that they do will be focused on serving and worshiping God. I think at this point it will be true that Jerusalem will be, "God's Holy City".

Read, Romans 11:25-31