

Zechariah 12:1-13:9

The Salvation of Israel and Judah

The **first burden** is concerned with **Israel's regional** enemies and so on, whereas the **second burden** focuses on the **entire world of nations**, and yet **Jerusalem** is seen at the **center** of the **conflict** and victory. **Jerusalem** is mentioned **21** times in chapters **12-14**. The story finally reaches its **crescendo** when after **Israel believes upon Christ** through regeneration in **chapter 12**, they are seen **exalted by God** over the nations, and yet worshipping Him **with the remnant of nations** whom He has saved and called to worship Him in **Jerusalem** and on Mt. Zion in **chapter 14**.

A **brief list** of prophecies in the Bible which speak of the **glorious day** when Christ is **ruling King over the nations** of the **earth** who are also gathering to **worship Him**; Psalm 2:6-12, Psalm 22:27-28, Psalm 72:8-11, Psalm 86:9-10, Psalm 102:15-22, Isaiah 2:2-4, Ezekiel 37:21-22, Daniel 7:13-14.

Now today we are going to look at **chapters 12:1-13:9**. The **main idea** of this entire text is nothing less than **Salvation of Israel and Judah**. This happens when God supernaturally **regenerates** the entire the living **remnant** of the nation who is brought to **salvation** by **grace** through **faith in Christ alone**, at a time when they have

been **attacked** by all the **nations** of the earth and God delivers them in **battle**. This is a spectacular climax to the Old Testament indeed. This **second burden** of **Zechariah** which features the **Reign of the Messiah**, begins with the **national regeneration** and **salvation** of the **ethnic nation** of **Israel**.

What is pictured here is nothing less than the astounding fulfilment of many prophecies in the **Law** and in the **Major Prophets**. It is the actual event in history when the living remnant of the nation is brought to **salvation** by **grace** through **faith** in **Christ alone**. By God's **Sovereign Grace** every **individual** of the **nation** will be brought to **personal faith in Christ** through the **regenerating** power of the **Holy Spirit**, just like you and I were. **Moses** spoke of this day in Deuteronomy 30:1-6, and so did **Jeremiah** 31:33, 32:38-40, and also **Ezekiel** 11:19-20, **Ezekiel** 36:24-28.

Salvation happens to **individuals**, not to **nations**, and in this monumental occasion in the **history of Israel**, God pours out His Spirit upon all the **individuals** who make up the living remnant during **those days**, and these will be saved by the **electing love** and **grace of God**, through the **regeneration** of the **Holy Spirit**, which He **purposed** from all **eternity**. The language that follows expresses this individual mourning of each **family head** and their wives by themselves, highlighting the **personal** and **individual nature** of it.

Isaiah 43:25 - 25 "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.

Jeremiah 50:20 - 20 'In those days and at that time,' declares the Lord, 'search will be made for the iniquity of Israel, but there will be none; and for the sins of Judah, but they will not be found; for I shall pardon those whom I leave as a remnant.' NASB

Romans 11:25-27 - 25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob." 27 "And this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." NASB

When Paul describes Israel's national salvation, he says it will happen when, "the Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob, 27 and this is my covenant with them, When I take away their sins." This is exactly what is pictured here in Zechariah 12-14. In fact the Deliverer is coming from Zion (12:1-9, 14:1-5), and taking away their sins (12:10-13:1).

Hosea 3:4-5 - 4 For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, and without ephod or household idols. 5 Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the Lord and to His goodness in the last days. NASB

In light of the history of Israel and Judaism in the last 2000 years, Hosea’s prophecy is clearly seen to be fulfilled during the times of the Gentiles. We clearly see that the Jews have remained “for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, and without ephod or household idols.”

