

## **Commentary on Zechariah Chapters 11 and 12, by Chuck Smith 9.4.24**

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**September Memory Verse, 1 Thessalonians 4:15 (NKJV)**

**For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.**

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#### **Includes: Background on Arab - Jewish struggle over Jerusalem**

Today we have a fascinating area of scripture to cover. For we are surely getting into some exciting areas of biblical prophecy, as the Lord begins to speak of the events that will be transpiring in these last days. Some of them we see already in the beginning of their fulfillment. Others that will be fulfilled very shortly.

But before we get into the events of these last days, chapter 11 deals with the first coming of Jesus Christ, and His rejection, and His being sold for thirty pieces of silver. As Jesus said, "I came in My Father's name and you did not receive Me, but another one is coming in his own name, and him you will receive" ([John 5:43](#)). So here in the eleventh chapter it speaks about the true Shepherd that was rejected and the false shepherd that will be followed and accepted by the people.

So chapter 11, first of all, the prediction of the destruction and devastation that would come to the Jews by the Roman government as their authority and government would be taken away from them. The Romans were to invade from the north. The invasion of the Roman troops began in the northern part of Israel, through Lebanon, moving south, until they finally encircled Jerusalem, and destroyed Jerusalem and the temple, and slaughtered over one million Jews. So the prophet begins with this invasion coming from the area of the north.

#### **CHAPTER 11**

Open thy doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour thy cedars. Howl, fir tree; for the cedar is fallen; because the mighty are spoiled: howl, O ye oaks of Bashan; for the forest of the vintage is come down. There is a voice of the howling of the shepherds; for their glory is spoiled ([Zec 11:1-3](#)):

Now these are the shepherds that were ruling in Jerusalem, that is, the rulers of the Jewish people.

a voice of the roaring of the young lions; for the pride of Jordan is spoiled. Thus saith the LORD my God; Feed the flock of the slaughter; Whose possessors slay them, and hold themselves not guilty ([Zec 11:3-5](#)):

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The rulers were oppressing the people, and yet, did not have any feelings of guilt at all. They were derelict in their fulfilling the obligation of a ruler over the people. They were taking advantage of their position, and they were oppressing the people in a spiritual sense, and enriching themselves through it.

At the time of the coming of Jesus Christ, the priesthood had been corrupted. Of course, the priests were a part of the rulership. There were the scribes, and the priests, and the rulers, but basically the Jewish people, though under Roman domination, were ruled by the high priests and by the supposed spiritual leaders. It was quite a corrupt system.

Jesus came out against it, and of course, that is what created the animosity against Jesus and the determination to kill Him. He came into the temple, you remember, and He made a whip out of some ropes, and He began to overturn the tables of the moneychangers. He began to drive them out. He said that, "My Father's house is to be called a house of prayer, but you've made it a den of thieves" ([Matthew 21:13](#)).

Now what was going on, basically, is that they had quite a little market system going within the temple itself. Very profitable indeed, because they had a monopoly. The priest would not receive any coinage for the temple treasury except the temple shekel, the silver temple shekel. So that the coinage of the day was the Roman coinage. But you try and put a Roman coin in the offering plate, and you were in big trouble. They just wouldn't accept it. They only would deal with the temple shekel. So if a person wanted to give to God, it was necessary that he change his Roman coinage for the temple shekel. That's where they had the profitable little business. That's what the moneychangers were all about. These men would sit there in the gate of the temple and they would exchange your Roman coinage for the temple shekel, but at a sizable profit to them. They were actually profiteering off of the desire of the people to give to God. No wonder such a thing upset Jesus and was an abomination unto Him. People taking advantage of that desire that people have to worship God and to walk with God. Men supposedly spiritual leaders and yet using their position for their own personal gain and profit.

The same was true with the doves and the lambs that they were selling. Now you could buy a couple of doves out in the street for just a farthing or so. But if you would bring one of those doves in to the priest, he would search it carefully until he could find a blemish, and he'd say, "Can't take this. Won't offer this to God. Look, it's got a blemish here." So you were forced to buy these expensive doves that these fellows were selling in the gates. Whereas out on the streets you could buy them for fifteen, twenty cents, these guys were selling them for five bucks. They had their little mark on it, the priests see it, "Yes, that one's been approved. It's kosher. We'll take that one and offer it." Again, the idea was profiteering off of religion, or off of the religious desires of the people.

