

## DON'T MESS WITH JERUSALEM

The Bible teaches that in the end the whole world will march on Jerusalem. It will be the world versus Jerusalem. But then the GOD OF ISRAEL will intervene. Woe be to those who touch Jerusalem! Prophetically we read about his in Zechariah 12.

### **Zechariah 12:5 (NKJV)**

**5** And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem are my strength in the Lord of hosts, their God.'

*“The LORD of hosts”* is God’s military title. It more literally is *“YHWH of the armies of heaven”*. Judah initially will have confidence that God will work through the residents of Jerusalem.

The sense seems to be that as those in Jerusalem are relying upon God’s power (an act of faith), they will see God do great things. This will then cause those in the greater Judah to look to the residents of Jerusalem for inspiration.

### **Zechariah 12:6 (NKJV)**

**6** In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a **firepan** in the woodpile, and like a **fiery torch** in the sheaves; they shall **devour** all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place—Jerusalem.

God honors faith in His power; and in that day, He will make the people of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile. A firepot was used to carry hot coals to start a fire. They will be like a torch setting dry sheaves on fire. In other words, they will devour these invading enemies.

The moral of the story is that those who play with God’s fire get burned (cf. Isa. 47:14, Obad. 18, Mal. 4:1). Those who mess with Jerusalem go mad and get burned (cf. Gen. 12:3)!

But in contrast, Jerusalem is not going anywhere. Jerusalem will make a comeback and remain established in her own place. Try as hard as they may, these enemies cannot dislodge Jerusalem even if the entire world joins together in the effort to do so (cf. Ps. 2). The world wants Jerusalem and God wants Jerusalem. Guess Who is going to win?

### **Zechariah 12:7 (NKJV)**

7 “The Lord will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not become greater than that of Judah.

The idea is that God will deliver the outlying areas of Judah first so that those in Jerusalem don't get a big head. With the whole of Judah esteeming the inhabitants of Jerusalem for what God is doing, God is going to work in such a way that the GLORY goes to Him alone and not to the residents of Jerusalem! The glory belongs to God alone!

These tents of Judah would be areas less populated, where not much military strength is represented. In contrast, the **“house of David”** represents the well-fortified city of Jerusalem.

Those with the least military ability will be saved first, showing that this is all God's doing. This will ensure that the glory goes to God and not to man.

It also will serve to keep the Jews united as God will be seen as working for all His people and not just the elite class in Jerusalem. Thus, all of Judah will equally share in the God-wrought victory.

### **Zechariah 12:8 (NKJV)**

8 In that day **the Lord will defend** the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be **like David**, and the house of David shall be **like God, like the Angel of the Lord** before them.

This is an amazing verse in the fact that YHWH Himself will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

This is divine intervention all the way and yet, the amazing thing is that He will use His people in the process.

David was considered the mightiest of warriors in Israel's history (cf. 1 Sam. 18:7). Now, the one who is feeble will be empowered to fight like David. And then amazingly, the text says, ***“the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them.”***

What is God like in battle? INVINCIBLE! This is stating in the strongest terms possible that the Jews are absolutely going to crush the attacking armies of the world. Since God is fighting their battle, no wonder they will come off like God; because in fact, God is behind it (cf. Isa. 37:32-37).

The Angel of the LORD in the OT was the preincarnate Christ (cf. Ex. 23:20, Num. 22:22, Judg. 2:1, 13:15-22).

He was God in angelic form, working on behalf of His people. In Josh. 5:13-15, He is shown to be the invincible Commander of the LORD's army.

It was He Who strengthened Israel to be victorious over her enemies (cf. Ex. 23:20, 32:34, 33:2). The Jews, as God's instruments, will have God-like results because God will be working directly through and for them. Victory will be total!

Don't mess with Jerusalem, for those who do so in effect mess with God!