Zechariah 12:1-9

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

Wyn Laidig

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***Zechariah 12:1–9***  
**1** The oracle of the word of **YHWH** concerning Israel: Thus declares **YHWH**, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him: **2** “Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. **3** On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it. **4** On that day, declares **YHWH**, I will strike every horse with panic, and its rider with madness. But for the sake of the house of Judah I will keep my eyes open, when I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. **5** Then the clans of Judah shall say to themselves, ‘The inhabitants of Jerusalem have strength through **YHWH Tsava’ot**, their God.’ **6** “On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch among sheaves. And they shall devour to the right and to the left all the surrounding peoples, while Jerusalem shall again be inhabited in its place, in Jerusalem. **7** “And **YHWH** will give salvation to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not surpass that of Judah. **8** On that day **YHWH** will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of **YHWH**, going before them. **9** And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

1. The oracle of Zech 11 speaks of God’s punishment because His people and their leadership were disobedient. How was that symbolized by the two staffs?
2. Chapter 12 begins the final oracle of Zechariah, which continues through chapter 14 (the end of the book) in which we see that Chapter 11 is not the end of the story for God’s people. In Zech 12:1 YHWH is introduced as the one “**who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him.**” Why do you think this is significant? And how does this phrase relate to the meaning of “**YHWH Tsava’ot**” (YHWH of hosts) the title of YHWH most frequently used in Zechariah?
3. It is interesting that Zech 12:1 says YHWH created the “**spirit of man within him**”. Why do you think he stated it this way, instead of just saying YHWH “created man”?
4. What does it mean that Jerusalem will become a “cup of staggering” to the all the surrounding peoples? Look also at Isaiah 51:17-23.
5. In these first 9 verses, how many times does Zechariah use the phrase “**on that day**”? What day is this referring to? Look at Jeremiah 25:15-16 and Isaiah 2:11-17 (Note that Isaiah 2 is also clearly linked to the prior chapter of Zechariah, Zech 11:1-3.) And also compare to Rev 14:7-10 and Rev 16:17-20.
6. In Zech 12:3, how is Jerusalem to be “a heavy stone” for all the peoples? What is the picture here?
7. In the last phrase of Zech 12:2, the Hebrew is not entirely clear. The ESV translates this as “**the siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah**”. What do you think this means? Where is Jerusalem in relation to Judah? What is a siege and where exactly will it occur?
8. In Zech 12:4, what does this phrase mean: “**But for the sake of the house of Judah I will keep my eyes open**?”
9. Look at Zech 12:5. What do the people of Judah say regarding the siege of Jerusalem? Why? What is the situation? Are the people of Judah doing battle as well?
10. What is going on Zech 12:6? What is a “blazing pot” כִּיּוֹר אֵשׁ (**kiyyor esh**)? It seems that all of Judah is actively fighting here.
11. Why does Zech 12:6 say it will be inhabited “**in its place**”?
12. Zech 12:7 is a bit hard to understand. What do you think it means? What might God be trying to teach us here, as we approach the new life in His kingdom which begins “on that day”?
13. In Zech 12:8, what does it mean that “the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David”? What was David like?
14. At the end of Zech 12:8, it says “the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of YHWH going before them.” What does this mean? What is the “house of David” in this context?
15. At the very end of Zech 12:8, it says the house of David will be like the angel of YHWH “**going before them**.” Who does “them” refer to?
16. Zech 12:9 is a good summary of this section. What is the main point?
17. What does this passage say to you, personally?