Such a thing has always, and continues to be an abomination in the eyes of the Lord. God help any man who seeks to profiteer off of people's desire to know God and have

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fellowship with God, and would actually stand in the way and be a middleman to make a profit or to reap a profit off of the desire of people to know God. It angered Jesus then. It angers Jesus now. He is not any more tolerant toward those who today are profiteering off of the innate religious desires within people than He was in that day.

So the Lord in prophecy here speaks out against these shepherds who actually were destroying the people, but didn't feel any guilt over it all.

and they were saying of themselves, Oh bless the Lord; I'm so rich [God has prospered me]: and their own shepherds did not really have pity on the people. [So God declares,] I'm not gonna any longer pity the inhabitants of the land: but, I will deliver the men every one into his neighbor's hand, and into the hand of his king: and they shall smite the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver them (Zec 11:5-6).

In other words, the Lord here predicts that the Roman troops are gonna come, and the power of government is gonna be taken away from Israel. That Israel will be dispersed from the land, and God will not spare them. God will not have mercy upon them in that day, but will allow the Roman troops to be an instrument of God's judgment against these people who have been oppressed by their shepherds, those that should be their leaders.

And the Lord said,

And I will feed the flock of slaughter, even you, O poor of the flock. And I took unto me two staves; the one I called Beauty [or Graciousness], and the other I called Bands [or Union]; and I fed the flock (Zec 11:7).

So, the real flock of God, the Lord said, "I'm gonna drive out these idle shepherds. I'm gonna drive out these false shepherds, and I Myself will feed the flock. I'll take care of them." So He took these two staves, the one He called Beauty, the other He called Bonds.

Now He said, Three shepherds also I will cut off in one month (Zec 11:8);

The three shepherds, of course, being the prophets, the priests, and the rulers. "And I'm gonna cut them off in one month."

and my soul loathed them, and their soul also abhorred me (Zec 11:8).

There was a mutual, not a mutual appreciation, but a mutual depreciation of each other. The Lord said, "They don't like Me, and I don't like them. So, they have loathed. My soul has loathed them, because they have abhorred Me."

Then I said, I will not feed you: that dieth, let it die; and that that is to be cut off, let it be cut off; and let the rest eat every one the flesh of another. And I took my staff, even Beauty, and cut it asunder, that I might break my covenant which I had made with all the people. And it was broken in that day: and so the poor of the flock that waited upon me knew that it was the word of the LORD (Zec 11:9-11).

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Now Beauty, of course, is Jesus Christ, cut in sunder. With the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ, God's covenant with the nation Israel was broken. Their place of standing in divine favor was cut off. Paul said, "Inasmuch as you've judged yourself unworthy of eternal life, I'm going to the Gentiles." God allowed blindness to happen to Israel at that point, for God's covenant was broken when Beauty was cut in sunder. God said He was gonna do it in order that the covenant might be broken.

So that covenant of the law whereby they were able to relate to God was broken, so that no longer can they relate to God by the law. But if they are going to relate to God, they're going to have to relate to God just like anybody else. For Paul tells us in Romans there is no difference; all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and all are justified only through faith. You can only come to God now on the basis of faith, and the Jew has to come like the Gentile at the present time. There is no longer a covenant that God has that is valid with these people whereby through the law they can approach God. That covenant was invalidated when Beauty, Jesus Christ, was cut asunder. That is why Jesus said, "This cup is a new covenant in My blood which is shed for the remission of sins" ([Matthew 26:28](#)). God established a new covenant with man, and in the establishing of the new covenant through Jesus Christ, the old covenant of the law was disallowed and is no longer a valid means of coming to God or fellowshiping with God. God will not accept their offerings under the old covenant.

The poor, of course, are the, as the Bible says concerning those who believe in Christ, "not many rich, not many noble, but God has chosen the weak things of the world, the poor," and the gospel is preached to the poor.

And I said unto them, If you think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prized at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD ([Zec 11:12-13](#)).

