

XIII. ZECHARIAH 12:10

A. Context of Zechariah 12:10

1. This passage has an eschatological setting - the siege of Jerusalem during last days of Tribulation period (12:1-3).
 - a. Jerusalem is compared to a "cup of trembling" (v. 2)
 - b. Jerusalem is compared to a "burdensome stone" (v. 3)
2. The LORD will defend the inhabitants of the city by destroying the universal military confederation (12:4-9).
 - a. A confusion and turmoil will smite the armies (v. 4)
 - b. The inhabitants will be supernaturally energized (v. 5-9)

B. Exegesis of Zechariah 12:10

1. The LORD will provide an outpouring of His Holy Spirit on the Jewish inhabitants (12:10a).
 - a. Important to note that the LORD is the speaker throughout this passage (12:2,3,4,6,9,10)
 - b. Paralleled by eschatological outpouring in Joel 2:28,29 and Ezekiel 39:29
 - c. It is in fulfillment of the prayer of Psalm 122:6
2. This will cause the people to "look" unto the LORD (12:10b).
 - a. The phrase "unto me" is attested by all manuscripts and versions and refers to the LORD.
 - b. Translation should be "unto me" rather than "upon me." Physical sight is not so much described as the spiritual sight of confidence and faith (cf. Num. 21:9; Isa. 22:11; 51:1).
 - c. The One to whom they "look" is the One they had previously "pierced."
 - 1) Hebrew word is "*dakar*," appears 11 times, meaning "pierced through" (e.g. Zech. 13:3; Num. 25:8).
 - 2) The word "whom" is the word "*eth*" - a word which serves to point out the object of the verb.
 - d. Summary: The One who will gather the nations, who will defend Jerusalem, who will pour out His Spirit, who will receive the "look" from the people, is the One who was previously "thrust through" at some time in the past.
3. This "pouring out" and "looking" will result in a nationwide mourning of repentance over the pierced one (12:10c-13:1).
 - a. The mourning will reach all levels of society - kingly, priestly, etc. (12:12-14)
 - b. The mourning will lead to a national cleansing from sin (13:1).
- a fountain of water, not blood (cf. Num. 8:7; 19:9; Ezek. 36:25; John 3:5)

C. Rabbinical Interpretation of Zechariah 12:10

1. Mourning is over those Jews who fell in defense of their city as martyrs (Leeser, Harkavy, NJPS, p. 79)
 - a. This interpretation inserts a phrase ("for every one") not found in Hebrew text.
 - b. This interpretation applies mourning to a group, while verse applies it to a single person ("him").
2. Martyr who was "thrust through" is Messiah son of Joseph who fell in the battle. (Talmud, JPS)
 - a. The concept of "Messiah son of Joseph" did not appear until Talmudic period - introduced to account for "suffering" passages that rabbis did not want to apply to Davidic Messiah.
 - b. This interpretation translates "*eth*" as "because" and inserts a "him" in the verse which is not warranted.

D. Fulfillment of Zechariah 12:10

1. How could the LORD be pierced?
 - a. Rabbinic attempts to avoid a literal translation arise from this "problem" which finds solution in the incarnation. (John 1:14; 19:34)
 - b. Parallel Old Testament passages confirm reality of piercing of the righteous sufferer. (Ps. 22:16; Isa. 53:5)
2. Why the change in pronouns from "me" to "him?"
 - a. "A common enallage [the use of one grammatical form in place of another, as the plural for the singular in the editorial use of we] of persons met with frequently in Hebrew" (Unger, citing Gesenius, Hebrew Grammar, 1350, 144a)
 - b. There may be a change in speakers at this point from the LORD to the prophet (see following notes on Zechariah 13:6)).
3. What about citation in John 19:37?
 - a. Difference between the prophetic fulfillment of Exodus 12:46 cited in John 19:36 and the "allusion" to Zechariah 12:10 in John 19:37 ("another scripture saith).
 - b. The "mourning" of the entire passage began as soon as deed was done (see Luke 23:48), but will finally be fulfilled at second coming (Rev. 1:7).

JEWISH TRANSLATIONS OF ZECHARIAH 12:10

- Leeser: "But I will pour out over the house of David, and over the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they will look up toward me (for every one) whom they have thrust through, and they will lament for him, as one lamenteth for an only son, and weep bitterly for him, as one weepeth bitterly for the first-born."
- Harkavy: "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look unto me for every one whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first-born."
- JPS: "And I will pour upon the house of David, And upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, The spirit of grace of supplication, And they shall look unto Me because they have thrust him through; And they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, And shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first-born."
- NJPS: "But I will fill the House of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem with a spirit of pity and compassion; and they shall lament to Me about those slain, wailing over them as over a favorite son and showing bitter grief as over a firstborn."
- A Jewish Bible according to the Masoretic Text Hebrew & English Sinai Publishing, Tel Aviv, Israel "But I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they whom the *nations* were piercing shall look upon me, and shall mourn over it, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness over it, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."

CHRISTIAN TRANSLATIONS OF ZECHARIAH 12:10

- KJV: "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn."
- NKJV: "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the 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*, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn."
- ASV: "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication; and they shall look unto me whom they have pierced; and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first-born."
- RSV: "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of compassion and supplication, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a first-born."
- NIV: "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son."