



**The Future Attack on Jerusalem
God Protects His People
Zechariah 12**

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As believers, we stand in awe as we watch the events take place in the world today. We stand in awe over seeing multiple prophecies made by Jesus and the prophets about Israel and the end times all in the process of being fulfilled. The convergence of prophecy in the process of being fulfilled is simply breath taking.

Many are in fear of what comes next. We have war in Ukraine, war in the Middle East. Sabre rattling by Russia, Turkey, Iran, China, and others. I have been asked more than once in the past week, are we going to war. Jesus spoke of these days.

Luke 21:25–28

“There will be strange things happening to the sun, the moon, and the stars. On earth whole countries will be in despair, afraid of the roar of the sea and the raging tides. People will faint from fear as they wait for what is coming over the whole earth, for the powers in space will be driven from their courses. Then the



Son of Man will appear, coming in a cloud with great power and glory. **When these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your salvation is near.**" (GNB)

The coming of Jesus Christ for His church is close, incredibly close. This makes us sit up and take note and we look up, because He will soon be there.

These things are indeed beginning to happen. We already see Zechariah 12:2 in the process of being fulfilled. And we know that as time goes forward, the focus of major world capitals globally will be on Israel.

Here in Zechariah, we are covering those prophecies related to the soon second coming of Jesus Christ in power as well as the overall conditions taking place during the final conflict centered on Jerusalem at the end of the Tribulation.

The second coming of Jesus Christ is not the rapture of the church. They are two separate events.

Many get confused over the terms:

- Harpazo (rapture) of the church – no notice, at anytime. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)
- Second coming of Jesus Christ – at the very end of the tribulation. (Revelation 19:11-16, Zechariah 14:3-4)
- The Day of the Lord – post rapture start date (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

Last time we took a look at the potential battlefield that will be there.

Zechariah 12:1-5

"The pronouncement of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: The LORD who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of a person within him, declares: "Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes staggering to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah. It will come about on that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will injure themselves severely. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it. On that day," declares the LORD, "I will strike every horse with confusion and its rider with insanity. But I will watch over the house of Judah, while I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. Then the clans of Judah will say in their hearts, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem are a strong support for us through the LORD of armies, their God.'" (NASB 2020)

We discussed last time the descriptions given by Zechariah and then overlaid them with modern military technology as well as that technology which is currently under development or recently deployed. And we only discussed those things which are not classified, but available for any to see.

I did have some ask questions as to what we discussed last week. It is simply looking at what the scripture says and looking at current technology. If the Lord tarries, then other potential weapon systems may be involved.

Plus, we have no idea what unrestricted demonic empowered warfare truly looks like.

One of my jobs in the military was aggregating information from various sources in order to discern what steps were needed to protect an Air Base from external threat. To do this you have to look at the macro view as well as the micro view of those events taking place globally as well as locally. We called it, looking through the tea leaves. We did this in order to come up with an intelligent guess of what a terrorist group or foreign power might be planning and what we could do right now to counter that.



I say that so you can determine for yourself what is going on geopolitically around us.

Jesus is coming back for His church at any second. We know that to be a fact.

1 Corinthians 15:51–53.

“Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.” (ESV)

1 Thessalonians 4:16–18

“For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.” (ESV)

How ready are we for Him to take us away? Are we being busy about what it is He has called us to do? Are we simply being faithful? That really is what He desires of us. To be watching, but to also be faithful.

Luke 12:37–38

“How happy are those servants whose master finds them awake and ready when he returns! I tell you, he will take off his coat, ask them to sit down, and will wait on them. How happy they are if he finds them ready, even if he should come at midnight or even later!” (GNB)

When we hear Him call for us, it shouldn't be a surprise to us, we know. I want Him to find me being faithful when He calls. That means, for all of us, making choices as to what to spend our time on. Are we simply being faithful and occupying until He comes? In other words, doing life and serving Him in all we do.

Once He comes, everything changes globally. The restrainer, the Holy Spirit evident in all believers, is removed (2 Thessalonians 2:7-8) and that changes everything. Throw all your current geopolitics out the door as the world picture suddenly changes when millions go missing.

