
LESSON 11

You are to welcome Israel back to Christ (Zech 12 & 13)

As we move into the last oracle, we will observe that some events prophesied by Zechariah have begun to unfold in world history while others have yet to do so. It is not always easy to differentiate which is which. Like looking at some far off mountains, they may look like a single mountain range but as we move closer and closer, we discover that there are layers of mountains. Old Testament readers may not have grasped that there are two comings of Christ. But, we do because we are past the “*first mountain*”, His first coming, and recognize how the two comings differ.

We have seen Zech 9:9 is a verse that clearly refers to Jesus’ first coming when he came riding on a donkey. We will see that Zech 12:10 refers to His second coming: “*They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.*”

UNDERSTANDING

1. Zech 12:1 lists three deeds of the Lord to remind Israel who is speaking. What are these deeds?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. Scan through Zechariah and mark the repetition of the following words:
 - a. On that day
 - b. Jerusalem
 - c. House of David
3. Jerusalem is a city in the region of Judah. The house of David is but one family within the tribe of Judah. Read Zech 12:2-10b. List down what the Lord will do and their effects for Jerusalem.
 - a. v2 I am going to _____
Effect : v2b _____
 - b. v3 I will make _____
Effect : v3b _____
 - c. v4 I will strike _____
and v4b I will keep _____
but v4c I will blind _____
Effect : v5 _____
 - d. v6 I will make _____
Effect : v6b _____
 - e. v7 The Lord will save _____
Effect : v7b so that _____

f. v8 the Lord will shield _____

Effect : _____

g. v9 I will set out _____

h. v10 I will pour out _____

Effect : _____

4. Compare Zech 12:10b with John 19:37. What does the piercing in Zech 12:10b refer to?
5. What will the effects be when the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem finally return to behold the Jesus they have crucified? 12:10b -13. Does this happen during his first coming or is this a situation that will yet happen?
6. The phrase “On that day” often refers to the last days. What will the Lord do in the last days with..
 - a. Sin and impurity (13:1)
 - b. Idols (13:2)
 - c. Prophets (13:2b)
7. Jesus himself quotes Zech 13:7b in Matt 26:31; see also Matt 26:56. What was Jesus foretelling by quoting Zech 13:7b?
8. The striking of the shepherd will result in more than just the scattering of the sheep. Two other things will unfold; what are they?
 - a. V8-9a _____
 - b. V9b _____

REFLECTING

9. In Question 2, you marked out the repetition of the phrase, “on that day”. What do you think “that day” refers to? By inference, what do the events of Zechariah likely refer to?
10. In Question 2, you also marked out the repetition of “Jerusalem” and the “house of David”. Does it surprise you that “house of David” is mentioned instead of the “house of Israel”? The “house of David” is just one of the families within the tribe of Judah while the tribe of Judah is only one of the 12 tribes of Israel. Jerusalem is a city within the region given to the tribe of Judah. What does the emphasis on “Jerusalem” and “house of David” instead of “house of Israel” imply for the promises listed in the answer for Question 3?

11. Look at Isaiah 10:20-22 and note that only a remnant of Israel will turn to the Holy One of Israel (Jesus) and be saved. Refer to 2 Sam 7:12-16. The covenant God made with David was not made with any of the other tribes of Israel. List the promises God gave to David.

a. v12 I will raise up _____

b. v12 I will establish _____

c. v13 I will establish _____

d. v14 I will be his _____

e. v14b I will punish _____

f. v15 My love will _____

g. v16 Your house _____

Notice that the word, “offspring” (v12), translated “seed” in other versions is singular. It refers not just to Solomon but a seed in the line of David. From the NT, we know that this refers to Jesus who is of the house of David. The promises of God in Zech 12 are a continuation of God’s covenant with David and his house, through his “seed”, Jesus. God is not done with Israel yet. His covenant with David is fulfilled in Jesus, whose throne last forever. Some of these promises have already been fulfilled while others are still growing into fullness.

APPLYING

In Romans 11:23-27, Paul spoke of God grafting Israel, the natural olive branch, back into the vine. They are cut off now because of the hardening (Rom 11:25) until the full number of Gentiles come in.

12. How should we pray for the people of Israel, in view of the promises in Zech 12 and Romans 11:23-27?

[Note: Romans 11:26 seems to imply that all Israel will be saved but we need to take that in the light of Romans 9:6 which says that “not all Israel are Israel”].

LOOKING FORWARD

Next week, we reach the finale of the book of Zechariah. In the final consummation of history, “Holy unto the Lord” will be prominent even among the common.