

Zechariah 12:1-14

Introduction

Chapter 12 starts with the second of two oracles that make up the latter half of this book (**chapters 9-14**). The first oracle was focused against the nations opposed to Jerusalem, and now this second oracle is against Israel.

Summary

In Zechariah 12:1-14, we see first, God giving His people strength against their enemies, and then secondly, a greater victory, that by which our hearts are conquered by God.

1. Important Clarifications

The repeated phrase: “The Day of the Lord” refers to the coming of God’s judging and saving rule upon the earth.

Consistent with the general Reformed view, this prophecy is fulfilled in God’s mighty provision for the salvation of his people in every age, and especially for the church in its stand against a hostile world.

2. Ruined Nations vv. 1-4

The chapter begins with a brief introduction, outlining God’s own majesty and might (**Zech 12:1**). Since the verses that follow may seem incredible to believe, especially in times of weakness and danger for the church, here we are first reminded of what kind of God makes these claims. He is the almighty God of creation and providence.

Vv. 2-6 shows the world opposing and advancing to destroy God’s city but instead of the church being destroyed, it is her enemies who come to ruin.

First, there is an increasing intensity, a progressive judgment of those who persist against the Lord ending up in their utter destruction.

Secondly, the harm is brought to these enemies by their own devices.

God guards and protects His people and is ready to come to their defense.

Zechariah spoke these words in God’s city with the hope of rousing the Jews from the stupor of their spiritual sloth.

Since the world will tremble before our great God, we ought not tremble before the world. It is our great privilege to serve the city of God, his church. If Christians are to give themselves to the work of the Kingdom, it will begin by recapturing the vision of God’s greatness and might, his total and sovereign sufficiency for all our needs.

3. Strong in the Lord vv. 5-9

The Lord blesses his people so that they may prevail over every foe.

First, God **makes them strong with his own might (12:5)**.

Secondly, God makes secure his church and conveys his peace to his people (**12:6-8**).

Thirdly, in his deliverance, God brings unity and concord to his people (**12:7**).

Zechariah speaks of a supernatural empowering for all of God's people, from the least to the greatest.

Even the feeblest among his people will be able to achieve feats of faith in his name.

In due time, the One who was the delivering Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament, and who has appeared numerous times in Zechariah as such, came into the world enfleshed in lowly humanity, that he might be our champion and Lord. Jesus Christ conquered our foes—sin and the devil and death—on the cross, and now he reigns as our king forever. **In his might**, that church will find strength to endure in days ahead, until the final trumpet sounds and the battle lines are separated by his return in glory. **Meanwhile**, in all our struggles with fear and temptation and sin, we may look confidently to him for help, seeing his design that “the inhabitants of Jerusalem have strength through the LORD of hosts, their God” (**Zech. 12:5**).

4. Pierced Christ vv. 10-14

Zechariah 12:10 is an exceptional prophecy of the Lord Jesus Christ, speaking of “him whom they have pierced.”

The time came when Jesus Christ came, was rejected in fulfillment of Zechariah 11, and then was crucified during which a Roman soldier who had never heard of Zechariah's prophecy—“pierced his side with a spear” (**John 19:34**).

Four ways in which this passage is also fulfilled after the crucifixion.

First was at Pentecost, when God poured out his Spirit in Jerusalem.

Secondly, Romans 11:26, Paul speaks of a future significant conversion of the Jews, which will be fulfilled in conjunction with this prophecy, which says of the Jews that they will mourn for the one they pierced.

Thirdly, whenever any individual comes to God in repentance to be saved.

In this connection, Zechariah's prophecy makes four main points:

First, godly sorrow is the heart of true repentance.

Secondly, godly sorrow is the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Thirdly, the object of godly sorrow is Jesus Christ, pierced on the cross because of the sins of His people.

Fourthly, saving repentance results from saving faith in Jesus Christ. \

Fourthly, this passage is fulfilled when Christ comes at the end of days Rev 1:7

This is the legacy of sin in this world: all will sorrow for sin; some now in faith unto salvation, others then through unbelief unto eternal condemnation, in terror when the day of his wrath has come.

What will become of you then?

Now Jesus speaks to you a word of his grace, calling for you to look to him, to mourn for the sin that he bore on the cross, and find in him salvation for your soul.