

# **THE CLIMACTIC BATTLE OVER JERUSALEM – ZECHARIAH 12**

## **A. Overview of Zechariah**

**Zechariah** means “*God Remembers*” (*cares for*). The theme is “**The Temple & Messianic Advents**”. The book largely consists of 8 night visions (chps. 1:7-6:8); four messages (chps. 7:1-8:23); and two oracles (chps. 9:1-10:12). It has two parenthesis passages dealing with the Messiah (chps. 6:9-15, 11:1-17). The book begins with a call to repentance, which is the condition necessary for Israel’s restoration (cf. 1:1-6), and concludes with Israel coming to repentance and being restored (chps. 12-14).

## **B. Historical Setting of Zechariah**

536 BC – Return from Babylonian Captivity (Start Rebuilding Temple)  
535 BC – Rebuilding HALTED  
520 BC – **Zechariah’s Ministry Begins** (Duration: c. 520-480 BC)  
515 BC – Temple Completed

## **C. Background to Zechariah 12**

- Jerusalem is named more than any other city in Scripture (817 times).
- Jerusalem is positioned in the center of the world (cf. Ezek. 5:5).
- Jerusalem is called the “apple of God’s eye” (cf. Zech. 2:8).
- Jerusalem is called “the city of the great King” (cf. Ps. 48:2).
- Jerusalem will be called “The Throne of the LORD” in the kingdom (cf. Jer. 3:17).
- All the nations will fight against Jerusalem in the Last Day (cf. Zech. 14:2).
- Zech. 11 prophesied that the TRUE SHEPHERD (the Messiah) would be rejected. He would not be valued and would be rejected for 30 pieces of silver (cf. Zech. 11:12-13). Therefore, God is going to allow another WORTHLESS SHEPHERD (Antichrist) to come to the fore who will harm Israel (cf. Zech. 11:15-17). But in that bleak context, God is going to come to Israel’s rescue and bring about both physical and spiritual restoration. That is what Zechariah 12-14 is all about.

## **D. Highlights in Zechariah 12**

- Zech. 12:2 – Jerusalem will be made “a cup of drunkenness” (reeling) to all those attacking her.
- Zech. 12:3 – Jerusalem will be “a very heavy stone” and all who try to dislodge her will be hurt.

-Zech. 12:8 – The LORD Himself will defend Jerusalem and empower His people to destroy the armies of the world who are attacking.

- Zech. 12:9 – God will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

- Zech. 12:10-14 – Israel will look on Him Whom they pierced and MOURN “for Him as one mourns for his only son”. This signifies true repentance, which is necessary before Israel can be completely restored (cf. Acts 3:19-21).

- God will respond to Israel’s repentance with spiritual cleansing. And, this will usher in the Second Coming of Christ (cf. Zech. 13:1; chp. 14).
- All of history is moving towards Jerusalem. All of history is moving towards the fulfillment of Zechariah 12-14. It is moving towards Jerusalem with all the world rallied against the Jews (cf. Zech. 14:2). It is moving towards God’s supernatural intervention, resulting in both the physical as well as the spiritual restoration of Israel (cf. Joel 3:16-17; Rom. 11:26). This will be followed by the golden age of the KINGDOM! Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (cf. Ps. 122:6, Isa. 62:7).