



**Sermon Series:** Unquenchable Hope Part 13

**Sermon Title:** Unstoppable

**Speaker/ Date:** Scott McCrea, July 26, 2020

## Zechariah 12

Zechariah 12 God reveals the future and shows that the world - IN ITS CURRENT STATE- will end exactly as God has planned. In this case, He reveals His plans for Israel to survive and be His covenant people.

God made a promise to Israel that they would occupy their land forever.

**Big Idea: NOTHING CAN STOP GOD'S PLANS**

And in Zechariah 12 we're going to see this displayed in two ways.

God clearly states that He created the universe, the world, and mankind, therefore, He is the only one with the right to bring these things to a conclusion. **Zechariah 12:1**

Throughout Zechariah 12 you'll see phrase "ON THAT DAY". "That day" refers to the Day of the Lord, which is not a single 24 hour day, but rather, its a period of time when the Jesus establishes his reign, and He judges the world. The Day Of The Lord will result in a massive world changing battle for mankind ARMAGEDDON. In it, all the nations of the world together to try and destroy Israel. A nation that is just slightly larger in land size than New Jersey.

Israel will suffer great loss. But they will be victorious because God intervenes.

## THE WORLD CAN NOT STOP GOD'S PLANS

### Zechariah 12:1-9

God uses the analogy of a cup and a stone to describe Jerusalem. The cup spoken of here is a flat basin that a lot of people can drink from all at the same time. Reeling here describes a person who is intoxicated, staggering, unable to think clearly. Meaning that the surrounding world is going to be so focused on Jerusalem that it is going to AFFECT THEIR JUDGMENT to the point that they'll lose the battle. This is saying that those who attack Israel will grievously injure themselves, dislocate, rupture, and tear their bodies the same way a person who tries to lift heavy stone will injure himself or herself. **Zechariah 12:1-3**

God is actively involved, and in control of this situation. **Zechariah 12:4-5**

This battle starts 56 miles north of Jerusalem in the valley of Megiddo. It travels to Jerusalem and has to go through little towns, villages along the way. God describes Judah as a firepot, which is a large bucket with hot coals in it for the purpose of starting fires. The armies of the world will work their way through the countryside, and the Israelites in the surrounding areas will be miraculously empowered by God to stop and destroy the invading armies just as a fire consumes dry wood. **Zech 12:6**

In Jerusalem, there will be **HAND TO HAND** combat. God will give the feeblest among the Israelites the ability to fight like David. God steps in to destroy the nations that attack Jerusalem. **Zech 12:7-9**

At this point Israel is finally brought to the realization that Jesus is the Messiah! He wins the hearts and minds of the Jewish people.

### **GOD'S PLANS DO NOT EXPIRE**

God made that promise to Abraham and his descendants thousands of years ago, and it has not changed throughout time, despite Israel's continual rejection of God and the consequences of that decision.

**Genesis 13:14-15**

Their acknowledgement of Jesus as Messiah will no doubt be a deeply emotional realization for the Jewish people. They will be filled with the utmost gratitude for their salvation, but also grief and mourning. When they look at Him, they will realize their guilt in rejecting him and their need for his forgiveness. **Zechariah 12:10,14**

There will be a **COMPLETE AND UNIFIED** repentance on the part of the Israelites at Christ's second coming. **ALL OF ISRAEL** will accept His plans for their salvation, the long awaited promise has been fulfilled and they will say "the Lord is my God".

### Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **The Bible is full of prophecies that, as time has unfolded, have come true. Are there any that come to mind for you? Or, feel free to check online for examples that are really cool. (Example: In Ezekiel, a prophecy is given that a place called Tyre will be reduced to being just a small area of rocks where fishermen spread out their nets, and it is still like that!)**
- **Think about God's plans for the Israelites – in what ways in history can you think of that mankind has come against God's plans for His people? What has proven that God's plans for His people cannot be stopped?**
- **Have you ever experienced the power of God to accomplish His plans for your life? In what ways?**
- **Describe a time in your life when it felt to you as if God's plans were going to expire before coming to pass. Perhaps you are in that situation now – what kinds of reminders can you hold onto while you wait?**
- **How can you use examples from the Bible and from your own life to be an encouragement to others as they wait for God's unstoppable plans to unfold?**