

Zechariah 10-12

Good evening, church.

Thank you for joining us tonight as we continue through the book of Zechariah, nearing the end of our Old Testament study.

There is this recurring theme in God's Word that we see throughout its pages.

Maybe the clearest place is in Genesis, with the story of Joseph.

Remember, in chapter 37 of Genesis, they sold him into slavery, rejecting their little brother's dreams of leadership.

But years later, a famine came over the land, and the very brothers who once rejected Joseph were now forced to seek his help.

They had to bow to the man they had greatly despised.

But this pattern appears elsewhere in the Bible as well.

Moses was rejected by his own; the Jews would not receive him as a leader or deliverer in their time in Egypt.

And after 40 years in Midian, Moses was actually called back to lead them, and they followed.

David was also rejected by his own people before becoming king.

And this seems to be a pattern in Scripture, that God's chosen deliverer is often rejected before he is received.

The people do not recognize him when he first comes. Only in their moment of need do they see who he really is.

In tonight's chapters, we have a similar story.

The Jewish people reject a leader because the truth that He spoke is not what they wanted to hear at the time.

He warns them of impending danger, while they are content to keep their heads in the sand.

They don't like to hear about gloomy things like war and defeat. They love their way of life, and messages of peace and safety scratched their itching ears.

The prophet will see a time when the leader the Jews trusted turns out to be a monster, not a Savior or Hero of any kind, but Antichrist.

This is the point at which they own their mistakes and turn to the Messiah they rejected.

In a time of great trial and travail, the Jews will look to Jesus as their Christ or Messiah.

Jesus will one day be known as Savior to the Jewish nation.

In chapters 11 and 12, Zechariah will look into this incredible time.

He looks at two days in the Jew's history.

First, he will see the day that the Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah...

Second is still future, from our timeline in history, and the Jews will embrace the King they rejected 2000 years ago.

We will look at these markers in Israel's history tonight – the former rejection of Jesus, and also the final acceptance of Jesus as the Jewish Messiah.

Let's look at Chapter 10. Before we get to that, we will look at another matter: how God deals with the shepherds in Israel and their negligence.

Let's pray, and we will get into it...

Verse 1 of chapter 10...

Restoration of Judah and Israel

10:1 Ask the LORD for rain

In the time of the latter rain.

The LORD will make flashing clouds;

He will give them showers of rain,

Grass in the field for everyone.

2 For the idols speak delusion;

The diviners envision lies,

And tell false dreams;

They comfort in vain.

Therefore *the people* wend their way like sheep;

They are in trouble because *there is* no shepherd.

The prophet starts by making an important distinction.

It is the prayers to the Lord, and Him answering those prayers, that the rain comes in its season.

It was not because of sorcery or idol worship.

The people were left like sheep without a shepherd, and the people kept following the wrong path.

Israel's leaders had failed them; both the priests and royal families were failing to lead the people in the way of Truth and Righteousness.

This stands as a warning for us today.

The spiritual shepherds, pastors, church leaders, and the men called to lead in their homes are expected to remain faithful to their calling and not to give up or forsake their responsibilities.

God promised through the prophet Jeremiah, **Jeremiah 3:15 "And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."**

This is the primary calling for the leaders in the church, for the pastors, for those who lead in their homes.

We are to feed God's Word to His flock.

Remember, after Peter denied the Lord Jesus three times, and he was restored to his position of leadership, Jesus told him, “Feed My lambs, tend My sheep, and feed My sheep.” John 21:15, 16, 17
This is the heart of God for those called to lead... to feed His Word to His sheep...

Zechariah makes it clear here that, because the shepherds failed to do this, the sheep became dumb and turned to false religion and heresy.

This is the troubling trend we see in the Lukewarm Church today... because the Bible teaching is being replaced with pep talks and good vibes, the people are being led astray into false doctrine and false gospels.

Because they are not trained in the Truth, they cannot spot the fake or error, and they allow their emotions and feelings to dictate their reality.

