

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## ZECHARIAH 10-12

In 1929 the Labor party in Great Britain won the elections, putting Winston Churchill out of government.

It was a bitter defeat. The British people preferred the pacifist policies of Neville Chamberlain over Churchill's alarmist rhetoric. Churchill saw the rising threat in Germany and the evils of Nazism. He warned his British countrymen of impending war...

Yet, the British preferred to keep their head in the sand. They pretended "*all was well.*" The gullible Chamberlain tried to negotiate with Hitler, and believed his promises of peace. But when the German army invaded the Poland in 1939 the British people finally realized that Chamberlain had miscalculated Hitler.

The man was a monster. He had to be stopped.

*And in their moment of crisis, guess where they turned for help?* They re-elected the man they had rejected. They pleaded for Churchill to return. And in a very real sense Winston Churchill saved Great Britain.

In tonight's chapters we have a similar story.

Israel rejects a leader because the truth He speaks is not what they want to hear. He warns them of impending danger; while they're content to keep their heads in the sand. They don't like to hear threats of war. Assurances of "*peace and safety*" tickle their ears.

It's not until the leader they trusted turns out to be a monster - another Hitler - not a Christ or Messiah, but an Antichrist - *that's when they own up to the truth!*

And in the greatest crisis of their tumultuous history, the Jews turn to the leader they rejected the first time, Jesus the Christ. In the end, He becomes their Savior.

Tonight we find in two back-to-back chapters, 11 and 12, both the high point and low point of Israel's history.

The prophet Zechariah foresees two days.

The first - April 10, 32 AD - was the day the Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah... But the second day is yet future, when the Jews will finally turn to Jesus and embrace their long rejected King and Deliverer!

Tonight we'll look at these bookends of Jewish history - *the past rejection of Jesus, and Israel's ultimate acceptance of Jesus as the Jewish Messiah.*

But first Chapter 10 deals with another matter. God is angry with Israel's negligent shepherds... Verse 1...

**“Ask the Lord for rain in the time of the latter rain (or in the springtime). The Lord will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, grass in the field for everyone. For the idols speak delusion; the diviners envision lies, and tell false dreams; they comfort in vain.”**

Zechariah is saying the Lord brings rain in answer to our prayers. Rain is not the result of sorcerers and idols.

**“Therefore the people wend their way like sheep; they are in trouble because there is no shepherd.”** Like sheep without a

shepherd, Israel kept going astray. In Chapter 10 Zechariah blasts Israel's shepherds, or leaders - both priests and princes - for failing to lead in a righteous way.

And this is a timely passage for us. We suffer the same problem today. Many of our spiritual shepherds, *pastors and church leaders*, have failed to take to heart their responsibilities, and remain faithful to their calling.

Recall in Jeremiah 3:15 God promised His people, "I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."

This is the primary calling of a pastor or shepherd. Our top job is to feed *God's Word* to *God's flock*.

Zechariah says it's because the shepherds have failed to feed the flock that the people, like dumb sheep, have run after idols. And the same problem causes Christians today to run off the rails. Folks get caught up in *wrong doctrine* and *false gospels* because they haven't been sensitized to truth and error through the teaching of God's Word. Biblical illiteracy is rampant.

Too few Christians live out the truth, because they've lost sight of what the truth is. *Right and wrong, Christian and pagan, the Spirit and the flesh, even God and Satan* have become blurred in people's minds. Sheep today need to cut their teeth on God's Word.

Verse 3, "My anger is kindled against the shepherds, and I will punish the goatherds. For the Lord of hosts will visit His flock, the house of Judah, and will make them as His royal horse in the battle." Once, a Christian couple were on their way to their

wedding when they were in a serious automobile accident. They both died.

When the couple arrived in heaven they asked St. Peter if they could go ahead and marry in heaven. Peter said, "Sure, but we've got a few technicalities we need to get clear up first. It shouldn't take us that long, just give me about 500 years, and then check back with us."

