

Zech. 12:1-9 "Zechariah's Armageddon"

For the Children: I once read a story about a battle between 2 armies trying to take control of a city. One side was about to run out of bullets. Without bullets, they could not capture the city. But a false rumour spread through the other side, claiming that the enemy had captured most of the city. The side with all the bullets ran away, and the army that had been about to lose actually won the city and took over the whole country! God has told us that Jesus has already defeated Satan, sin and death for us. He has also told us that when His Son returns, He will destroy all our enemies and we will rule with Him. God's children have all the "bullets"! Why should we give up and let the world tell us what to think and what to do? **Questions:** How do the devil and the world attack us today? How does the Lord Jesus make us like warriors? What will we share in His victory when He returns?

Introduction:

First Point: The Breaking of the Siege

- 1) The Burden of the Word: This prophecy was a "burden" to Zechariah because it told of a great siege in the future against Jerusalem, involving all the nations of the world (vss. 2,3,,6,9). It would take place "on that day" (vss. 3,4,6,8,9), a term often used for a future cataclysm. See Mt. 24:36. It matches the description of "Armageddon" (Rev. 16:13-16, 19:17-19, Joel 3:2, 12-14), the "final battle." This is not, however, about a final battle in Israel; it is about the hostility of all the nations against the Church being brought to an end.
- 2) The Cup of Reeling: The failure of the world's hostility is put in terms of Judah becoming a "cup of reeling" to the nations – their attack leads to a drunken stupor. Judah becomes like a heavy stone that injures them when they try to move it. The cavalries of the nations are made confused, blind and mad. See 2 Kgs. 6. The efforts of the nations back-fire, and God uses His people to bring about their judgement. The Church brings the Gospel, but those who reject it will be judged. God's people will share in Christ's judging of the world (1 Cor. 6:2-3).
- 3) The Lord Will Do It: The Lord is the One who does all this. The Church's victory is only "through the Lord of Hosts, their God" (v. 5). He is the Creator, Ruler and Redeemer – He can make of the nations and Judah what He will (v.1).

Second Point: The Glory of God's People

- 1) Like a Firepot: The Lord Jesus' victory over Satan, sin and death means that we already have a share in His strength and glory. That is seen in the battle against the world. The Lord makes His people "firepots" and "firebrands," who consume their adversaries on every side (v. 6). He will make even the weakest defenders of Jerusalem like an heroic David (v. 8). The House of David will be like God and the Angel of the Lord, who went before and behind Israel in the Exodus, to protect them. This is fulfilled in the Son of David, the Messiah, our great Protector. He enables us to defend ourselves and the Church in a spiritual sense. See 2 Cor. 10:5, 12:9, Eph. 6:10f, Phlp. 4:13, and Col. 1:11.
- 2) Restored Unity: After Christ's return, the sharing in His victory and glory results in perfect unity within the Church. This is put in vss. 5 and 7 in terms of a restored unity between rural Judah and the city Jerusalem; and between the royal house and the ordinary people.
- 3) Peace in the Land: When the Lord returns, there will be perfect peace in the "Land" (v. 6) – for there will be no more attacks from outside, no more divisions within the Church and no more sin remaining within us. This is the ultimate glorification, when all enmity is destroyed, our old nature removed, and our bodies restored immortal and imperishable. It is the final solution to "Armageddon." Given that final victory, why should we give in to the attacks of the world at this time?

Conclusion: