

# Zechariah 12,13

5-8-03

## “Fire & Water!”

### 1. Intro:

- 1.1. After the **8 visions**(ch.1-6); the **4 Revelations**(ch.7,8) the book winds down w/**2 Prophecies**(see burdens/oracles).
  - 1.1.1. **Ch.9-11** – The Messiahs **1<sup>st</sup> Advent**.
  - 1.1.2. **Ch.12-14** – The Messiahs **2<sup>nd</sup> Advent**.
  - 1.1.3. **Burden** – Oracle, “what is lifted up”(by the voice).
- 1.2. **Title** – Fire & Water!
  - 1.2.1. Ch.12 deals with the **Fire of Judgment**;  
Ch.13 deals with the **Water of cleansing**.
- 1.3. Zechariah now describes the end of tribulation & the beg. of the Mill.

### 2. FIRE OF JUDGMENT! (ch.12)

- 2.1. **HIS BELOVED CITY!** (1-9)
- 2.2. (1) We love the phrase, “**more than conquerors**”. (see Rom.8:37, then 36)
  - 2.2.1. Usually society sees us as “**losers**”, not “**conquerors**”!
  - 2.2.2. Same w/Israel here. “They were just getting off the mat after a knockdown, but are depicted by a panorama of pictures of power!”<sup>1</sup>
- 2.3. (2) **Jerusalem** – will be the center of world attention!
  - 2.3.1. Jerusalem is mentioned **52** x’s in this book; **22** x’s in the last 3 ch.s!
- 2.4. (3) “**in that day**” – 20 x’s in the last 3 chapters.
  - 2.4.1. Referring to the day of the Lord. When the Lord has His heyday. When wrongs are righted!
  - 2.4.2. The time towards which all of creation unavoidably moves!
    - 2.4.2.1. Yet as it says from the beginning it is **rooted in God!!!**
  - 2.4.3. All gathered against Jerusalem – **When is this?**
    - 2.4.3.1. This is none other than **Armageddon!** Where: **[1] The Nations** agree to cooperate in their fight against God & His people(Ps.2) **[2] Satan** uses his powers to influence the nations to gather(Rev.16:13-15) **[3]** And, **the Lord** exercises his sovereign powers in gathering them.

<sup>1</sup> Jim Townsend; The Minor Prophets; pg92

## 2.5. 5 Pictures are painted here!

### 2.5.1. [1] A Cup! (2)

2.5.1.1. The picture is that of **people** boldly coming straight up to a **bar to drink**; **but then** end up staggering/reeling/swaggering away.

### 2.5.2. [2] A Big Boulder! (3)

2.5.2.1. Before bar bells, weight machines, & pulling buses, **weightlifters** would compete by lifting heavy stones.

2.5.2.2. They would often try hoist a large boulder over their head, but instead, getting it to shoulder height often they'd run short of muscle power.

2.5.2.3. Or the picture of the **farmer** clearing his fields of boulder s & throwing his back out because of it.

### 2.5.3. [3] Puzzled Ponies! (4,5)

2.5.3.1. You've heard of 3 blind mice? Blind horses!

2.5.3.2. Panic hits horse & horseman. **Result: Chaos.**

### 2.5.4. [4] A Firepan! (6)

2.5.4.1. **Firepan in the woodpile** – a pan for holding or carrying fire.

2.5.4.2. **Torch in the sheaves.** Either would ignite quickly.

2.5.4.2.1. Another would be smoking inside a fireworks booth.

2.5.4.3. They would consume their enemies quickly.

### 2.5.5. [5] A Giant Killer! (7-9)

2.5.5.1. Imagine a whole bunch of giant killers!

2.5.5.2. From Wimps to Warriors!

2.6. So, do you see yourself as “**more than conquerors?**” Or “**less than losers?**”

2.6.1. Rom.8:36-39 "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- 2.7. **PERCEIVING THE PIERCED PRINCE!** (10-14)
- 2.8. (10) In the future day, Israel will see the pierced Messiah return from heaven.
- 2.8.1. It will be the same Messiah they rejected long ago, bearing the selfsame wounds they inflicted then.
- 2.8.2. **The Spirit of Grace** – The **outpoured Spirit** would “sensitize” the inhabitants of Jerusalem to the One they pierced.
- 2.8.2.1. Acts 2(Pentecost) was of course the 1<sup>st</sup> installment!
- 2.8.3. Is.53:5[NIV] “But he was **pierced** for our transgressions, he was **crushed** for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”
- 2.8.4. Rev.1:7 “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who **pierced** Him.”
- 2.8.5. **Poem** – C.E.Peglar  
 His brow is marred & on His side  
 Wence flowed the cleansing, crimson tide  
 The Marks of love are found.  
 In every wound I read the guilt  
 And thank Him that His blood was spilt  
 To bring this sinner nigh.
- 2.8.6. So, the One whom they **Rejected**(12:10a), they will **Receive**(13:1), by **Repenting**(12:10b-14), & thus **Receiving** forgiveness & cleansing!
- 2.9. (11-14) **See** 2 Chron.35:20-25.
- 2.10. Like God’s people Israel, we experience many trials & testings; **but** the Lord will see us through & share His kingdom & glory w/us...
- 2.10.1. Paul & Barnabus went around “**strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."** Acts 14:22

### 3. **WATER OF CLEANSING!** (13:1-6)

- 3.1. **A FOUNTAIN!** (1-6)
- 3.2. (1) There was a man in England in the early 1700’s. His **mom died** when he was only 6, he said everyday he mourned his mothers death. He studied Law, when it came for his final before the bar it frightened him so bad it caused him **mental breakdown** & he even **attempted suicide**.