What a remarkable prophecy concerning the betrayal of Jesus Christ and the being sold by Judas for thirty pieces of silver, the price whereby He was prized. Judas, it says, went to the high priest, and he said, "How much will you give me, and I will deliver Him unto you?" And they covenanted to give to him thirty pieces of silver. Here, of course, the Lord spoke of the price in advance.

But then He also spoke of the fact that the silver would be cast to the potter, and it would be cast down in the house of the Lord. When Judas Iscariot saw that they were crucifying Jesus, Of course, John tells us that he held the purse, and he was, John tells us in the Greek that he was thieving out of the purse. So Judas Iscariot when he saw when Jesus was being condemned, he came back and he brought the thirty pieces of silver, and he said, "Here I can't take it. I've betrayed innocent blood." They said, "What's that to us? It's your problem." So Judas took the thirty pieces of silver and just threw it on the floor, and went out, and he said, "It's your problem." He repented and hanged himself.

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Now it was their problem, because it was used to purchase blood--blood money. They could not return it to the temple treasury. One of their little rules would not allow any blood money to go into the treasury. So they bought a potter's field to bury the strangers in the land. So the prophecy of Zechariah is fulfilled.

So very interesting prophecy concerning Jesus Christ, and I'm interested in the attitude that the Lord has in this. Of course, this is all in advance, you know, this is 500 years before it happened. But God knew exactly what was going to happen, because God knows all things. The Lord looks on this rather scornfully, He said, "A good price that I was prized of by them." Willing to sell their Lord for thirty pieces of silver. That's all the value he had placed upon Him, selling out his relationship with the Lord for thirty pieces of silver.

Now when Beauty was cut asunder then the other stave marked Union, the union that man had with God, that the Jews, Judah and Jerusalem had with God that also was broken, and that union of that nation with God was also, at that point, broken. They had rejected Beauty; they had rejected Jesus Christ. They'd sold Him. So God broke Bonds, the union, the brotherhood that He had between Judah and Israel.

Now having rejected the true Messiah, having rejected Beauty, as Jesus said, "I came in My Father's name you wouldn't receive Me. Another is gonna come in his own name, and him you're going to receive." So in verse 15, Zechariah predicts the coming of the antichrist, who, in the initial onset of his reign, they will acknowledge and worship as their Messiah.

And the LORD said unto me, Take unto thee yet the instruments of a foolish shepherd (Zec 11:15).

They had rejected the true Shepherd. Jesus said, "I am the good Shepherd come down from heaven." But He was rejected. So the Lord said,

I will raise up a shepherd in the land, which shall not visit those that are cut off, neither shall he seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that which is standing still: but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces. Woe unto that idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened (Zec 11:16-17).

So here's an interesting prediction concerning the antichrist, the foolish idol shepherd that will come and be recognized by the Jews. Let me point out to you that the conditions are absolutely ripe in Israel today for this to happen. There are many of the rabbis in Israel that are predicting the coming of the Messiah very soon. But you ask the rabbis, "How will you know your Messiah? How will you know he is the true Messiah?" Invariably their answer will be, "He will build the temple. He will help us to build the temple."

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Now, many of the Orthodox Jews, especially around the area of Measharim, believe Israel does not even have the right to exist as a nation until the Messiah comes. So they are anti-Zionists. But they are waiting for their Messiah. They believe that they will recognize him because he will help them to build the temple. Of course, that's exactly what the Bible says the antichrist is going to do. He's going to make a covenant with the people, but then he will break the covenant by coming to the temple and standing in it and declaring that he himself is God.

Now here the prediction concerning the antichrist is concerning this assassination attempt. We are given further information on this in the book of Revelation, chapter 13. When the antichrist does come on the world scene, he is going to be able to work miracles, marvelous miracles. He will be a financial wizard. He will be a master diplomat. He will be able to bring about very sensible, peaceful solutions for many of the world problems.

Right now in Europe there is a tremendous peace movement, and it is growing and will continue to grow. Demonstrations are taking place all over Europe. Not of hundreds of people, of thousands of people, and in some cases hundreds of thousands of people gathering together in these massive peace movements. They are one of the greatest threats to the security of Western Europe today. The antichrist is gonna come in on the crest of a peace movement. He's gonna come in with flattering words speaking peace, bringing answers and solutions for the turmoil that exists. Bringing marvelous answers to the economic woes.