We have more Bibles in our culture than any culture that has ever existed, but Biblical illiteracy is rampant more than ever.

The draw of relativism and 30-second sound bites on social media has paved the way for people to create their own truth...

Right and wrong have been brought into these blurred places with no definitive line.

God's sheep today need God's Word taught more than ever.

Look at verse 3...

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.

4 From him comes the cornerstone,

From him the tent peg,

From him the battle bow,

From him every ruler together.

God needed His shepherds to lead His people... He needed pastors that were like war-horses... Bold, fearless, not moved by the pressure of man.

He needed leaders who would stay the course no matter what was happening around them, but they were hard to find!

In verse 4, we see that from the Lord of hosts comes One who is given several Messianic titles...

Jesus, the Christ, God's Son, and Savior of humanity, is the Cornerstone, the Tent Peg, and the Battle Bow.

**Psalm 118:22 The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.**

Jesus used this passage to identify Himself in **Matthew 21:42** "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

'The stone which the builders rejected

Has become the chief cornerstone.

This was the LORD's doing,

And it is marvelous in our eyes?

And the New Testament writers would continually refer to Jesus as the Cornerstone on which God builds His Kingdom.

He is also the Tent Peg that brings stability to our lives and anchors us down when the winds of the storm buffet us.

Jesus is the Battle Bow, who wins the victory over our enemies.

I hope you know Jesus like this tonight. I hope that you have built your foundation on Jesus Christ, nothing less.

I pray He is the anchor holding your life together.

And that He is the weapon you are using to fight this immense spiritual battle.

You can know Him as this, if you don't already.

He is Savior and so much more.

And He is an example to any earthly leader or shepherd.

As leaders, we should be providing God's people with a foundation on which to build their lives, an anchor to hold them in the midst of those severe winds, and weapons to fight in this spiritual war we are in.

Look at verse 5 now...

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.

6 "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.

Remember now, the Jews spent 70 years in
Babylonian captivity.

While there, they were defeated and demoralized.
Here, the prophet speaks and sees a time when the
Jews will return to the land and become mighty
men.

They will be those who are not afraid to fight,
“willing to tread down their enemies.”

The evidence that this prophecy came true is in the account in the Book of Nehemiah.

Remember, Nehemiah and the people, as they worked, did so with swords ready, as they were willing to fight when necessary to defend.

It is evident that even through the time of the Maccabees, this fighting spirit was in the Jews...

God's people came back from Babylon changed... the defeated and depleted people became warriors with weapons ready.

Look now at verse 7...

7 *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 .

8 I will whistle for them and gather them,

For I will redeem them;

And they shall increase as they once increased.

9 "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.

It is interesting here that Zechariah notes the tribe of Ephraim and their men.

If you remember our studies through the time of the Judges, this tribe seemed to see itself as the lead tribe.

They were emboldened and seemed to always be like this throughout Israel's history.

Here we see this as a good thing: their spirits were lifted up, as though with wine, but it is actually the Spirit of God who lifted them up, and their children notice.

When our kids see us filled with God's Spirit, doing things for the Lord, it can leave a powerful impression.

What we live out before our kids and speak to them can never come out of them.

I often hear Jess say, “We only get one shot with them, and we have no do-overs.”

The way they see you talk to or about your spouse will be the programming they receive in their own relationships.

The faith you live out in front of them will be either their strength in life or their fear.

Look, our children are the most forgiving and gracious creatures, next to dogs, but when we are cowards in our faith, these children entrusted to us will look to other places for their strength.

If we are not secure and bold in our faith, we will lose them.

If every trial that comes to our home, we are shaking in our boots in fear and worry and anxiety rules our hearts... they will never learn to trust in God.

Kids are secure in their lives through bold leadership, and they rejoice in their parents' brave faith.

Interesting, in verse 8, God whistles for them, like I do for my dog to come home when it gets out of the front gate, he doesn't listen to me...

God tells them He will call them home...

He did after their captivity, called them to come home... but then many of the Jews were like my dog, and they did not listen...