Well, the couple heard that time flies in heaven, so they agreed. But at the end of the 500 years they returned to Peter, "*We're ready to get married...*" Peter said, "Oh, I'm so sorry, but you're going to have to give us another 200 years, we're still not ready." Well, at the end of 200 years Peter asked for another 100 years, and at the end of the 100 years he asked for 50 more years.

At last, the patient couple complained, "*Peter, for heaven's sakes why can't we marry?*" An embarrassed Peter told them, "Look, it's not my fault. How was I to know it would take this long to get a preacher up here."

This was the case in the Prophet Zechariah's day, apparently sincere men of God were in short supply.

God wanted his shepherds to lead His people into battle. He wanted pastors who were like royal steeds - like stallions. Instead they were acting like jackasses.

Verse 4, "*From Him (from the Lord of hosts) comes the cornerstone, from Him the tent peg, from Him the battle bow, from Him every ruler together.*" Zechariah mentions several Messianic titles. God's coming Savior is "*the cornerstone,*" "*the tent peg,*" and "*the battle bow.*"

Psalm 118:22 speaks of the Messiah, “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.” This passage was quoted by Jesus in Matthew 21:42. Throughout the NT Jesus is referred to as *the cornerstone* on which God’s Kingdom gets built.

But Messiah is also *the tent peg*. He’s the anchor that holds down the tent in a storm. Jesus steadies us.

And Jesus is also *the battle bow*. He’s the lethal weapon our enemies dread. He wins for us the victory.

Jesus is *the cornerstone* - the foundation on which we build. He’s *the tent peg* - the anchor to hold. And He’s *the battle bow* - the weapon we use to fight.

And Messiah is also a model for every minister.

A shepherd *or pastor* should provide His people a foundation on which to build their lives, an anchor in their storms, and weapons to fight their battles.

Verse 5, “They shall be like mighty men, who tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle. They shall fight because the Lord is with them, and the riders on horses shall be put to shame. “I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back, because I have mercy on them. They shall be as though I had not cast them aside; for I am the Lord their God, and I will hear them.”

The Jews who spent 70 years in Babylonian exile were defeated people. But Zechariah predicts that the Jews who return to the land will be mighty men. They’ll be men willing to fight, and “*tread down their enemies.*”

And this came true. We read in the OT how Nehemiah was a courageous man who was willing to pick up a sword, and resort to violence, when necessary. He was followed in history by Judas the Hammer, and the Maccabean priests. We talked about them last week.

God's people will return a different breed than when they left. A defeated people will become valiant warriors.

“Those of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as if with wine. Yes, their children shall see it and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the Lord.” Zechariah notes the men of Ephraim in particular.

They were an emboldened group - as if their spirits had been lifted by a little wine. More likely, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and their children took note.

Hey, when kids see their parents filled with the Spirit and on fire for the Lord, it makes a powerful impression.

A Cardinal once warned Henry VIII, “Be well advised and assured what you put in his head, for ye shall never pull it out again.” The same is true in regards to a child. The *words we say* and *example we set* are powerful.

It's been said, “Children will forgive their parents for many things, but cowardice sends them elsewhere for strength.” Kids are attracted to bold leadership. They rejoice in the Lord to see bravery in their parents.

Verse 8, “I will whistle for them and gather them, for I will redeem them; and they shall increase as they once increased.”

Like an owner whistling for his dog to return home, God will whistle for the Jews to return to Israel.

“I will sow them among the peoples, and they shall remember Me in far countries; they shall live, together with their children, and they shall return.” This took place in the late 6th century BC when Jews returned from Babylon. But this is also occurring by droves in our day.

Here’s why our airfare to Israel is so expensive.

The demand is high. Jews are flocking home. Though they’ve spent the last 2000 years in foreign lands, they are now returning to their ancient homeland of Israel.

After the Romans sacked Jerusalem in 70 AD the Jews were dispersed among the nations. Yet something occurred that’s unprecedented in the history of the world.

Rather than assimilate into surrounding cultures, the Jews maintained their identity, and religion, and heritage.

