

## **Zechariah 12:9-14 – Strengthened to Fight this World War**

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Poole, Calvin, Geneva, Clarke, Spurgeon, Gill, Barnes, JFB, Trapp, Handfuls, Phillips, Henry, INT. Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Antiochus Epiphanes, the Greek Emperor, came against Jerusalem ...then Titus, the Roman General, came and laid siege 围攻 to Jerusalem...and then the wicked shepherds of Israel threatened the disciples with death if they preached 传道, 传讲 in Christ's name. Talk about opposition! So **God directly fought for his people...and he commanded them to fight as well.**

**But those were the minor enemies!** God's people would face greater enemies...spiritual enemies...and God knew that they had to be spiritually strengthened for the fight. Today, you will hear **how God strengthened his people for that fight.**

Our headings are:

**Strengthened by Provision ( 供应 )**

**Strengthened by Penitence ( 忏悔, 悔过 )**

Our goals are: **That you will know and receive the gifts of God and use them to fight against opposition.**

### **Strengthened by provision**

9 "It shall be in that day that I will **seek to destroy** all the nations that come against **Jerusalem.**

#### **1. Those who dared come out against Jerusalem would find themselves being pursued by God.**

This is like a shopkeeper chasing after someone who tried to steal his goods. **God will not just drive the enemies away, but chase them and destroy them.** God is not interested in restraining the enemy. **The language is very strong.**

**In the past, God destroyed the Babylonians ( 巴比伦 ) with the Medo-Persians ( 玛代波斯 ). God crushed the Medo-Persians by using the Greeks.** God then **crushed the Greeks by using the Romans** as his tool. When these nations set themselves up against God and his people, God crushed them. This is what God **threatened to do to the other nations that threatened Jerusalem** (the spiritual name for the church) and tried to stop the Gospel from spreading.

10 "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.**

#### **2. God will strengthen his people by pouring out ( 浇灌 ) his Spirit on them. And what a provision the Holy Spirit is!**

**a. God's Spirit will be the source of Grace. Grace makes you beautiful** before God and this gives you **joy in your soul.** The Holy Spirit enriches you with **faith, hope, love, fear, repentance, humility, joy, peace, meekness, patience, longsuffering, and self-denial ( 舍己 )**. (Hebrews 10:29 – the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of grace.)

**b. God's Spirit will cause you to make supplication ( 祈求 )**. In fact, the Holy Spirit directly prays for you.

**Romans 8:26** Likewise the **Spirit also helps in our weaknesses.** For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the **Spirit Himself makes intercession ( 代求 )** for us with **groanings which cannot be uttered.**

Henry: "A man without prayer is a like a man without breath!"

**c. Gill well summarizes the works of the Spirit for the believer:** "[He] shows them their wants, and stirs them up to pray; enlarges their hearts, supplies them with arguments, and puts words into their mouths; gives faith, fervency ( 热情 ), and freedom, and encourages to come to God as their Father, and makes intercession for them, according to the will of God..."

#### **3. Did God really pour out his Spirit on his people to strengthen them to fight to conquer the world?**

**Yes, he did.** Exactly as he God predicted, so it happened. Consider the Joel's words.

**Acts 2:4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And **there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 17** 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, **That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;** Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions ( 见异象 ), Your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

"All flesh" means "all peoples"...not just Jews.

The New Jerusalem is **tied to the faith that Abraham had;** the New Jerusalem is not tied to his genes.

Isaiah 44:3 For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; **I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;**

#### **4. Why does God say “pour?”**

The “pouring” of the Spirit means **that he will not be given in small measure.** The Holy Spirit wasn’t new. He was always among the people of God. The difference is that he was poured out... **sent in greater measure to God’s people to help them to fight.** God is no “penny father.”

#### **5. When God’s Spirit was poured out, the nations looked to the One whom the Jews and Romans pierced on the cross.**

Repentance is found only when one looks to Jesus. (Next point.)

John 19:34 But one of **the soldiers pierced His side with a spear,** and immediately blood and water came out. 35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, **so that you may believe.** [37] And again another Scripture says, **“They shall look on Him whom they pierced.”**

**And in a way, every Christian pierced Christ on the cross.** It was your sins that kept Jesus on the cross!

Some Jews object, saying that “pierce” is often used in reference to injury in a war. And we say “yes.” **Jesus being pierced on the cross was the cosmic ( 宇宙的 ) war** between the Son of the woman and the Devil!

**This passage also proves the Deity ( 神性 ) of Jesus in the OT.** God is speaking to Zechariah, but then he said that they pierced him. So God is the one pierced. Jesus was the one pierced. Jesus is God!

#### **6. Lessons:**

**a. God will always defend his church against her enemies.** The church shall never be destroyed but all her enemies will be! No matter how big the totalitarian ( 极权主义的 , 专制的 ) government may be, no matter how powerful false religions may be, no matter how strong social pressures are, God will kill to protect and expand his church.

**b. At the same time, God will always give his people, through his Holy Spirit, what they need to fight the enemies.** His tools are always effective. What are those tools? **Instruction and prayer!**

**c. Ask for the gifts you need.** Does he know you need them? Yes. But he wants you to show your dependence on him! If you don’t pray, you are poor and ill-equipped.

