

Zechariah 12

v.1 Lord

- stretches out the heavens
- lays the foundation of the earth
- forms or molds a man's spirit within him

v.2 Jerusalem cup of drunkenness or reeling

v.3 burdensome stone

Muslims claim Jerusalem as their third-holiest city, but Jerusalem is not mentioned once in the Koran. In addition, "During the centuries when Jerusalem was under complete Arab control, no Arab ruler or Islamic leader ever made it the object of a religious pilgrimage – again a strange indifference toward a city which is now considered to be the third-holiest religious site in Islam after Mecca and Medina" (Dave Hunt).

Jerusalem's importance to Muslims comes from the belief that in the Dome of the Rock shrine there is a rock where two significant things happened – where Abraham intended to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, and where Mohammed allegedly ascended into heaven. Though this tradition is firmly in the Muslim mind, it is of recent origin. It was invented by Yasser Arafat's uncle – Haj Amin el-Husseini, who was the past Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. He promoted this myth in the 1920's and 1930's to arouse Arab passions against the growing Jewish presence in Jerusalem.

iii. The verse in the Koran that describes Mohammed's trip to heaven is Surah 17:1: *Glorified be He who carried His servant by night from the Inviolable Place of Worship to the Far Distant Place [al-Aqsa] of Worship the neighbourhood whereof We have blessed, that We might show him of Our tokens!* The Islamic interpretation says that the *Inviolable Place of Worship* is Mecca, and this is accepted by all. It then says that the *Far Distant Place of Worship* is Jerusalem – but this has no substantiation because Jerusalem had never been a place of Islamic worship to that time, nor would it be for centuries afterward. Jerusalem isn't even mentioned by name in the Koran, so how could it be a place of worship according to the

Koran? Most significantly, inside the Dome of the Rock hundreds of verses from the Koran are inscribed – *and Surah 17:1 is not among them!* The very passage that later supposedly justified the building of the Dome of the Rock is not even included among the hundreds of passages of the Koran inscribed in it!

. This is *exactly* fulfilled in modern Jerusalem. In recent peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, Israel was willing to concede almost everything to the Palestinians in an amazing willingness to make peace. The only thing Israel would not concede was *sovereignty over Jerusalem*, and the entire deal was ruined over that one point. The problem between Jews and the Arab world has boiled down to one point: Jerusalem.

If Muslim passion for Jerusalem is a mystery, the Jewish claim to the city is entirely Scriptural. “The very fact that Jerusalem is mentioned more than 800 times in the Bible makes it worthy of special attention. This unique city is the only one upon which God has bestowed His distinctive blessing and protection (Ps 132:13-14^L), and the only city for whose peace we are commanded to pray (Ps 122:6^L). God says He has chosen Jerusalem as the place where He has put His name forever (2 Chr 6:6^L; 33:7^L; Ps 46:4^L; 48:1-8^L; 87:3^L). The new heavens and new earth will contain ‘the city of my God...new Jerusalem’ (Rv 3:12^L; 21:2^L). That there will be a ‘heavenly Jerusalem’ (Heb 12:22^L) but no ‘heavenly’ New York, Paris, London, Damascus, Cairo, etc. speaks volumes” (Dave Hunt, *The Berean Call* – September 2000).

I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples: If Jerusalem will be a **cup of drunkenness to all her surrounding peoples**, it will be a **heavy stone** – a burden – **for all peoples**, presenting a problem that cannot be solved (**all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces**).

I will open My eyes on the house of Judah, and will strike every horse of the peoples with blindness: Though the nations come against Jerusalem with fury, God will protect her. This will find an ultimate fulfillment in the Battle of Armageddon, but we may see an earlier fulfillment any day now.


(5-9) God supernaturally empowers His people.

I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile: In that day God will deliver Israel not only through His direct work, but also through blessing and empowering both the **governors** and **inhabitants** of Jerusalem. They will be supernaturally empowered by God to defend the city.

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: King David was renowned for his fighting ability, courage, and success. God promised a day when the *weakest* in Jerusalem will be as mighty as David – and the leaders could only be compared in might to **God!**

v.10 also poured out 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: As Jerusalem is supernaturally defended and the Spirit is poured out on the nation, *they will turn to Jesus*, the **pierced** One. His head was **pierced** with thorns, His hands and feet were **pierced** with nails, and a spear **pierced** His side.

i. **They will look:** They will turn away from their trust in the foolish, worthless shepherd and turn their focus on the Good Shepherd. When we see Jesus crucified – understanding why He went to the cross and what He accomplished there – we are drawn to Him in humble repentance ([John 12:32](#) .

ii. They will look on Him **whom they pierced**. They will realize that **they** did it, and that they bear responsibility – not sole responsibility, but responsibility nonetheless – for the crucifixion of their Savior.

They will mourn: The Jewish people will turn to Jesus in repentance, mourning their past rejection of Him. The mourning will be deep, as if for an **only son**, the **firstborn**. **Firstborn** was synonymous with the most beloved.

This will fulfill the amazing promise of Romans 11:26 (And so Israel will be saved) and many other passages that tell us that before the physical return of Jesus to this earth, the Jewish people – as a whole – will welcome Him as their Lord and Savior. The whole context of Zechariah 12 puts this radical conversion in the setting of miraculous deliverance from an attack from the nations.

“It is a beautiful remark of an old divine, that eyes are made for two things at least; first, to look with, and next, to weep with. The eye which looks to the pierced One is the eye which weeps for him.” (Spurgeon)

They will look upon Me: Comparing Zechariah 12:10 with Zechariah 12:1 and 12:3 (*Thus says the LORD... says the LORD*) makes it clear that the **Me** they look upon is the LORD God – Yahweh – Himself. This is astounding and wonderful evidence that Jesus the **pierced** One is God, and that Yahweh is the Triune God.

i. Simply said, the Father sends the Spirit so that men would look upon the Son.

(11-14) The great mourning of repentance.

A great mourning in Jerusalem: The repentance that comes to Israel in that day will be like a **great mourning**, the ultimate fulfillment of the Day of Atonement, the day of national mourning over their greatest sin – rejecting Jesus.

b. **Like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon:** This refers to the mourning over King Josiah’s death (2 Kings 23:29 and 2 Chronicles 35:20-25). He was such a godly king that the whole nation wept bitterly at his death.

And the land shall mourn, every family by itself: This indicates there will be both great *individual* repentance and great *corporate* repentance. It seems fantastic to us that Israel as a whole would turn to Jesus and repent of their sin of rejecting their Savior – it is so amazing that we would not believe it unless the Bible so clearly taught it.

“We know of a surety, because God has said it, that the Jews will be restored to their own land, and that they shall inherit the goodly country which the Lord has given unto their fathers by a covenant of salt for ever; but, better still, they shall be converted to the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, and shall see in him the house of David restored to the throne of Israel.”

(Spurgeon)

Zechariah 13

v.1 this fountain is already opened to the believer, not a new fountain rather a new outlet for the fountain

see Revelation 21