Now, it was the economic problems of Germany that gave rise to Hitler. When your whole economy begins to just fall apart, government has totally failed, then the people in desperation are open to anybody who seems to have sensible, plausible answers. And they will follow even one as Hitler with all of his bizarre ideas, because he promises to the people the solutions. But it was the economic woes of Germany that laid the groundwork that Hitler can move in on it and to rise to this power. Those same economic problems developing now in Europe today, and the desire for peace will be the program, and the crest upon which the antichrist will move in.

Now, there will be an assassination attempt upon his life. It will appear for a time to be successful, but then he will miraculously survive this assassination attempt, according to Revelation, chapter 13.

Now here in Ezekiel we are told that as the result of this assassination attempt, he will be blinded in his right eye, and one of his arms will be withered. You say, "Oh great, we'll be able to identify the antichrist." Well, I don't hope to be here when he appears. If you're around, you can identify him if you want. But that which hinders, that is, the power of the Holy Spirit within the church, that which hinders shall hinder until He is taken out of the way, and then shall that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition, who will come forth with all kinds of lies and deceitfulness, working miracles and wonders.

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So the church should not be here for the revelation of the antichrist. I'm not looking for the antichrist, I'm looking for Jesus Christ to come for me. I think it's a rather bizarre and twisted kind of an angle that Satan has people looking for the antichrist, trying to identify the antichrist, and looking for the antichrist, rather than looking for Jesus Christ. Jesus didn't say, "Look for the antichrist," He said, "When you see these things begin to come to pass, look up and lift up your head, for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28). "Look for Me coming for you." We should be looking for Him. So, interesting prophecy in Zechariah concerning the antichrist.

### CHAPTER 12

Now, we're out of the fog and into the clear day. Out of the haze and smog. Into the glorious pure age, as this final vision of Zechariah tells us about the glorious new age that God is going to establish, the Kingdom Age upon the earth. Over and over in these last three chapters you are going to be reading the phrase, "In that day," and that is the preface to the declaration of many of the fascinating aspects of the Kingdom Age, and that great judgment that will immediately precede the Kingdom Age.

So this is the burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundation of the earth, and formed the spirit of man within him (Zec 12:1).

Francis Schaeffer said that it is important that we not just talk about God today, or to just use the term *God* without defining the term, because the term God represents so many things to so many people. They really don't know what God you are talking about. So he said when we refer to God, we need to give sort of a defining qualifications. And thus, we should say, "The eternal God, the Creator of the heaven and the earth." Then they know what God you're talking about.

Now it is interesting that the Lord doesn't just say, "The Lord," but He gives sort of a defining of Himself. "The Lord which stretched forth the heavens and laid the foundation of the earth, and formed the spirit of man within him." Now I know who you're talking about. You see. He is the Lord over all. He is the divine Creator. He stretched forth the heavens. He created the earth. He created the capacity in man to know God and to fellowship with Him. Thus, the Lord identifying Himself declares,

Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it (Zec 12:2-3).

I would like to suggest to you that this condition is existing today in Israel. Number one, Israel as a nation is a burdensome stone to all the nations around it. They are totally surrounded by antagonistic forces. There has been a peace treaty made with Egypt, but it is extremely tenuous. But when Israel became a nation, the day they became a

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nation, she was immediately attacked by Syria, by Jordan, and by Egypt, who grabbed off great chunks of territory. When Israel was declared a nation, a state, by the U.N. resolution.

Since that time, in subsequent wars, when the little nation of Israel was surrounded by enemies of vastly numerically superior forces, Israel came forth from these skirmishes, looking almost invincible. In 1967 when Israel took on both Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, they were able to push Egypt clear back to the Suez Canal. They were able to take the entire Golan Heights. They were able to take from Syria and the entire West Bank from Jordan in just six days of fighting. Jerusalem was a cup of trembling to all the people round about her. Those who were in siege against Jerusalem and Judah, Jerusalem became a burdensome stone. Those that burdened themselves with them were cut off, cut in pieces.