They remained a distinct people, and now after 2000 years in exile, they’re again returning home. It’s nothing short of a modern miracle and a fulfillment of Scripture.

“I will also bring them back from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon, until no more room is found for them.” Today, Gilead is the Golan Heights, the disputed territory northeast of the Dead Sea that Israel gained control over in its recent wars with its Arab neighbors.

The UN and the Palestinians want Israel to evacuate the Golan. Here God predicts He’ll fill Gilead with Jews.

“He shall pass through the sea with affliction, and strike the waves of the sea: all the depths of the River shall dry up. Then the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the scepter of Egypt shall depart. “So I will strengthen them in the Lord, and they shall walk up and down in His name,” says the Lord.” In the regathering of Jews that’s still future, God will dry up the rivers - the Nile and Euphrates - to help His people return home.

Chapter 11, “Open your doors, O Lebanon, that fire may devour your cedars. Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, because the mighty trees are ruined. Wail, O oaks of Bashan, for the thick forest has come down.

There is the sound of wailing shepherds! For their glory is in ruins. There is the sound of roaring lions! For the pride of the Jordan is in ruins.” In these verses Zechariah uses three metaphors for princes and rulers.

First, are trees - *cedars and oaks* stand above the forest. Second, *shepherds* lead the flock. And third, *roaring lions* who obviously are kings of the jungle.

Remember our context. In Chapter 9 Zechariah predicted a coming ruler. “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Behold, your King is coming to you, He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey.”

This was a fabulous prophecy. It looked to a specific day, 530 years future, when Jesus rode a donkey down the Mount of Olives to the cheers of the crowd, and presented Himself to the nation as their Messiah.



In Chapter 10 the true Shepherd of Israel was contrasted with the negligent shepherds who led the flock astray. And now in Chapter 11 we'll see how the false shepherds spurned the true Shepherd, Jesus.

Chapter 11 describes the Jews rejection of Jesus as Messiah, and the judgment that fell as a result. Little did the crowd realize the awful chain of events they unleashed on 2000 years of Jewry, when they uttered the words, **“His blood be on us and on our children.”**

For starters, just 38 years later the Romans sacked Jerusalem, killed over a million Jews, and drove the Jews out of Jerusalem. For the last 19 centuries they've lived dispersed among the nations of the earth.

The destruction of Jerusalem began in 66 AD when the Jews revolted against the Roman occupation.

Rome responded by dispatching General Vespasian and his legions to put down the uprising. The Romans systematically conquered Jewish strongholds in Lebanon, Galilee, and Bashan, as they marched south.

During the campaign one of the Jewish generals defected to the Romans. This traitor, a Jewish Benedict Arnold, was named Flavius Josephus. He became the famous historian who wrote of the destruction of Jerusalem in his classic work, **“The War Of The Jews.”**

Two years after Vespasian launched his campaign in Israel, Nero, the emperor in Rome, died. Vespasian was recalled to Rome to take the throne. That left his son, Titus, to lead the troops and march on Jerusalem.

The walls were breached in the summer of 70 AD.

The Romans destroyed the city, slaughtered the Jews, and burned the Temple. Thousands of Jews were crucified, and many more sold into slavery. It was a tragic end to an era that began with such promise.

Zechariah is recounting the history in advance.

Verse 4, “Thus says the Lord my God, “Feed the flock for slaughter, whose owners slaughter them and feel no guilt; those who sell them say, ‘Blessed be the Lord, for I am rich’; and their shepherds do not pity them.”

The owners of the flock are probably the Romans, who maintained political control of Israel from 60 BC through 330 AD. Remember in John 19:15 when Pilate asked the Jews, “*Shall I crucify your king?*” The priests responded, “*We have no king but Caesar.*” Here, God honors this future choice and calls Rome their *owners*.

And Rome was not a merciful benefactor. Rome was were barbaric - pitiless and bloodthirsty. The Romans crucified millions of their subjects all over the world. And those they didn't slaughter they sold as slaves.

