

MARCHING TOWARD JERUSALEM

In Jerusalem versus the world – the world is going DOWN!

Zechariah 12:9 (NKJV)

9 It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Verse 9 is a summary statement. The nations en masse will eventually come up to destroy Jerusalem, but God is ready for them, and He will destroy all those nations.

In Zechariah 12:2 when God says He will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness, this is an introductory statement regarding what is going to happen to the armies of the world that come against Jerusalem. God will make them a cup of reeling. Verse 9 is the conclusion of the matter. Note carefully the phrase, “DESTROY ALL THE NATIONS that come against Jerusalem” (*emphasis mine*, cf. Mt. 25:31-46).

The world is marching towards Jerusalem. They are coming with hostile intent. We see that spirit in the world today. Here we see the fate of those nations who attempt to annihilate Jerusalem. God turns the tables and destroys them (cf. Gen. 12:3).

The continuing existence of Israel is as sure as God’s own existence. He has attached His very covenant Name YHWH to Israel’s existence (cf. Ex. 3, 6, Jer. 31:31-37). God’s reputation is on the line. God’s Word is on the line. I can assure you by the Name of YHWH that Israel is not going anywhere.

On the other hand, those who think otherwise and try to force the issue are going somewhere – they are going down to destruction!

Sometimes it might seem like God has forgotten Israel; but in fact, He has not. The very name of Zechariah means “**God remembers**”. And the end of the book of Zechariah, the end of the story, proves it.

But there is another important reality here. Not only will Israel be delivered physically in the Day of the Lord, but they will also come to be restored spiritually. The MADNESS of the nations and their destruction are in view in Zechariah 12:1-9, but the MOURNING of Israel, indicative of her true repentance and faith, is in view in 12:10-14.

Zechariah 12:10–14 (NKJV)

10 “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the **Spirit of grace and supplication**; then they will **look** on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will **mourn** for Him as one **mourns** for his only son, and **grieve** for Him as one **grieves** for a firstborn.

11 In that day there shall be a great **mourning** in Jerusalem, like the **mourning** at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

12 And the land shall **mourn**, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves;

13 the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves;

14 all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.

The ministry of the Spirit will result in a ministry of grace and supplication as He brings salvation to the Jewish people. God’s grace is His favor. This is a work of grace bringing about repentance and restoration.

Supplication is specific, intense prayer for mercy. Supplication here speaks to the “spirit” of repentance which will now define Israel (cf. Mt. 5:4).

For many years, the Jews have had a veil over their eyes; and except for a small remnant, they have not seen the truth of Christ crucified and risen again (cf. 2 Cor. 3:14-16). They have not seen the truth of Jesus as their Messiah! That veil will now, because of the Spirit’s ministry, be removed!

This deep mourning signifies the brokenness of genuine repentance. The Jews will finally see Jesus as their divine/human Messiah Whom they brutally pierced to death (cf. Acts 2:22-23, 36). Finally, they will realize Who Jesus is as YHWH in a human body, and they will realize that they KILLED THEIR MESSIAH! Finally, they as a people will get Isaiah 53. And, they will be broken over it. They will mourn as deeply as you can imagine!

This will be a national movement involving every family in the land genuinely mourning. This describes true individual repentance which reaches throughout the land.

There is an emphasis on national repentance, but then it is broken down to individual families, and then to individuals within those families. Essentially, all the remaining Jews will be broken in repentance; and on that basis, they will be cleansed from sin.

In Acts 3 Peter said to the Jews...

Acts 3:19–21 (NKJV)

19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,
20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,
21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

The times of kingdom refreshing will not come to the world until the Jews as a nation first come to repentance. Zechariah 12 prophetically describes this coming reality!