A small remnant returned, many not wanting to leave the comforts of Babylon.

This not only took place over 2500 years ago, but even today, the Jews are returning home in great numbers.

The Jews who came back to Israel after captivity stayed there until the Romans defeated them, destroyed their Temple, and scattered them throughout the Empire and world...

After this happened in AD 70, the Jews were able to maintain their unique identity, their religion, and their heritage for 2000 years.

This is unprecedented because, after that amount of time, other groups disappear as they assimilate into the culture they are immersed in.

But the Word of God defies logic time and time again, and the Jews being in modern Israel is really an act of God...

Look now at verse 10...

10 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.

11 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.

12 "So I will strengthen them in the LORD ,

And they shall walk up and down in His name,"
Says the LORD .

In Israel today, Gilead is up in the Golan Heights, a hotly contested area between Israel and its neighbors.

The Jews have control over it, and much more since this last war, pushing up as far as the Litani River, 37 miles northwest into Lebanon.

This prophecy could be being fulfilled right now, as Israel has already moved into 1/5 of Lebanon.

Initially, Israel said their objective was to clear the territory of Hezbollah.

And as of 3 days ago, Israel sent warnings to its citizens extending even further into the north of Lebanon, further expanding its control of the country.

It looks like they will now advance toward the Zahrani River, cutting the nation in half, and they could be up to the ancient city of Tyre.

Although Israel says they are not seeking permanent occupation, it is becoming clear that

they are putting into place “a longer-term system of military control through the buffer zones.”¹

One thing is for certain: God’s Word says a day will come when they occupy not only the Golan Heights but also Lebanon.

Many people could not see this ever happening, so, as often happens when people struggle with the literal meaning, they add a symbolic meaning, stating that Golan and Lebanon stand for spiritual renewal and prosperity, until there is no more room for them.

And prosperity people love this: that God gives prosperity and expands His people...

Because Lebanon and Golan are prosperous, lush, and green places, God is saying He will bless His people.

But I am a simple man, and God is saying one day He will fill this region with Jews.

¹ <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/israeli-forces-push-past-lebanon-s-litani-river-how-significant-is-it/ar-AA24thwh>

Now, war is terrible, and I am not saying what is happening to the Lebanese today is a good thing, being displaced by the hundreds of thousands.

But what I am saying is God's Word says it will be so, and I have learned that God's Word is not mocked... what it says will come to pass.

Nevertheless, not my will, Lord, Yours be done.

We also see another interesting prophecy in these verses: The Nile and the Euphrates will dry up to help His people return home...

This seems to be in the future...

Now, interestingly, the Euphrates is drying up at an alarming rate.²

There is another purpose for this spoken of in **Rev 16:12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.**

I also read a BBC report that the Nile is drying up.³

² <https://www.iflscience.com/why-is-the-euphrates-river-drying-up-and-what-does-it-mean-69923>

³ https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/death_of_the_nile

We can be clear about one thing on this, and the Psalmist spoke it centuries ago...

Ps 119:160 The entirety of Your word *is* truth,
And every one of Your righteous judgments *endures*
forever.

Listen, we will see this a lot in our study of Revelation, symbolism, and replacement ideas were put in place of certain passages that could not make sense to people.

But a literal approach to many of these prophecies is the best.

Because God works past our own logic, and what may seem impossible one day in history can easily be seen on another day.

God's Word will come to pass.

Look at chapter 11 now...

Desolation of Israel

11:1 Open your doors, O Lebanon,

That fire may devour your cedars.

2 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.

3 *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.

We see the mighty cedars and oaks that stand above the forest, also shepherds leading the flock, and roaring lions who rule.

Remember the context to all of this, in **Zechariah 9:9** “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The prophet looked ahead to a specific day, 530 years in the future, in his timeline.

We look back at today, when Jesus rode a donkey down the Mount of Olives to the people's praise.

He presented Himself as their Messiah.

We saw in chapter 10 that negligent shepherds leading the flock away from Truth, but they are held up against the True Shepherd.