The shepherds in verse 4 are the Jewish leaders - particularly the spiritual leaders - priests and rabbis.

And they were worse than the Romans, *for they didn't care*. They had no pity on the people. As long as they profited financially from the Roman occupation they willingly looked the other way on the corruption.

It reminds me of the Jew who drove his Mercedes to the synagogue to find a rabbi to bless his new car.

The orthodox rabbi said, "What's a Mercedes?" The conservative rabbi said, "I'm not sure if I can bless a car." While the reform rabbi said, "What's a blessing?"

Today, there're Jewish rabbis *and* Christian pastors who've lost touch with the spiritual, and biblical, and eternal. Though they call themselves "*pastors*" their prime objective is to not make waves, respect the status quo, keep the church on solid financial ground.

Like the shepherds of old, they don't pity people.

"For I will no longer pity the inhabitants of the land," says the Lord. "But indeed I will give everyone into his neighbor's hand and into the hand of his king. They shall attack the land, and I will not deliver them from their hand. So I fed the flock for slaughter, in particular the poor of the flock" Like fattening a turkey for Thanksgiving Day, God let the people's sins add up, so that the justice of His punishment would be without question.

Zechariah says, "I took for myself two staves: the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bonds; and I fed the flock." Here the prophet, like so many before him, is commanded to act out a spiritual skit, a living parable.

Remember, Isaiah walked naked... Ezekiel laid on his side, buried a scarf, and dug a hole in the wall of his house... Hosea married a prostitute... And the list goes.

Here Zechariah dresses like a shepherd to feed his sheep, and he takes two staves. One he calls "*beauty,*" and the other he

calls “*bonds.*” If God called me to do the same, I’d have to name my staffs “James and Ana.”

Ana is the beauty... that would leave James Bonds.

In the Hebrew text, “*beauty*” means “*grace or favor.*” “*Bonds*” means “*unity.*” Thus, Zechariah, a good shepherd, was called to preach, “*grace and unity.*” *Which is still the message of a good shepherd or pastor.*

Verse 8, “*I dismissed the three shepherds in one month. My soul loathed them, and their soul also abhorred me.*” Bible commentator Walter Kaiser writes, “*Over forty possibilities have been suggested (for the three shepherds in verse 8), covering a range of persons from the earliest days of Israel's history to Roman times.*”

Lots of ideas have been postulated. Yet I believe the oldest interpretation is probably the best. These three shepherds represent the three offices in Israel - prophet, priest, and king. *And God will fire them all in one month.*

*This is amazing...* When Jerusalem fell to Rome and the Temple was destroyed *the Levitical priesthood was disbanded, the prophets hid in shame, and the Jewish princes were slaughtered.* In one month, institutions thousands-of-years old, that had been part of the Jewish landscape since Moses, no longer existed.

History tells us on July 17, 70 AD the daily sacrifices in the Temple ceased, for lack of a man strong enough to offer them. There were no more active priests. Princes and prophets were also gone within the month.

“Then I said, “I will not feed you. Let what is dying die, and what is perishing perish. Let those that are left eat each other’s flesh.” When the Roman army laid siege to a city they were patient. Time was on their side. History tells us they would surround and besiege a city for decades. The idea was cut off supply lines to the city and literally starve the people into surrender or death.

Josephus reported that the situation in Jerusalem was so desperate people resorted to cannibalism to survive.

Verse 10, “And I took my staff, Beauty, and cut it in two, that I might break the covenant which I had made with all the peoples.” Not a covenant God made with the Jews, but the covenant He made with the Gentiles.

God said, I will bless those who bless Israel, and I will curse those who curse Israel. Yet here God suspends this covenant. He gives permission to the Romans to harm His people without the fear reprisal from Him.

Rome will get a free pass for judging Jerusalem.

Verse 11, “So it was broken on that day. Thus the poor of the flock, who were watching me, knew that it was the word of the Lord.” History tells us on Tisha B’Av, or Ab 9, August 6, 70 AD, the Jerusalem Temple was destroyed.