These victories were the result of God working with them. Now, the Jews did not recognize that after 1967. But they developed through the victories of 1967 a very cocky attitude. More or less an attitude of, "We are invincible." If you would tour the land, they were very proud to tell you of their brilliant military strategies of their battles, and of their fighting powers and what they had done. Any suggestion that God maybe helped them was sort of scoffed at. And yet, who can deny the hand of God? In taking, say, the Golan Heights. For when they were pressing for a cease-fire, and the tide of battle... of course, they had already taken the Sinai clear down to the Suez, and they were moving their resources. And they had taken the West Bank, and they were now moving to Syria, because they wanted to now capture the Golan Heights to get the advantage of the upper positions, military position. So though there was a big cry for a cease-fire, they knew that they were going to establish the lines of the cease-fire at the... you know, the border would be established at the time the cease-fire went into effect. So they were stalling for the cease-fire. Because they were wanting to get as much as the Golan Heights as they could. But Syria, beginning to realize that the tide of battle was going against them, was pressing and urging the world for an immediate kind of a cease-fire. And in order to press, impress the world, Damascus radio began to broadcast that the Israeli troops are fighting in the streets of Damascus. All of the commanders out in the Golan Heights listening faithfully to their Damascus radio heard all of these propaganda lies all over the radio in Damascus that Israel had moved to Damascus and was fighting in the streets of Damascus, though that was not the case. But yet, for propaganda purposes, the Damascus radio was publicizing this and broadcasting this. The tank commanders and all began to leave their tanks, and the Israeli planes, the observers saw all of these troops fleeing towards Jordan. Left all their tanks and everything in place, and they were all fleeing toward Jordan because they'd been listening to Damascus radio, that Damascus was falling. They thought, "Oh, man. We've been cut off; we've had it." So they just left, and they were all fleeing to Jordan. So the planes reported that, "Hey, the guys are fleeing." So that's why Israel stalled the cease-fire for one more day, and they were able to take over a thousand square miles of the Golan Heights in just one day. Because Syria abandoned it, and so they sent in their



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paratroopers to the lines that they wanted, and they took it. The cease-fire was claimed, and they had all of this territory as far out as the paratroopers had gone.

Now you read in the Old Testament how the Lord had brought confusion upon their enemies. You say, "Well, that's the God of the Old Testament." Hey, it's happening today. It happened in 1967.

In 1973 war was a little different. Vastly different, in fact. The Arabs were better equipped and better trained. Russia had sent thousands of officers and millions of dollars worth of equipment, armament and all to Syria, to Egypt, and trained them for the battle of annihilation. Russia was directing the 1973 war against Israel, attacking on Yom Kippur. They had dramatic initial successes. They almost, almost destroyed Israel in 1973. There were a few days there where the fate of the nation was just in delicate balance. Israel received some initial setbacks, severe setbacks. Along the Suez Canal they had established these concrete bunkers, and the Bar Lev line which was considered to be impregnable, much like the Maginot line in France that the German panzers overran in World War II. It was supposed to be a strong bulwark of defense, and surely they'll not be able to conquer the Bar Lev line, but they did.

Up in the Golan Heights, the Syrians had some initial advantages and breakthrough, and they came within one mile of the Golani headquarters. After 1973 the attitude of the Jewish people changed dramatically. They no longer felt invincible. They realized that they were almost destroyed. They realized that their nation, their dreams had almost come to an end. After 1973 there was a much more subdued attitude among the people. We noticed a dramatic change in people that we knew that we had talked to before the 1973 war, and then talked to after the 1973 war. Suddenly this whole feeling of invincibility was gone, and they were afraid. Yet, how God did protect them, and how God did give them victory in 1973.

Now it is interesting to me and significant that the Lord here declares, "Though all of the people of the earth be gathered together against it." Have you heard the U.N. resolutions in the last few years? How that the whole world stands in a resolution to condemn Israel. Even the United States has been voting in some of these resolutions against Israel, condemning them for certain actions, for establishing settlements in the West Bank, for attacking the nuclear reactor in Iraq, and things of this nature. "Though the whole world be gathered together against it." Really, Israel almost stands alone against the world.