Here in chapter 11, we see how the false shepherds despised the True Shepherd.

It describes the rejection of Jesus as the Jewish Messiah and the judgment that will come upon them because of it.

38 years after the Jews rejected Jesus, Rome would destroy the Holy City and kill over a million Jews.

They were dispersed into the nations.

We learn of a famous historian who came about at this time, a Jew who became a turncoat and joined the Romans, and wrote "The War of the Jews."

The Jews do not like Flavius Josephus, and it is interesting, they will tell us of their dislike, but in almost all the archeological sites we visit, they are referring to his work.

But in his writings, we get immense details of the Roman destruction of the city and the Temple in AD 70.

Thousands of Jews were crucified, most were sold into slavery, and so many tragic stories and horrors took place for the Jews.

Zechariah is seeing it all in advance.

Verse 4...

Prophecy of the Shepherds

4 Thus says the LORD my God, "Feed the flock for slaughter, **5** 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. **6** 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."

7 So I fed the flock for slaughter, in particular the poor of the flock. I took for myself two staffs: the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bonds; and I fed the flock.

It seems that the flock's owners who feel no guilt are the Romans, who maintained control over this region from 60 BC to 330 AD.

We learned when we toured Masada in January that Rome was not a merciful overlord at all.

The Romans were ruthless and ruled with an iron fist.

They were bloodthirsty and pitiless if a people group did not fall in line with their rule.

If you were compliant and paid taxes, the Roman legions would have no business even being in your land.

But if you raised your hand to the might of Rome, those legions came marching in swiftly to put you down.

The Jews were not good servants of Rome, and rebelled, and this brought down the most demonic wrath from their rulers...

The shepherds here are the Jewish leaders, the priests, and the spiritual leaders.

They seem worse than Rome because they did not care for their own.

As long as they were secure within the empire, they willingly looked the other way and played whatever part they needed to keep their wealth and comfort.

What a tragedy it is, when those called to lead God's people spiritually, think first of their own well-being than that of the flock...

And we see God is fed up with it here... He let the people's sins add up, so much so, when He finally acted on the side of justice, and brought judgment, no one would question His reasoning.

Zechariah took two staffs, and called one Beauty and the other Bonds, and he himself fed the flock.

He is called to demonstrate God's message here.

He dresses like a shepherd himself and moves to feed the sheep with two staffs in hand.

In Hebrew, Beauty means "Grace" or even "Favor."

Bonds can mean "Unity."

Zechariah is a good shepherd, preaching God's favor and speaking unity to the people.

Grace and Unity are still wonderful messages for God's people to hear and live out.

Verse 8 now...

8 I dismissed the three shepherds in one month. My soul loathed them, and their soul also abhorred me. **9** 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." **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.

Now, the three shepherds in verse 8 have been seen in many different ways over the centuries.

I think there are over 40 different viewpoints on who they represent.

But the clearest interpretation seems to be that these three shepherds represent the offices held in ancient Israel: "prophet, priest, and king."

God says He is done with them and will remove them in one month.

Now, of course, looking at the point in history Zechariah seems to be looking at, when Jerusalem fell to the Romans.

The Temple was destroyed along with the Levitical Priesthood.

The prophets hid in fear and shame, and the royal families were slaughtered.

In one month, those offices that had been seen throughout Jewish history since Moses led them out of Egypt no longer existed.

It would be July 17, 70 AD, that the daily sacrifices ceased...

No more priests would arise to serve the people, nor any prophet to speak, nor a prince to lead.

In verse 9, God states that He will not feed them, and He will let what is dying die.

The tragic details Josephus records in his writings show that the Romans were always patient and methodical, surrounding the city and cutting off its supply lines.

The people resorted to cannibalism to survive.

In verse 10, the staff of Beauty was cut in two, and the covenant that God made with the gentile nations,

that those who bless Israel will be blessed, and those who curse Israel will be cursed, was suspended.

God permits the Romans to harm His people without fear of reprisal from Him.

For this time, they would reject His Own Son, and put Him on the cross.

