

ZECHARIAH

DAN STOLEBARGER - HGE
KFIR WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY - SESSION 12
CHAPTER 12

TIME LINE

- I think Zechariah is looking into the timeframe of the Tribulation period. Remember last week we ended with the rise of the IDOL Shepherd.

The burden of the word of the Lord against Israel. **Thus says the Lord, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him:**

COMMENTS

... stretches out the heavens:

This is the idiom used to describe God's creative power, reminding us that He is in complete control and is able to accomplish what has been prophesied.. (Job 9:8; Psalms 104:2; Isaiah 44:24)

REMEMBER ... It's HIStory and Prophecy ... we look back and we look ahead.

²“Behold, **I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness** to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. ³And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem **a very heavy stone for all peoples;** all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

COMMENTS

God says that in a coming day Jerusalem will intoxicate and stupefy the surrounding peoples. Think about our world today ... Jordan, Russia, Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah, European Union ... and of course Trump's ultimate Peace Plan?

The Arab / Islamic people are surrounding Jerusalem today and have a passion for possessing the city.

“Consider how remarkable even this one prophecy is. Who could have imagined when the Old Testament was written that all the nations of the world would be involved in deciding the fate of Israel?

HEED - Joel 3:2 / I fear the phrase ALL peoples in vs 3

ISLAM AND JERUSALEM

1. Muslims claim Jerusalem as their **third-holiest city**, but Jerusalem is **not mentioned once in the Koran**. In addition, "During the centuries when Jerusalem was under complete Arab control, no Arab ruler or Islamic leader ever made it the object of a religious pilgrimage. (Dave Hunt).

2. Jerusalem's importance to Muslims comes from the belief that in the **Dome of the Rock shrine there is a rock where two significant things happened** – where Abraham intended to offer Isaac (Ishmael) as a sacrifice, and where Mohammed allegedly ascended into heaven.

Though this tradition is firmly in the Muslim mind, it is of recent origin. It was invented by Yasser Arafat's uncle – Haj Amin el-Husseini, who was the past Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. He promoted this myth in the 1920's and 1930's to arouse Arab passions against the growing Jewish presence in Jerusalem.

3. The verse in the Koran that describes Mohammed's trip to heaven is Surah 17:1: *Glorified be He who carried His servant by night from the Inviolable Place of Worship to the Far Distant Place [al-Aqsa] of Worship the neighbourhood whereof We have blessed, that We might show him of Our tokens!* The Islamic interpretation says that the *Inviolable Place of Worship* is Mecca, and this is accepted by all. It then says that the *Far Distant Place of Worship* is Jerusalem – but this has no substantiation because Jerusalem had never been a place of Islamic worship to that time, nor would it be for centuries afterward. Jerusalem isn't even mentioned by name in the Koran, so how could it be a place of worship according to the Koran? Most significantly, inside the Dome of the Rock hundreds of verses from the Koran are inscribed – *and Surah 17:1 is not among them!* The very passage that later supposedly justified the building of the Dome of the Rock is not even included among the hundreds of passages of the Koran inscribed in it!

4. The Dome of the Rock was built (691 AD) not because of the Koran, but because the Muslim ruler Abdal-Malik wanted to gain revenue from pilgrims and worshippers, and because he wanted to prevent the rebuilding of a Jewish Temple. Islamic passion for Jerusalem is indeed like drunkenness.

5. This is *exactly* fulfilled in modern Jerusalem. In recent peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, Israel was willing to concede almost everything to the Palestinians in an amazing willingness to make peace. **The only thing Israel would not concede was sovereignty over Jerusalem, and the entire deal was ruined over that one point. The problem between Jews and the Arab world has boiled down to one point: Jerusalem.**

6. If Muslim passion for Jerusalem is a mystery, the Jewish claim to the city is entirely Scriptural. "The very fact that Jerusalem is mentioned more than 800 times in the Bible makes it worthy of special attention. This unique city is the only one upon which God has bestowed His distinctive blessing and protection (Psalm 132:13-14), and the only city for whose peace we are commanded to pray (Psalm 122:6). God says He has chosen Jerusalem as the place where He has put His name forever (2 Chronicles 6:6; 33:7; Psalm 46:4; 48:1-8; 87:3).