The United States, from the time of President Truman, well, even before, has been a staunch ally of Israel. But after the 1973 war, the Arabs found a new weapon, and that was the oil. They began to use it as a political tool for blackmail. They began to influence the foreign policy of the United States dramatically with the threat of an oil boycott. They gave us a sample of what it would be like in 1973 after the war. When we were waiting in the long lines at the gasoline pumps, and they demonstrated to us the power that they had with their oil to bring us to a grinding halt. Since that demonstration,

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they have been using their oil, raising the prices constantly creating this worldwide inflation and economic woe, and causing us to dramatically alter our relationship with Israel, with the threat that if we support Israel, then they will cut off our oil supplies.

So the whole thing has changed, and thus, the United States has even moved so many times of late in the world opinion against Israel. So the prophecy is fulfilled, "Though the whole world be gathered together against them." In much of our policy towards Israel we have had to alter the policy, not from our conscience, what we feel is right, but what we are being pressured to do because of the necessity of continued oil supply out of the Middle East.

Now in that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open my eyes upon the house of Judah, and I will smite every horse of the people with blindness. And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength and the LORD of hosts their God. In that day will I make the governors of Judah like a hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem (Zec 12:4-6).

In 1967 that came to pass. Jerusalem was inhabited again in her own place. Jerusalem came again under the authority of the nation of Israel. No longer a divided city, no longer half under the control of the Jordanian government, and half under Israel, but Israel was united and inhabited. And of course, they have since then just expanded the borders and the boundaries of Jerusalem. Even now you go out towards Jericho, after you get past Bethany, and ten miles down the road towards Jericho a huge, vast new housing settlement, part of Jerusalem, and the city of Jerusalem now. Part of it. And they have established over towards Bethlehem all in the territory of what is known as the West Bank. Huge, vast new apartment complexes and industries and all, as they are expanding their hold upon that land. It's all a fulfillment of prophecy.

Now it's hard to... many times when you talk about these things, there are times, unfortunately, that people of Arab extraction feel, "Oh, you're anti-Arab?" No, you're just pro-Bible. You're just saying what the Bible says is going to be. Because I get excited when the Bible is coming to pass doesn't mean that I hate all Arabs, or I am against Jordan, or I'm against any group of people. It just means that I get excited when I see scripture being fulfilled. It doesn't mean that I am justifying Israel in all that she does. I'm just saying that what God said was going to be is happening. I just find that very exciting and fascinating.

The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first, and the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah. In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, and as the angel of the LORD before them (Zec 12:7-8).

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So, again, he speaks of the power that God would give to them as a fighting force. The least of them would be as David. Now David was almost invincible conquering over his enemies. The least of them as David. And the house of David will be as God, and the angel of the Lord will be going before them.

In Deuteronomy, prophesying of this same time, it said, "And one shall put a hundred to flight. And ten shall put a thousand to flight." There's a very interesting book by Chaim Herzog called "The War of Atonement." There's another author Lance Lambert who has written a fascinating book on the Yom Kippur war. I forget; he's written the book it's published in England under one title, and the United States under another title, and I forget the titles of either, but Lance Lambert. But Chaim Herzog, this book "The War of Atonement" goes into great detail concerning many of the battles during this 1973 Yom Kippur war. He tells how that the Syrian armored division had come within one mile of the Golani headquarters, and suddenly stopped their advance. He relates how that when they stopped one mile from the Golani headquarters, there was only one operational tank to defend the Golan Heights against the Syrian advance.

A young twenty-seven year old lieutenant, who, when he heard that the Syrians had attacked, hitchhiked up to the Golani headquarters. He went in and he reported to the C.O. and he said, "I am a tank commander, and if you'll give me some tanks," he said, "I'll go out and see what I can do against this Syrian armor brigade." The C.O. said, "I only have one tank that's operational. If you'll wait for an hour, we ought to be able to get two others ready to go." Zvika helped them to take some of the dead bodies out of the other tanks; they loaded them with fuel, and loaded them with armament. He started out with three tanks, and just about a half mile from the Golani headquarters as they came around the bend, here they saw this whole armored Syrian brigade of about a hundred tanks, thirty personal carriers, and here's Zvika with three tanks. He began to fire, exploding some of the Syrian tanks. He was ordering the tanks on either side which ones to fire at. He was on his headphones and he was directing the battle, and pretty soon he noticed that he wasn't getting much support on either side. So he popped the hatch and looked, and found out that both the tanks that he had had were wiped out, that is, on his flanks. And he was left alone against this whole Syrian armored brigade. So he thought, "This is no place for me." He headed up over the top of the hill.