Their rejection of their Messiah has had 2000 years' worth of ramifications.

Look now at verse 11...

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 . **12** 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.

13 And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter" — that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty *pieces* of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter.

When God inflicted His judgment on Israel's shepherds, through Rome, there is this interesting

incident that took place, possibly involving the poor of the flock mentioned here.

In the final month of the siege, the Roman General Titus pulled his troops back from the walls for almost 4 days.

Now, the Christians inside the walls remembered Jesus's warning, "Those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."

And on this strange reprieve by Titus, the Christians were able to leave and survive.

Even in the midst of complete chaos and tragedy, God protected the poor of His flock.

Zechariah's faithfulness to the Lord and His Word shows that he is indeed a faithful shepherd of Israel.

There in verse 12, he mentions wages being paid...

Thirty pieces of silver were what they offered him...

This would be an insult and embarrassment for the faithful prophet of God.

In the Law, it is said that if a servant was killed,

Ex 21:32 give to their master thirty shekels of silver,

They offered this faithful messenger of God the wages of a servant.

There is a lesson here for us tonight: don't expect the world to appreciate your faithfulness to our God.

They will not pat you on the back for being honest, or going above and beyond...

When we do what is right in this world, it so often creates conviction in others, and they reject us rather than reward us.

God tells the prophet to throw it to the potter, and Zechariah sarcastically calls the servant's price a princely price.

Thirty pieces of silver were not worth much, and Zechariah threw the silver on the Temple floor.

Now, this whole incident serves as a broader picture, beyond anything Zechariah could ever have imagined.

Why record this whole ordeal of being disrespected on his wages?

Well, these verses are the ones that Matthew, the Gospel writer, saw as prophecies fulfilled by Judas's betrayal.

He was paid thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave, to betray Jesus.

And when it was done, he regretted it, his conscience was wrecked, and he tried to return the payment.

The priests refused, and Judas threw the payment on the Temple floor.

He left and hung himself, and then later on those coins were used to buy a potter's field where they buried the unclean.

All of this picture was foretelling what would ultimately happen.

Verse 14 now...

14 Then I cut in two my other staff, Bonds, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

After they rejected the Messiah, the Jews were divided among the nations for 1800 years.

Verse 15...

15 And the LORD said to me, "Next, take for yourself the implements of a foolish shepherd.

Here, the prophet is still living out this message before them, and he is called to change his character. He will act out the part of the foolish shepherd. And once the Jews rejected Jesus, their foolishness only increased.

Jesus fulfilled all the Messianic prophecies, yet, to this day, for the most part, they have blinders on. They have fallen for false messiahs time and time again, even today... but ultimately their foolishness will lead them to the greatest miscalculation of their entire history, and they will look to the Antichrist as their ultimate hero.

This is what the prophet sees now... Verse 16...

16 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.

17 "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."

Once Jesus comes for His Bride and the Rapture of the Church takes place, this leader here will arise to lead what will be a Revived Roman Empire.

He will sign a false peace treaty with Israel and be seen as their savior, a deliverer, their Messiah.

But he hides his satanic hatred of the Jews until the midpoint of the Tribulation, where he will openly and outright defy God, and claim himself to be god.

The Jews will trust in this worthless shepherd to protect them with his arm and watch over them with his eye.

God will ultimately show them the foolishness of this decision by exerting His power over the Antichrist, injuring his arm and right eye.

We do see in John's vision in

Rev 13:3 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.

Some believe that this future leader, who has charisma and flash, will survive an assassination attempt that leaves him with a paralyzed arm and a blinded right eye.

When he survives, the world will think that he is unstoppable.

The Jews who are alive will know this prophecy... and they will understand that he is not the True Shepherd.

Their hearts will be open, and their eyes will be looking for the Promised One.

Look now at verse 1 of chapter 12...

The Coming Deliverance of Judah

12:1 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: **2** "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the

surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. **3** 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.