The new heavens and new earth will contain 'the city of my God...new Jerusalem' (Revelation 3:12; 21:2). That there will be a 'heavenly Jerusalem' (Hebrews 12:22) but no 'heavenly' New York, Paris, London, Damascus, Cairo, etc. speaks volumes" (Dave Hunt, *The Berean Call* - September 2000).

4 In that day," says the Lord, "**I will strike every horse with confusion, and its rider with madness;** I will open My eyes on the house of Judah, and will strike every horse of the peoples with blindness.

COMMENTS

I think of the many war time miracles.

The sandstorm that revealed the minefield in the Golan

The fiery angel that Sharon saw that turned Israeli tanks North

The little David cannon

The False report that Israel was about to invade Damascus

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.'

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.

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.

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

COMMENTS

In that day God will deliver Israel not only through His direct work, but also through blessing and empowering both the **governors** and **inhabitants** of Jerusalem.

They will be supernaturally empowered by God to defend the city.

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.

COMMENTS

As Jerusalem is supernaturally defended and the Spirit is poured out on the nation, *they will turn to Jesus*, the **pierced** One. His head was **pierced** with thorns, His hands and feet were **pierced** with nails, and a spear **pierced** His side.

OH, WHAT A DAY!

1. **They will look:** They will turn away from their trust in the foolish, worthless shepherd and turn their focus on Yeshua.
2. They will look on Him **whom they pierced**. They will realize that **they** did it, and that they bear responsibility – **not sole responsibility**, but responsibility nonetheless – for the crucifixion of their Savior.
3. **They will mourn:** The Jewish people will turn to Jesus in repentance, mourning their past rejection of Him. The mourning will be deep, as if for an **only son**, the **firstborn**.
4. This will fulfill the amazing promise of **Romans 11:26 (And so Israel will be saved)** and many other passages that tell us that before the physical return of Jesus to this earth, the Jewish people – as a whole – will welcome Him as their Lord and Savior. **The whole context of Zechariah 12 puts this radical conversion in the setting of miraculous deliverance from an attack from the nations.**

They will look... they will mourn: Here we see the pattern for coming to Jesus and true repentance. *First* we look to Jesus, *then* we mourn for our sins. *Looking to Jesus must come first.*

“It is a beautiful remark of an old divine, that eyes are made for two things at least; first, to look with, and next, to weep with. The eye which looks to the pierced One is the eye which weeps for him.” (Spurgeon)

ALEF and TAV - The ALPHA & OMEGA (see Revelation 22:13)

- 9 וְהָיָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא אֶבְקַשׁ לְהַשְׁמִיד אֶת־
 And it in that day I will seek to destroy
 all the nations that come against Jerusalem and I will pour out my wrath against them and I will be a father to the fatherless and a husband to the widow
- 10 כָּל־הַגּוֹיִם הַבָּאִים עַל־יְרוּשָׁלַם׃ וְשָׁפַכְתִּי עַל־בֵּית־
 the on will I And Jerusalem against that the all
 of house out pour come nations
 David and in the Jerusalem the grace and they And on
 Me look shall prayers of Spirit of habitants on
 אֶת־אֲשֶׁר־דָּקְרוּ וְסָפְרוּ עָלָיו בַּמִּסְפָּר עַל־הַחַד הַזֶּה
 whom they have and they for as one for an only and will
 pierced shall mourn Him mourns as one for an only and will
 עָלָיו כְּדֹמֶר עַל־דִּבְכּוֹ׃
 over Him like the over the firstborn
 bitterness Him

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

COMMENTS

A great mourning in Jerusalem: The repentance that comes to Israel in that day will be like a **great mourning**, the ultimate fulfillment of the Day of Atonement, the day of national mourning over their greatest sin – rejecting Jesus.

Like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon: This refers to the mourning over King Josiah's death (2 Kings 23:29 and 2 Chronicles 35:20-25). He was such a godly king that the whole nation wept bitterly at his death.

¹²And 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; ¹³the family of the **house of Levi** by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves; ¹⁴all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.

COMMENTS

Note: Prophets, Priests and Kings

“We know of a surety, because God has said it, that the Jews will be restored to their own land, and that they shall inherit the goodly country which the Lord has given unto their fathers by a covenant of salt for ever; **but, better still, they shall be converted to the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, and shall see in him the house of David restored to the throne of Israel.**” (Spurgeon)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share your thoughts and reflections on verse 1
2. Tensions are mounting in the Middle East - what's your take? What will be the straw that will break the camels back?
3. Who killed Jesus?



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