

THE APPLE OF GOD'S EYE

Someone once said, "It is a good day if someone doesn't poke you in the eye with a stick." You definitely don't want to poke a bear in the eye. How about God Almighty? The Bible describes Israel as "the apple" of God's eye. What do you think would be His reaction if He (metaphorically) was poked in the eye? Zechariah 2 answers this question.

Zechariah 2:8 (NKJV)

8 For thus says the Lord of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.

The little phrase "He sent Me after glory" is interesting. The Hebrew simply says, "After glory he has sent me." Many Bible commentators think the "Me" in view is the Messiah and that is most probable.

[literally, He (God the Father) sent Me (the Servant of the Lord) after glory]
- **David Levy**

The idea seems to be that God will send the Messiah who will judge the nations that...plundered Israel and will display His glory.

– **The Bible Knowledge Commentary.**

The Messiah will be sent to pursue God's glory in judging the nations (2:9) for their wicked treatment of Israel... As [Charles] Feinberg states, "God's cause and glory are inseparably linked with the fortunes of His people. The humiliation and subjugation of Israel by the nations must be avenged by the One who is dishonored in their dejected condition".

– **The Moody Bible Commentary**

God will be glorified in His judging the nations for what they have done to Israel. This truth is going to come to a head in the last days with a worldwide showdown over the city of Jerusalem. When Jesus returns, He is coming back to Jerusalem and in the process is going to decimate the enemy nations of the world. In this, He will be greatly glorified as the God of Israel (cf. Matt. 25:31-46).

So, the idea here in verse 8 is that God is sending Messiah to bring glory to Himself by plundering the nations who have plundered Israel. The world should really pay attention to the last part of the verse, "***for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.***"

Deut. 32:10 says that God kept Israel “as the apple of His eye.” Apple literally means “gate” or “opening”. It refers to the pupil of the eye which is the most sensitive part of the eye, demanding the most protection.

The point is God is very SENSITIVE and PROTECTIVE when it comes to Israel. God is very TOUCHY about the people of Israel. To try and harm them is like trying to poke God in the eye. That is going to get a response from the Almighty that is not going to be good for the instigator (cf. Ps. 17:8).

We are seeing the rapid rise of Anti-Semitism in these days that is growing throughout the world. The world pays no attention to the Bible. They don't know and don't care about verses like Zech. 2:8, but that doesn't change the truth of it at all. And it will have a fulfillment!

“The Lord is highly sensitive to any individual or nation that would mistreat or harm Israel. He feels the injury to Israel as if it were done to Him, and He will bring a divine curse on all individuals and nations who harm the Jewish people (Gen. 12:3).” – **David Levy**

Zechariah 2:9 (NKJV)

9 For surely I will shake My hand against them, and they shall become spoil for their servants. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me.

The shaking of the hand is a gesture of judgment that signifies repayment for the mistreatment of Israel. As soon as God gives the signal it will happen (cf. Isa. 61:1-3). Again, we believe this has an ultimate fulfillment in conjunction with the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God revealed Himself through Israel in bringing the Messiah to the world through Messiah at His first coming. God will again reveal Himself to the world through the Messiah at His Second Coming. Consistently, from the time of the Exodus God has chosen to reveal Himself as YHWH (the self-existent, unchanging, covenant-keeping God) in conjunction with Israel. And in the end, this will happen again on a climactic scale.

Just as sure as getting poked in the eye causes a violent reaction, so abusing God's people Israel is like poking Him in the eye which ultimately causes a Revelation 6-18 reaction. All those who poke God in the eye can expect an intense response!

Psalm 129:1–2 (NKJV)

1 “Many a time they have afflicted me from my youth,” Let Israel now say—

2 “Many a time they have afflicted me from my youth; Yet they have not prevailed against me.