Rome inflicted God’s judgment on Israel’s shepherds.

It’s an interesting footnote, in the final month of the siege the Roman General Titus pulled his troops back from the walls for three or four days. From a military perspective this was inexplicable. But as it turns out there were Christians inside the city who had recalled Jesus words in the Olivet Discourse,

“those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” Titus’ mini-retreat gave these believers an opportunity to obey and survive.

Even in the storm, God protected His persecuted Church, or as mentioned here, “*the poor of the flock.*”

In essence, Zechariah has been the only true shepherd of Israel. He’s been faithful to God, and in verse 12 he asks for his wages. “Then I said to them, “If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.” So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.” This was an insult to the prophet.

According to Exodus 21:32, 30 pieces of silver was the price of a slave. The people obviously didn't recognize the value of a good spiritual shepherd.

Remember, they were allowing the false shepherds to get rich, but when it came time to pay a sincere shepherd who fed them the truth of God they mocked him by giving him the salary they would give a slave.

*The moral of the story is this - don't expect the world to value your faithfulness to God. This world is more likely to pay you with rejection than with a reward.*

“And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter” - that princely price they set on me.” You should read those words with sarcasm. Thirty pieces of silver was NOT a princely price - they were an insult - the price of a slave.

“So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.” Thirty pieces of silver wasn’t worth keeping. He threw them on the Temple floor. They became spare change for the potters.

Remember in Matthew 23:34-35 Jesus said, “Indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the Temple and the altar.”

Re-check Zechariah 1:1. You’ll see that Berechiah was the father of *this Zechariah*. Thus, it seems likely that the author of this book was the prophet murdered in the outer court of the Temple he helped to rebuild.

Jewish tradition has it that the Prophet Zechariah was a founding member of the Great Synagogue of which Ezra was its first president. This was the Jewish governing counsel - a forerunner of what would later be called *the Sanhedrin*. Yet even though Zechariah was a member, it didn’t mean he agreed with all its decisions.

Ultimately, Zechariah’s stand for God’s truth cost him his life. It may’ve been this announcement of judgment, the breaking of his staffs - of “*Beauty*” and “*Bonds*” - that cause the tide to turn against Zechariah.

It’s also interesting that in these verses Matthew saw a prophecy fulfilled by Judas when he betrayed Jesus.

Judas was paid thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave, to do the dirty deed. But when it was done, the Benedict Judas was so gripped by a guilty conscience he tried to return the money. When the priests refused to let him, Judas threw the

coins on the Temple floor, then went and hung himself. Later the coins purchased a potter's field that was used to bury the indigent.

All this is an interesting example of how some OT prophecies get applied. In Zechariah 11 the 30 pieces of silver were paid to a righteous shepherd for his faithful service. In Matthew 27 they go to a crook for a traitorous kiss... It's not the circumstances that make this passage prophetic. Here, the predictive element is the amount of money, and what it ultimately purchases.

It's just a different - a more Oriental or nonlinear - method of seeing prophecy that we often employ.

Verse 14, "Then I cut in two my other staff, Bonds, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel." When the Jews rejected Jesus and the Gospel they were sentenced to dispersion. They remained divided among the nations for the next 1800 years.

"And the Lord said to me, "Next, take for yourself the implements of a foolish shepherd." Remember, Zechariah is still acting out a living parable, but now he changes roles. He acts the part of a foolish shepherd.

It's been said, "Once a man rejects the truth there's no end to the foolishness he will believe." And this was proved true in the history of Israel. Despite Jesus' Messianic credentials - His pedigree, His miracles, a mountain of fulfilled prophecies - even His resurrection, the Jews still rejected Jesus as their Messiah. But ever since then they've fallen for every false messiah from Bar Kochba to the most recent, Menachim Schneerson.



And it's their desperation that's led the Jews to hail as their messiah folks with no objective claim to the title. They've followed charlatans, and old men, and lunatics.

