

## Messiah Reigns: The Second Coming

Zechariah 12-14

Zechariah 9-11 foretold Messiah's first coming, and rejection by Israel. The second *oracle* in chapters 12-14 describes the second coming, and the cleansing of the nation, finally ruled by her Messiah King.

### A Nation Restored (12)

- God will defend Israel and destroy her enemies (1-9)
- Spirit poured out! Israel sees her Messiah and mourns (10-14)

### A People Purified (13)

- Rinse cycle! God rids the land of idols and false prophets (1-6)
- Crucifixion to Tribulation: God purifies His people (7-9)

### The Return of the King (14)

- The nations defeated by Lord and His holy ones (1-5)
- Endless day, living water, Israel a plain, and peace (6-15)
- Messiah reigns; holiness marks every aspect of life (16-21)



1. The first oracle of Zechariah ended in disaster. Having rejected her Messiah-Shepherd, the nation would descend into a long darkness of suffering and dispersion. The history of the last twenty centuries has demonstrated the truth of this prophecy. But even the prophecy of that judgment hinted at a future return of the nation to their land (cf. 10.6, 8-10). Perhaps what we have seen in the last century is a fulfillment of that promise! Now grab a cup of coffee or a glass of water, and read chapters 12-14. If the nation of Israel's presence in her land today reflects that promised return, what other events are 'on the horizon' in the near future?
2. In Zech. 9-11, Israel's sin leads to her oppression at the hands of other nations. In chapters 12-14, God's blessing on Israel leads her to become a blessing to all other nations. What is the initial thing God will do for Israel (verses 1-9)? Verses 10-14 describe a time when Jews will "look on Me whom they have pierced...and mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son." When will this happen?
3. It's one thing for Israel to return to her homeland, but another thing entirely for her to 'return to her God.' Deeply entrenched sin needs to be eradicated, and that is what Zech. 13 is all about. Idolatry and false prophets are singled out in vv1-6. These evils beset Israel, but they also afflict us: Can you see them in our society? What does v7 allude to? When will the horrendous loss of life of v8 happen (hint: see Rev. 6.8; 9.15)? Verse 9 reveals the purpose for this judgment. Jeremiah called it "the time of Jacob's trouble" (30.4-7). Why? To get a fuller picture of this time, cf. Dan. 9.12; 12.1; Amos 5.18-20, and Matthew 24.
4. The spiritual cleansing of Israel complete, Messiah triumphantly returns to reign over the nation from Jerusalem (chapter 14)! Try to envision the cataclysmic events of verses 1-5! What prophecies in Revelation 21 and 22 do you see reflected in verses 6-11? All those nations which afflicted Israel will be destroyed, and all remaining nations will worship God (12-21)! Today, socialist elites are trying to create a utopia without God. What would Zechariah say to those who follow them? Where should our hope be?