The events we are examining here in Zechariah all take place after that. Once the removal of the church takes place, the Day of the Lord begins. Once thing we need to also remember, the rapture does not mean the Tribulation begins immediately afterwards.

It could be weeks or even years before a treaty is signed.

We know, thanks to the book of Revelation, that some of the seal judgments may predate the signing of a specific protection and aid peace treaty involving Israel. Persecution worldwide against those who come to Christ after the rapture (Revelation 6:9-11), thanks to the ministry of 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Revelation 7:4-8) is seen as global (Revelation 7:9-17). And it only gets worse as the Tribulation progresses, especially after the mid-point when Satan and his angels are cast down to earth by Michael the archangel (Revelation 12:7-9).

The event marking the beginning of the Tribulation is the signing of a seven-year peace deal between Israel and a world leader who will later personally be empowered by Satan, known as the Beast. But at the beginning he will look like a messiah in the eyes of Israel and that will be the shepherd they will chose to follow, just as Zechariah prophesied earlier in Zechariah 11.



The nation will discover this individual does not have their best interests in mind when, at the 3 ½ year point, he/it enters the Temple, and declares he/it is now god and must be worshipped setting up an image there.

They will then realize that they have accepted the worthless shepherd of Zechariah 11.

That image set up in the Temple is either a cybernetic entity that is self-aware thanks to the use of AI and quantum computers, or holographic. At the very least this entity is aware of events taking place at all other locations where it is also running and can use the technology available to the Beast in those days.

These are the days being spoken of here in Zechariah. As the people of Israel head for the hills, the ministry of two prophets begins at the same location that was just violated by the Beast, the Temple. These two cause major headaches for the beast, actually the entire planet, up to the beginning of the final battle.

Revelation 11:3–6

“And I will grant my two witnesses authority to prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth.” (These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.) If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouths and completely consumes their enemies. If anyone wants to harm them, they must be killed this way. These two have the power to close up the sky so that it does not rain during the time they are prophesying. They have power to turn the waters to blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague whenever they want.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Revelation 11:7–8

“When they have completed their testimony, the beast that comes up from the abyss will make war on them and conquer them and kill them. Their corpses will lie in the street of the great city that is symbolically called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was also crucified.” (NET 2nd ed.)

In other words, Jerusalem, most likely just adjacent to the rebuilt Temple. The world of the Beast will celebrate their deaths and their bodies will be left for all to see live on camera.

Revelation 11:11–13

“But after three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and tremendous fear seized those who were watching them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them: “Come up here!” So the two prophets went up to heaven in a cloud while their enemies stared at them. Just then a major earthquake took place and a tenth of the city collapsed; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.” (NET 2nd ed.)

The rest of who? The rest of the Jews still living in Jerusalem and those in hiding.

Meanwhile, all the armies of the world begin to arrive in the land. For 3 ½ years the Lord has protected those of His people who headed south to that place He had for them. He has protected them supernaturally the entire time even using the planet as a weapon to do so. They have just witnessed the death and resurrection of the two witnesses followed by the massive earthquake taking place. They are also part of that group giving glory to God.

Jerusalem has become a stone, heavy stone to all the nations now coming against her and those who either have infiltrated back into Jerusalem, or were still there the whole time, begin to stand up against the enemy.



The clan of Judah, the leadership that is in exile after fleeing with the others at the midpoint of the Tribulation, see what is going on as the Beast's forces show up. As they do so, YAHWEH is described "using his traditional war name associated with Jerusalem, Yahweh of hosts, not surprising in a passage focused on Yahweh's defense of Jerusalem as Divine Warrior. Yahweh is also described as their God, a phrase reminiscent of the covenant formulary tradition in the OT, where Yahweh is identified as God and Israel as people." (Boda 2016, 705)

The people of Jerusalem are a strong support for us through the Lord of armies. They are supernaturally empowered to begin the defense of the land from this final assault as the Beast begins the siege to element God's people from the planet.