Like a desperate old maid who's only qualification for a husband is a pulse, the Jews are desperate for Messiah.

And it's their desperation and gullibility that will lead them to their worse miscalculation of all. *Just as Neville Chamberlain mistook Hitler for a sensible man Britain could work with* - the Jews will mistake a last day's Hitler, a monster called *the Antichrist*, as their friend.

And in verse 16 the Prophet Zechariah foresees the evil Antichrist of the last days, **“For indeed I will raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for those who are cut off, nor seek the young, nor heal those that are broken, nor feed those that still stand. But he will eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces.”**

Once the church is raptured, a leader of a revived Roman empire, will sign a treaty with Israel. He'll be seen as a friend of the Jews, a deliverer, the Messiah.

Yet under the surface his hatred for the Jews will simmer. His goal will be to tear the Jews to pieces.

**“Woe to the worthless shepherd, who leaves the flock! A sword shall be against his arm and against his right eye; his arm shall completely wither, and his right eye shall be totally blinded.”** The Jews will trust this *worthless shepherd* to *protect them with his arm and watch over them with his eye*. Yet God

will show them the folly of their allegiance by injuring his arm and his right eye.

In Revelation 13:3 John is talking about the Antichrist when he says, “I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the Beast.”

Perhaps this future charismatic leader will survive an foiled assassination attempt, but with *a paralyzed arm* and *a blinded right eye*. The world will see his recovery and hail it a miracle. They’ll consider him indestructible...

But the Jews alive at the time will remember this prophecy in Zechariah 11. This is what happens, not to the true shepherd, but to the worthless shepherd - and it will cause them to think. This will begin to prepare the Jews for one of the greatest reversals in human history.

And we read about it in Chapter 12. “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...”

Notice verse 1 is in the present tense. Its not that God stretched out the heavens, or laid the foundation of earth, or formed the spirit of man in the past. He’s still involved today! The Almighty didn’t just wind up His creation like a clock; then leave it to run out on its own.

To the contrary, God is still involved in His creation: stretching out the heavens, holding all things together.

He even creates the spirit in the inner person of every human that’s born. This is interesting, especially in light of the Mormon

teaching of the pre-existence of the human soul. Mormons believe your spirit existed before you were born. Not so, according to Zechariah 12:1...

Here, the Bible teaches God forms the spirit of each man within him - when he forms the man - in the womb.

Verse 2, “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.” God will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness. The nations will get tipsy over Jerusalem. They’ll stop thinking straight. Their hatred for Jerusalem defies logic and rational thought.

Throughout history, Jerusalem waited for its moment.

Few of its many conquerors even bothered to make it their capitol. Yet today Jerusalem is the most holy contested real estate on planet Earth. And its importance will only increase. It’ll take center stage. The next world war won’t be fought over Arab oil, but over Jerusalem.

“And 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.”

You’d think, the odds of *the entire world* against *one city* would be in the world’s favor. That the armies of the world would be more than enough to vanquish one city.

But not so with Jerusalem. This city is a heavy stone. God will make it a millstone around the neck of the earth.

In the last days, the united armies of the world will rally to overthrow Jerusalem, yet fail. God will defend His holy city. Jesus will return to fight for the Jews and Jerusalem.

“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.” For the past 2000 years unbelieving Israel was officially cut off from God’s plan.

His focus has been His church. But when the nations war against Jerusalem, God will again defend Israel.

“And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, ‘The inhabitants of Jerusalem are my strength in the Lord of hosts, their God.’” Of course, today’s Israel is a secular state. But soon that stands to change. And in the next few verses Zechariah describes a spiritual awakening that will eventually lead to Israel’s salvation.

“In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a fire pan 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.” In other words, the city won’t be altered. Nothing gets divided. There’s no annexation. Jerusalem remains Jerusalem.

And “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. 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.” The house of David was the ruling class. No family of Israel was stronger. Yet in the end even *the feeble* will be *David-strong* - “*like the Angel of the Lord*”

Remember 2 Kings 19 in a single night the Angel of the Lord slaughtered 185,000 Assyrians. In the battle for Jerusalem the Jews will be outnumbered, but God will strengthen the Israelis, so that even the weakest among them will fight like angels. God will empower His people.