The God who holds every atom together, and even our universe, gives this clear message:

Jerusalem will be a cup of drunkenness.

The world's powers cannot think straight when it comes to Jerusalem.

Their thoughts will defy reality.

Throughout History, Jerusalem has been the most contested city on the planet.

Its importance will only increase until the end of time...

The last war will be fought over this city.

And the odds of the entire world against this small city would easily be in the world's favor.

But God says here, this city is a heavy stone, a millstone around the neck of the earth.

All the firepower in the world will not be enough to defeat this city, because God Himself will defend it, as the King of kings returns to this world to defeat His enemies.

Verse 4...

4 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. **5** And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem *are* my strength in the LORD of hosts, their God.' **6** In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan 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.

7 "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. **8** 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. **9** It shall be in that day *that* I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Since the Jews rejected their Messiah, they have been cut out of God's plan.

God turned His attention to His Church, where Jew and Gentile come together.

But there is still more to be said about His plan for Israel in God's Word...

The last week of Daniel's prophecy is yet to come, and when the Bride is gone, taken in the Rapture, God turns again to the Jews.

He will defend Israel.

Now, today, Israel is secular in their mindset for the most part.

But Zechariah sees a day when a spiritual awakening will lead Israel to salvation.

And even the feeble in Israel will be David-like in strength, "like an Angel of the Lord."

God promises in verse 9 to destroy all the nations that rise against the Jews.

Verse 10 now...

Mourning for the Pierced One

10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then 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. **11** In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. **12** 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; **13** 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; **14** all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.

God promises to pour out His Spirit of Grace and Supplication on the Jews.

That Grace will so overwhelm them that they will look at all the good religion they did in their pride, and they will be broken over the gift of Grace given to them.

They missed the gift at His first coming, they rejected Jesus...

Yet at His Second Coming, something wonderful will happen...

This is a remarkable prophecy here in verse 10...

“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.”

The Jews will repent and put their faith in the One who was pierced on a cross.

Church, don't let anyone tell you that God is done with the Jews; there is still a plan of salvation for them.

Paul confronted this false doctrine in the Book of Romans.

Paul explains that they were set aside for their rejection of Jesus, but in the last days, God will return to His people.

We are told in

Rom 11:26-27 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "*The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.*"

All the Jews alive during the tribulation will believe in Jesus and find salvation.

Like we see throughout their history, they will one day realize they missed their true leader, and their hearts will be open to Him.

They will look on Him who they pierced...

Think about how that sounds to the Jews, God says they will look on Me, who they pierced.

God is Spirit, so how can Spirit be pierced?

Well, He came in the flesh and dwelt among men as a Man.

This is how... Isaiah, their prophet, foretold,

*Isa 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.*

He had to come in the flesh to fulfill what the prophets spoke of.

Here, at the end of this chapter, we see the whole nation mourning and weeping over what they did to Jesus.

This will lead to their repentance and healing as a whole.

It is clear, evident, and plain that God loves the Jews, and His final plan for them is yet to come, where every Jew will be saved.

Peace will one day come to them through the Prince of Peace.

Today, our work is to all the nations... we are to bring the Gospel of Grace to Jew and Gentile...

Understand something, too: in the final chapter of human history, there is a plan for non-Jews as well.

This is what I don't understand about those who make these promises for the Jews for the Church... They replace the Jewish Nation with us...

No, this is not how the Bible speaks of things... They are set aside until the appointed time... But even in that final week of Daniel, there are other believers, the martyrs, for whom God has a special place before the throne.

The Church, in its Glorified state, also has a prominent place in eschatology. After the Rapture, we are seen as an army coming back with Jesus at His Second Coming. We will rule and reign with Christ.

Don't get caught up in people trying to make the Bible say something it is not, because they don't like a people group, or can't understand it, because the Bible is clear...

And God has room in His plan for anyone who would look to His Son for Salvation...

There is good news for everyone on this planet who looks to the Savior.

Listen, **John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

If you have not placed your faith in Him yet, do so today. He has a place for you in His story as well.

Let's pray...