Remember, millions took refuge in the south, many from the area around Jerusalem, the clans of Judah. We have heard what they are now saying about those still in Jerusalem. What about the clans?

Zechariah 12:6–9

"On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot among pieces of wood and a flaming torch among sheaves, so they will consume on the right and on the left all the surrounding peoples, while the inhabitants of Jerusalem again live on their own sites in Jerusalem. The LORD also will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem will not be greater than Judah. On that day the LORD will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them on that day will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the angel of the LORD before them. And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem." (NASB 2020)

Possibly, while the Two Prophets caused mayhem for the Beast, Jews begin to pour from the countryside into Jerusalem. There is still a significant Jewish population in Jerusalem, even after 3 ½ years of being hunted. What we see happen here is that Jerusalem becomes a refuge for God's people on the earth.

This also coincides timing wise, with the call for His people to leave Babylon and could be some of them as well. "Then I heard another voice from heaven, saying: "Come out, my people! Come out from her! You must not take part in her sins; you must not share in her punishment!" (Revelation 18:4, GNB)

As those refugees arrive in Jerusalem, we read the comments that the leadership down south says about Jerusalem. Those who have been in hiding realize the strong statement Jerusalem is saying about YAHWEH and they demonstrate solidarity with that faith. Repentance is coming near.

At this point we have a large number of Jews in the southwest of Jordan south of the Dead Sea, and then we have those in Jerusalem watching the mechanized armies of the beast dealing with a loss of C3 on the battlefield. As that happens, they feel secure that it is time to attack and they do so as YAHWEH makes them secure, like a firepot on the fire that is not consumed as the wood would be. In fact, they are the fire, they are the ones who now are empowered by YAHWEH and begin to move out, preparatory to the call for and soon arrival of Jesus Christ and the Armies of Heaven.

Isaiah tells us the location that Jesus goes to when He first arrives back, at the call of His people, it is the same area they have been kept by Him supernaturally for the past 3 ½ years and it the location they are moving out from in force.

Zechariah 12:6b–7

"...so they will consume on the right and on the left all the surrounding peoples, while the inhabitants of Jerusalem again live on their own sites in Jerusalem. The LORD also will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem will not be greater than Judah." (NASB 2020)



They see, based on what is happening in Jerusalem, that God is with them, and they fearlessly move out of their protected area to attack the forces of the Beast in the south knowing that YAHWEH is with them. Let me ask this question, how would you or I act if had the complete confidence, we knew, no doubt, no worry, that God is with us in what it is we are doing right now? Would it make a difference from the way we are acting right now?

But here is the thing, He is with us. Right now. In whatever you are in, He knows, and He is there to help you out, through or in it.

But my sin got me into this predicament? No, problem, exercise 1 John 1:9, repent, reestablish those lines of communication and ask for the wisdom to get out.

Romans 8:28

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” (NRSVue)

Our sin caused the problem, but as we repent and allow Him to provide the wisdom and we return to Him, He uses that as a teaching moment for us to keep us from going back to that pit again.

But that isn't my problem. I stepped out in faith and I'm out here pretty much on my own. I'm under attack, and those who I thought would come alongside, refuse to do so.

Romans 8:31–39

“What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NRSVue)

Here is the thing Christian, we tend to measure success like the world. Performance by positive metrics, website hits, likes on Facebook, attendance or giving received.

I remember teaching a 5th grade Sunday School class while in Bible School. On a good day, the class had 5 in it, and for the most part, they were not interested in even being there. I felt like a huge failure because no one came. I prayed about that frustration and the Lord showed me I simply needed to be faithful to what He was having me do. That is a tough lesson to swallow since we look at success based on numbers.

But once again, His measurement standards are very different than ours or ones the world would impose. He simply wants us to be faithful.

What we are seeing here in Zechariah is the end of division, once and for all in the Jewish nation. One reason why Hamas thought they could attack Israel recently is they thought that the political infighting would prevent a response. They were wrong. But infighting appears to still be a thing in the Tribulation until unity truly takes place once and for all as the nation finds solidarity in YAHWEH.