Now along the tap line route up there in the upper Golan are all these little hills, just rolling hills, and on the other side, sort of a valley. So Zvika began to race his tank up and down on the other side of these hills. He'd come over the top, pick off a Syrian tank, back down, and then race up to another hill, come over the top, pick off another tank, back down. He was racing back and forth behind these hills that go along the tap line, picking off one tank after another, reporting back on his radio, "Zvika's brigade just got another Syrian tank! It's up in flames!"

Back in the Golan headquarters, they were listening to these radio transmissions from Zvika out there, and they thought, "Man, he's got a whole brigade of tanks going out there." They didn't know that he was all alone.

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Finally, the Syrians figured he must have had a whole brigade too, because he kept coming over different hills, and they began to retreat. One put a hundred to flight! The least of them was like David. There are stories after stories of things like this that took place. One man in a gun position near Kanitra was accredited with over a hundred Syrian tanks from his stationary position. He held off the whole brigade up in this one section of the Golan near Kanitra.

I went out in the field and I climbed up in these T-62 tanks that scattered all over the field. And the interesting thing to me, right in the center of the armor plate on each of these tanks were these melted metal, the holes that were made by these heat type of projectiles that when they first hit, they just have such tremendous heat they melt the metal, and then they have the second impact that goes inside. They were so powerful they would pop the turrets, and the turrets would be sitting topsy-turvy. Inside the tanks you'd see the uniforms and the helmets, and the glasses and everything else. The guys were just... but this guy, I mean, he was hitting bull's-eyes in every shot. I mean, he wasn't just coming in. I mean, he was hitting dead center on every shot. It's absolutely uncanny to go through that field of tanks out there, and to see these bull's-eyes on every shot. He accounted for some 114 tanks. "I will make the least of them like David, and the house of David like God, and the angel of the Lord before them." Such was the case in 1973 and in 1967.

Such may be the case very soon once again. Israel has a master troops on the Lebanese border. General Itan has warned the PLO that they are ready to strike. Any provocation and they're gonna move in. Of course, there's high tension right now as these Israeli troops are in readiness up in the area of Metulla. I told you this a few weeks ago that this was what they were planning. One division is gonna move up into the Elah Valley to wipe out those san missile sites; the other one is gonna go over to the coast to trap all of the PLO that are in the area of Tyre and Sidon and in southern Lebanon there. They're planning to drive the PLO out of Lebanon. They're planning to drive the PLO on over to Jordan. They are planning, actually, to drive both the Syrians and the PLO out of Lebanon, and then they're gonna turn Lebanon over to the Lebanese people. They're gonna say to the Lebanese leaders, "Here is your nation. You're now free of the PLO. You're now free of the Syrians. Let's shake hands and let's be friends. We're giving you your nation back to you again." That's their plan. Then they plan to make Jordan a Palestinian state and usher over to Jordan all of those Palestinians over in the West Bank who want their own state. Say, "You want it? You can have it. Go over to Jordan and get it." They plan to then annex the West Bank as they did the Golan Heights, and that will comprise the nation of Israel today. If Egypt doesn't like it, they'll take the Sinai back again.

The Lord declares,

And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour out upon the house of David (Zec 12:9-10),

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Now this is going just a little further in the future.

I will pour out upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one that mourns for his only son, and it shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn (Zec 12:10).

So God is gonna pour out His Spirit upon the nation Israel. When is that gonna happen? In Ezekiel chapter 39 it tells us it's gonna happen when God destroys the invading Russian army.