Later he was placed in an **insane asylum** for 18 months. 1 day while detained he read in **Rom.3:25** (regarding Jesus Christ)“set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;” Through reading he realized a personal relationship w/Christ& a sense of forgiveness of sin at age 33. Soon after his conversion he experienced mental recovery.

- 3.2.1. He went on to write hymns & teamed up w/John Newton(the former slave trader, who wrote Amazing Grace) His name **William Cowper**(*Kooper*). One of the hymns was taken from 13:1...**can you guess the title?** “There is a Fountain”!
  - 3.2.2. Cowper always struggled on whether God would ever turn his back on him. On his death bed, however, it is said that his face lit up as he uttered these last words, “I am not shut out of heaven after all!”
- 3.3. Unlike **Pontius Pilate** who tried himself to wash away **the stain of guilt & sin**, only to find that when he dried them off...**the stain remained!**
- 3.3.1. Most humans sense the need for cleansing...**finding** the water that will truly cleanse; now that is **the more difficult task!**
  - 3.3.2. Some try the water of **Religion**; others bathe in the waters of **self-abasement**; other still the waters of **worldly sorrow**.
  - 3.3.3. **Q:** What water of cleansing did you 1<sup>st</sup> try before you found the true fountain?
- 3.4. (2,3) **False prophet clean up committee!**
- 3.5. (4,5) This is called “ **The false prophet back peddle!**”
- 3.5.1. They try to disavow all association w/their prophetic trade.
  - 3.5.2. I didn't share that vision(4a).
  - 3.5.3. They quickly change clothes to avoid detection(4b)
  - 3.5.4. A prophet? no way! - We've been farming in my family since my pappy's pappy day(5).
  - 3.5.5. These wounds on my back? Parental discipline when I was younger of course(not self-inflicted, no way)
- 3.6. (6) I always thought these were Messianic, but this runs cross grains w/the context.
- 3.6.1. 1 of the hallmark of false prophets of that time was self-inflicted wounds from pagan frenzy on their bodies.
  - 3.6.2. Like, in **1 Kings 18:28** in the competition of Elijah & the 450 prophets of Baal it said, “**So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them.**”

- 3.6.3. Deut 14:1 prohibited this, “You are the children of the LORD your God; **you shall not cut yourselves** nor shave the front of your head for the dead.”
- 3.7. **A SHEPHERD!** (7-9)
- 3.8. To save the flock the Shepherd had to be smitten!
- 3.8.1. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep." Jn.10:11
- 3.8.2. Ch.11:12 talked about a Shepherd sold for silver. Now we have a Shepherd being struck by a sword.
- 3.8.3. This was fulfilled in Mark 14:27 “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered.’”
- 3.8.4. Of course taking place in the garden of Gethsemane.
- 3.9. (8,9) 2/3 & 1/3? – Possible statistics of death in the tribulation.
- 3.10. (9a) **Remnant!** – He always leaves a remnant.
- 3.11. (9b) **Refinement!**
- 3.11.1. “Do not wish to be deprived of trials, if they are the necessary attendants of spiritual advancement!”
- 3.11.2. (Spurg) In the ancient times, a **box on the ear** given by a master to a slave meant liberty--little would the freedman care how hard he was struck, when the blow meant release. **By a stroke from the sword** the warrior was knighted by his monarch--it was a small matter to the new knight if the royal hand was heavy. When the Lord intends to lift his servants into a higher stage of spiritual life, he frequently sends them a severe trial; he makes his Jacobs to be prevailing princes, but he confers the honor after a night of wrestling, and accompanies it with a shrunken sinew[sin-yu] in the thigh. So we should not wish to be deprived of trials if they are the necessary attendants of spiritual advancement.
- 3.11.3. Amy Carmichael warned - The tests are always **unexpected things**, not great things that can be written up, but the common little rubs of life, silly little nothings, things you are ashamed of minding [at all].
- 3.11.4. Lear a lesson from the little Rubber band!  
A rubber band is made to stretch. When it is not being stretched, it is not doing what it was made to do.  
When it stretches, it is enlarged and it does what it was made to do.  
**God created you to stretch!**
- 3.11.5. “But He knows the way that I take; When He has **tested** me, I shall come forth as **gold.**” Job 23:10