Hosea 5:15–6:2

“Then I will return to my place until they admit their guilt and turn to me. For as soon as trouble comes, they will earnestly search for me.” “Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces; now he will heal us. He has injured us; now he will bandage our wounds. In just a short time he will restore us, so that we may live in his presence.” (NLT)

That time has arrived and that is part of what Zechariah is now describing. As His people move out from where they have been protected, they do so after asking for Messiah to come and help them. We have yet to arrive at the point where Zechariah talks about that taking place.

There is a reason why the Lord has referred to Himself in terms reminiscent of Holy War. How, as the confusion begins to hit the battlefield thanks to the work of the Lord and the empowering of those in Jerusalem, His people in hiding decide to attack. They are now all one because of YAHWEH. They have been protected by Him and they are now convinced He is with them as in days of old. He is about to show up in power in the person of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah provides a bit more for us of what is taking place outside of Jerusalem as the Lord saves the tents of Judah first.

Isaiah 34:1–8

“Come here and listen, O nations of the earth. Let the world and everything in it hear my words. For the LORD is enraged against the nations. His fury is against all their armies. He will completely destroy them, dooming them to slaughter. Their dead will be left unburied, and the stench of rotting bodies will fill the land. The mountains will flow with their blood. The heavens above will melt away and disappear like a rolled-up scroll. The stars will fall from the sky like withered leaves from a grapevine, or shriveled figs from a fig tree. And when my sword has finished its work in the heavens, it will fall upon Edom, the nation I have marked for destruction. The sword of the LORD is drenched with blood and covered with fat— with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of rams prepared for sacrifice. Yes, the LORD will offer a sacrifice in the city of Bozrah. He will make a mighty slaughter in Edom. Even men as strong as wild oxen will die— the young men alongside the veterans. The land will be soaked with blood and the soil enriched with fat. For it is the day of the LORD’s revenge, the year when Edom will be paid back for all it did to Israel.” (NLT)

First the Lord deals with the spiritual realm as we read about in Revelation 12.

This warfare continues as Jesus and the armies of heaven hit the atmosphere of earth, that location Satan and his followers have been limited to. The stars falling are the fallen ones being cast down. Here in Isaiah, we read of the combat operations against the unseen realm. God is judging the nations of the world in Zechariah, but He is also judging those who have been misleading the world for thousands of years.

What is being implied here? The promise of Psalms 82 is now being fulfilled. All the false gods, who were told they would be destroyed, are being destroyed. The picture is that of a leaf withering and then becoming separated from what it had been relying on for sustenance. The false gods are being judged as are all of those who have followed them.

We see that after Satan and his minions are cast out of heaven and limited to earth, they will be pursued by the Lord here as well. There is no escape, no refuge, no place to regroup. His sword will descend on those earth dwellers, epitomized by the imagery of Edom, the enemies of Israel, being the target. The deliverance of the tents of Judah first being the goal.



The armies of the Beast, in their search for the remaining Jews, will be involved in operations stretching from Jerusalem down into Jordan in and around the area of Bozrah. As we see in Isaiah 63, this is an area of major operations for Jesus as well when He comes to rescue His people when they, as one, seek Him as Messiah (Zechariah 13:9) and ask Him to save them. Later, this area becomes a major burial ground for the armies of the beast.

The view in Isaiah 63 is one as Jesus heads north with the Armies of Heaven and Israel who have already been engaged to the south.

Isaiah 63:1–6

“Who is this who comes from Edom, from the city of Bozrah, with his clothing stained red? Who is this in royal robes, marching in his great strength? “It is I, the LORD, announcing your salvation! It is I, the LORD, who has the power to save!” Why are your clothes so red, as if you have been treading out grapes? “I have been treading the winepress alone; no one was there to help me. In my anger I have trampled my enemies as if they were grapes. In my fury I have trampled my foes. Their blood has stained my clothes. For the time has come for me to avenge my people, to ransom them from their oppressors. I was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed. So I myself stepped in to save them with my strong arm, and my wrath sustained me. I crushed the nations in my anger and made them stagger and fall to the ground, spilling their blood upon the earth.”” (NLT)