Now I believe, I believe that when Israel moves against Lebanon and drives the Syrians out of Lebanon, that it will bring a full-scale war between Syria and Israel. I believe that a full-scale war between Israel and Syria will bring the involvement of Russia into the Middle East. That Russia will take that as their time to move into the Middle East, and that your whole scenario set for you in Ezekiel 38 will be fulfilled at that time. Of course, the interesting thing is that at that time could be very soon as the troops are now amassed. It is not at all impossible that this could happen within the next month or so. That's the thing that just sort of causes you to catch your breath and look at your priorities again. The very fact that the Israeli troops are massed now, they're on the border, they've called up two reserve units. They're poised ready to strike at the first provocation. They've more or less said, "Knock the chip off the shoulder. I dare you." I mean they're ready. It could, it could conceivably all come down, that which the Bible has predicted. For when Russia moves in and God destroys Russia, then the Lord said, "I will pour My Spirit out again upon Israel."

Now here Zechariah tells of the pouring out of the Spirit. Joel tells us of the pouring out of the Spirit. "And I will pour out upon the house of David, the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit, the spirit of grace and supplications."

Now notice that when God pours out His Spirit, the witness of the Spirit is always of the crucified Lord. "They shall look on Him whom they have pierced." Jesus said, "And when the Spirit is come, He will testify of Me." He's not gonna testify of Himself. But, "He will testify of Me." It is the Spirit of God that is constantly pointing people to the cross as their only hope of salvation. The work of the Spirit in your heart is to bring you to the cross of Jesus Christ, to point you to the cross. "And they will look on Him whom they have pierced." In looking at the cross, the Spirit then brings us to repentance, and the mourning for our sins. They shall mourn as for an only son, the firstborn who had been killed, or who had been slain. The great mourning and grieving when the nation Israel realizes that they have rejected the Messiah. When God by His Spirit, opens their eyes to the truth and they realize, "We missed the real Messiah." That mourning, that grieving that will take place within their hearts. For God by His Spirit will open their eyes, and suddenly they will realize the blunder of crucifying the Lord of glory.

So in that day there will be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon (Zec 12:11).

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This was when Josiah the king, beautiful popular king, and a very successful king, when he was killed by the Pharaoh Necho in the battle up in Megiddo. There was a tremendous mourning of the people because he was such a popular and successful king. So there will be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning that took place when Josiah was killed by the Pharaoh Necho there in the battle near Megiddo.

And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan, and their wives; And the house of Levi; and the family of Shimei apart, and their wives; And the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart (Zec 12:12-14).

Now this is interesting to me, the family of David. Did you know that there are people today, Jews who are descendants of David living here on the earth? Now they don't know who they are. They don't know that they have descended from David, because the genealogical records have all been lost, or they're no longer kept. It wasn't necessary to keep them after Jesus was born, because once Jesus was proved to be from the line of David, that's all that was necessary. But there are Jews today who actually have descended. Now, God knows who they are. "In the house of David apart, in the house of Nathan." There are descendants of Nathan the prophet who came to David." There are descendants from this guy Shimei, who when Absalom drove David out of Jerusalem was throwing rocks at David, and throwing dust in the air, and giving David a bad time. There are some of his descendants alive today, throwing rocks and giving people bad times. They put blockades up there in Jerusalem, and they have these piles of rocks on the Sabbath day. If you dare to drive by, they'll throw rocks at you.

## **Background on Arab - Jewish struggle over Jerusalem, added by Pastor John**

The Arab peoples surrounding Jerusalem have a passion for possessing the city that is not justified by history.

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

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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.

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!

The Dome of the Rock was built not because of the Koran, but because the Muslim ruler Abdal-Malik wanted to gain revenue from pilgrims and worshippers, and because he wanted to prevent the rebuilding of a Jewish Temple. Islamic passion for Jerusalem is indeed like **drunkeness**.

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.**

The Muslim passion for Jerusalem is not based on facts. 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](#)), and the only city for whose peace we are commanded to pray ([Ps 122:6](#)). God says He has chosen Jerusalem as the place where He has put His name forever ([2 Chr 6:6](#);

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[33:7](#); [Ps 46:4](#); [48:1-8](#); [87:3](#)). The new heavens and new earth will contain 'the city of my God...new Jerusalem' (Rv 3:12; 21:2). That there will be a 'heavenly Jerusalem' ([Heb 12:22](#)) but no 'heavenly' New York, Paris, London, Damascus, Cairo, etc. speaks volumes" (Dave Hunt, *The Berean Call* – September 2000).