Verse 9, “It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.” But not only will God destroy Israel’s enemies, He plans to bring revival to the Jews. “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication...” God will pour out His Spirit.

He’ll overwhelm the Jews with grace. They’ll realize His favor was never about their good works. It was a gift.

He’ll humble them. They’ll realize they missed that gift when they rejected Jesus. And they’ll cry for His mercy.

And then something beautiful will happen. Something we’ve waited on for 2000 years. “Then (as a nation) 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.” Collectively, the Jews will repent, and put their faith in the One they pierced.

Once two Jewish men got lost in the city and walked into a Catholic church. They stumbled onto the induction ceremony of

100 new nuns. They needed to ask for directions, but decided to wait for the service to finish.

When one of the priests saw the men and thought it was odd for two Jews to be attending the ordination of 100 nuns. When he approached them, one of the Jews said, “Don’t worry, we’re from the Groom’s family.”

And that’s true, Jesus was a Jew. They’re family.

When church members in Rome started teaching that God was through with the Jews, the Apostle Paul wrote them emphatically, “Certainly not!” Jesus was born to Jewish parents, into a Jewish family, He grew up in a Jewish culture. God will forever be known as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - patriarchs of the Hebrews.

In Romans 11 Paul explains, when the Jews rejected Jesus they were benched for 2000 years, yet in the last days God puts them back in the line up. Romans 11:26 tells us, “All Israel will be saved.” That means all Jews alive in the end, will believe on Jesus and be saved.

Prior to Jesus’ second coming national repentance will fall on Israel. Just as the British were wrong about following Churchill, the Jews will realize they were wrong about Jesus. He is their Messiah. *They’ll believe on Him whom they pierced.* Every Jew will be a Jew for Jesus.

Put it all together and here’s the end time scenario...

At first the Jews embrace the worthless shepherd, the Antichrist. They think he’s Messiah, but he turns out to be a monster. He attacks Jerusalem and the Jews, and desecrates

the Temple. The Jews flee to the wilderness, to Bozrah, where they hide in the rock fortress of Petra.

This is when Jesus returns to fight for Jerusalem. He destroys the armies of the earth in the valley by the Temple Mount. He delivers the Jews from Bozrah and establishes a kingdom that rules for a thousand years.

And somewhere an amazing transformation occurs. Jews who rejected Jesus begin to embrace Him as their Savior. *Perhaps it's their up-close dealings with the Antichrist... maybe it's the special witnesses mentioned in Revelation... perhaps it's "the sign of the Son of Man" Jesus speaks of in Matthew 24... but their eyes open.*

The Holy Spirit takes them to the cross. God tells the Prophet, *"they will look on Me whom they have pierced."*

Without the NT and the Gospel accounts Zechariah's prophecy would never make sense. God is spirit. How does spirit pierce or wound? That requires flesh.

And this is what the Jews missed - God became a man and took on human flesh - that *"by His stripes we are healed."* The Jews were blind to God's incarnation.

Today's Jewish scholars twist 12:10, and say it refers to the Gentile nations mourning over the Jews they persecuted. But there were earlier Jewish rabbis who admitted the obvious - that it speaks of the Messiah.

One day this verse will come true. All Israel alive at the time will look on Jesus and trust in His wounds.

Verse 11, “In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.” This refers to the national mourning that occurred when their beloved King Josiah died.

A similar weeping will occur when the Jews admit what they did to Jesus, and realize their enormous mistake.



“And 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; the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves; all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.” This is a graphic and Jewish way of saying “the whole nation” will weep and mourn. In the end, the Jews will mourn over what they did to Jesus.

This is amazing chapter. God loves Israel. He’s not through with the Jews. We’re told to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, but there’ll be no peace without Jesus.

**In the end every Jew will be a Jew for Jesus.**