When Jesus Christ returns, He is returning in His role as the goel. He is our kinsman redeemer. “The goel—sometimes translated kinsman-redeemer, here simply as Redeemer—had a specifically defined role in Israel’s family life. The kinsman-redeemer was responsible to buy a fellow Israelite out of slavery (Leviticus 25:48). He was responsible to be the “avenger of blood” to make sure the murderer of a family member answered to the crime (Numbers 35:19). He was responsible to buy back family land that had been forfeited (Leviticus 25:25). And he was responsible to carry on the family name by marrying a childless widow (Deuteronomy 25:5–10). In these, we see that the goel, the kinsman-redeemer, was responsible to safeguard the persons, the property, and the posterity of the family. (Guzik 2000, Is 59:20-21)

When Jesus returns, He is doing so as the avenger of blood. “The avenger of blood himself must kill the murderer; when he meets him, he must kill him.” (Numbers 35:19, NET)

When Jesus returns the second time, that is His first role. Part of that is empowering His people.

Zechariah 12:8–9

“On that day the LORD will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them on that day will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the angel of the LORD before them. And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.” (NASB 2020)

As Jesus and the Armies of Heaven approach Jerusalem along with the Army of Israel in tow, we see that the Lord will empower everyone in Jerusalem, the feeble will be like David, and those living there of the house of David, like the angel of the Lord.

The people of Israel are given supernatural power to achieve what it is the Lord wants them to do. To destroy all the nations that have come against Jerusalem.

The nations of the world are learning that they are indeed injuring themselves by coming against Jerusalem.

How did the nation get to this point. What took place to make them conclude it was time to move to Jerusalem and what has happened in Jerusalem to so empower the people there?



The people of Israel, those in the wilderness now traveling with Messiah and those in Jerusalem have seen something about the one who has come to rescue them. In it they are reminded of the one who dealt with the Egyptians in the past by seeing Him in the present.

They have repented. What took place is about to be described for us.

The situation is dark, the armies of the world are round about the land, and it is desperate. They need deliverance, just as in the past.

As God pours His Holy Spirit upon them, they realize their desperate need and repent.

Zechariah 12:10

“And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of pleading, so that they will look at Me whom they pierced; and they will mourn for Him, like one mourning for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.” (NASB 2020)

Just as the destroyer passed through Egypt on Passover killing the first born of those who were not under the blood, He will show up again as the Messiah when the nation needs Him.

He showed up as the captain of the army of the Lord for Joshua as the people began the process of kicking the usurper out of the land. Now, as the final battle is about to take place to finally and completely remove the usurper from the planet, it makes sense for that same one to show up bodily again. He gave them a preview of this day earlier with what He did to the Assyrian military (Isaiah 37:36) when they came against Jerusalem, now the visible YAHWEH, Jesus Christ, will do the same to the nations which are attacking Israel and Jerusalem. And as the nation sees Him, they realize what it is they did 2000 years earlier.

Repentance isn't something we work up ourselves; it's a gift from God as we hear His Word and recognize His grace (Acts 5:31; 11:18; 2 Tim. 2:25). God will pour out the Spirit upon Israel (Joel 2:28–29), and the people will realize their sins and call out to God for forgiveness. They will also see their Messiah whom the nation pierced (Ps. 22:16; Isa. 53:5; John 19:34, 37) and will put their faith in Him. (Wiersbe 1997, 146-147)

As they look on Him whom their ancestors rejected, the Good Shepherd, 2000 years before, the Holy Spirit does a work and they see Isaiah 53 right before them.

Isaiah 53:4–6

“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (ESV)

When that moment arrives, and the Holy Spirit is poured out on His people, they realize He is giving them grace, and they are now seeing Him for who He is. The two groups. The house of David and the people of Jerusalem, those who are with Him as they move towards Jerusalem as well as those already there, now know who He truly is.

The Holy Spirit is poured on them, and they get it.

Looking upon Yahweh reveals the one whom they stabbed (dāqar), a verb used elsewhere in the OT to refer to the violent action of stabbing someone with a spear (Num. 25:8) or sword (Judg. 9:54; 1 Sam.



31:4//1 Chr. 10:4; cf. Niphah in Isa. 13:15), which causes death. This prompts mourning (sāpaq), a term which is used only negatively for mourning over great loss, especially over the loss of a life. (Boda 2016, 715)

There is a realization they are dealing with the salvation of YAHWEH as provided for them through the return of the Messiah, Jesus Christ with all of the heavenly armies with Him. This is why they have repented and what they have asked for. This results in mourning and repentance even as they prepare for further combat operations.

It was YAHWEH who has provided the Holy Spirit, He is the one who has come to their rescue.

It is YAHWEH who is speaking here in verse 10. “The unusual combination “they will look at Me whom they pierced” and “they will mourn for Him” suggests two different individuals, but the deity of the Messiah solves this problem.” (Constable 2003, Zec 12:10)

When the people realize just who He is, it hits them, hard. “They will mourn over the fact that Israel rejected His messiahship at His First Coming, but they will also mourn that He might come back. Indeed, in this case, He will come back.” (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 9)

Zechariah 12:11–14

“On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be great, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The land will 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; the family of the house of Levi by itself and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself and their wives by themselves; all the families that are left, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.” (NASB 2020)

The day that they realize that this Messiah who has come to rescue them is Jesus results in mourning.

They realize that what has taken place in the life of the nation for over 2000 years is the direct result of the rejection of the Good Shepherd when He was here the first time. They know they believed a lie by accepting the peace deal with the Beast, and now they realize the folly of that decision. Mourning for the entirety of the nation is the result. The mourning will be the same as for an only child or of a first-born son. Here it is compared to the mourning that took place as Jerusalem found out about the death of King Josiah.

Josiah was the last good king over Judah. He became King when still a child and had a soft heart. When he heard the Torah read for the very first time, he repented in sackcloth and ashes and revival broke out.

It was a top-down revival with many of the people not really participating since they had been serious idol worshippers for almost two generations by the time revival took place. During the period of the revival, Daniel and his friends were born as was Ezekiel. But the nation was already doomed because of their sin.

King Josiah was killed by Pharaoh Neco II at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The result was mourning throughout the nation.

2 Chronicles 35:24–26

“So they lifted Josiah out of his chariot and placed him in another chariot. Then they brought him back to Jerusalem, where he died. He was buried there in the royal cemetery. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for him. The prophet Jeremiah composed funeral songs for Josiah, and to this day choirs still sing these sad songs about his death. These songs of sorrow have become a tradition and are recorded



in The Book of Laments. The rest of the events of Josiah's reign and his acts of devotion (carried out according to what was written in the Law of the LORD)," (NLT)

Not only did his death result in mourning, but it was also a catastrophe for Judah. They effectively lost control of the nation with first the Egyptians asserting control closely followed by Babylon. There were two separate deportations of people from Judah prior to the final destruction of the city and the Temple and the final exile of the nation.

We see three groups mourning as repentance takes place and Messiah returns. From the royal house of David and his son Nathan who saw no kings from the line, but it was from his lineage that Messiah comes.

The next group mourning are the Levites, all of them even to the least, the Shimeites.

The final group is all the families of Israel, mourning, as per custom, with the sexes separated.

Here in chapter 12, we have seen the nation and the city surrounded, and His people being supernaturally empowered and protected. We have also seen the lead up to all of this, the repentance of the nation and the mourning that will take place prior to Messiah appearing with His armies. This mourning for the Messiah to return will be a result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the entire nation. This outpouring of the spirit of grace leads to salvation; the outpouring of supplication will move them to plead for the Messiah's return. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 8)

Coming up, we are still in that day, Armageddon at the end of the Tribulation, and we will begin with the spiritual cleansing of Jerusalem.

The events taking place worldwide, for those who are not saved, can be a bit scary. But for those of us who know the Lord, we are looking up because He is coming to take us home soon.

Romans 3:21–24

"But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins." (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."" (NLT)

ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



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