**d. Become acquainted with ( 熟悉 ) the gifts and learn to use them well.** Learn well the biblical account of the one you nailed to the tree! Learn about the nature of sin. Learn about justification.

### **Strengthened by Penitence**

10...Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and **grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.**

#### **1. Along with, or because of, the provision of the Holy Spirit, there will be pure penitence – real repentance ( 悔改 ).**

Every Christian will mourn because he will know that his sins were put on Christ on the cross.

#### **2. How strong was that penitence?**

Because there was nothing to compare with the deep sorrow man must have for sin, so God used the strongest examples!

**a. Sorrow for sins was like the sorrow for the loss of a firstborn – the preeminent ( 最优秀的 ) son – the one who carried on the family name.**

**Jeremiah 31:9** They shall come with weeping, **And with supplications I will lead them.** I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, In a straight way in which they shall not stumble ( 跌倒 ) ; For I am a Father to Israel, And **Ephraim is My firstborn.**

Look at another example of deep sorrow for a firstborn:

**Amos 8:10** I will turn your feasts into mourning, **And all your songs into lamentation ( 哀哭 ) ; I will bring sackcloth on every waist, And baldness on every head; I will make it like mourning for an only son,** And its end like a bitter day.

11 "In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

**b. Sorrow for sins was like when Judah - mourned for the great King Josiah when he was killed.** Josiah was viewed as the hope for a declining kingdom! (Hadadrimmon was a town connected with the plain of Megiddon.) It is believed that the Jews mourned for Josiah for 1 whole year! And they then repeated this practice every year.

2 Chronicles 35:24 His servants therefore took him out of that chariot and put him in the second chariot that he had, and they brought him to Jerusalem. So he died, and was buried in one of the tombs of his fathers. **And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. 25 Jeremiah also lamented for Josiah.** And to this day **all the singing men and the singing women speak of Josiah in their lamentations.** They **made it a custom in Israel; and indeed they are written in the Laments.**

12 "And the **land shall mourn**, every family by itself: the **family of the house of David by itself**, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of **Nathan** by itself, and their wives by themselves;

**3. The royal family – David’s family- showed true penitence: The lines of Solomon and the lines of Nathan – either Nathan the prophet or David’s son!**

**David’s family was highlighted because Jesus directed descended from it.** Jesus inherited the throne of his father David. Sadly, the Jews had forgotten David, a man after God’s own heart, for a long time. But with the working of the Holy Spirit, the royal people repented. And their wives were involved in mourning also. It is not surprising that Israel repented when the Gospel was preached to them.

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, **they were cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

They were deeply convicted ( 被定罪 ) ...and mourned for their sins. Their conviction then moved them to repent. (What irony: They pierced the Son, and they were then cut to the heart!)

Acts 2:41 Then those who **gladly received his word were baptized ( 受洗 )**; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

**Why do you see some by themselves –separated from their wives?** You see this because it shows the purity of the confessions. Men often are not as candid ( 真诚的 ) when they are confessing their sins publicly.

1 Corinthians 7:5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, **that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer;** and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you...

13 "the family of the house **of Levi by itself**, and their wives by themselves; the **family of Shimei** by itself, and their wives by themselves;

**4. The house of Aaron – the priestly tribe repented.**

This tribe probably mourned the most because they were the bitterest and fiercest persecutors ( 逼迫者 ) of God’s people.

They hired a traitor ( 叛徒 ) – Judas. They paid off witnesses against Jesus’ for his death and witnesses against his resurrection. They condemned ( 定罪 ) him to die. **But even these would repent when the Holy Spirit worked in them.**

**What about Shimei, who was he?** Shimei is likely another name of Simeon, one of Jacob’s sons. Maybe he is mentioned because of the sorrow he caused to the women of Shechem whose husbands he murdered. Simeon had joined with Levi to commit these murders. But he too would repent.

14 "all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.

**5. Then the rest of the nations became penitent for their sins.**

These were the people of God who chanted: "Crucify him, crucify him!" But they cried out: "Come, save us."

**6. Lessons:**

**a. It is important to take time away from others and pray privately.** Let the Holy Spirit help you. Confess your sins and make supplication. Pour out your heart to the Lord. Confess all those secret sins! Mourn deeply for your sins.

**b. Unconfessed sins are a hindrance ( 阻碍 ) to kingdom work!** Nothing stymies God’s work than a lack of confession. If you hide your sins, you will not prosper. **If you hide your sins, your relationships will never properly heal.** Never stop confessing your sins. And be sure you are never too big to confess your sins.

**c. When God’s Holy Spirit works in people, then, and only then, will they truly repent.** There are many who have token repentance, repentance from a guilty conscience, but true repentance is the work of the Holy Spirit alone! In fact, repentance is one of the chief graces of the Holy Spirit.

**Conclusion:**

**God strengthens his church for service by giving them his Holy Spirit.** God’s Holy Spirit **equips his people with every weapon – offensive and defensive,** to win the war for world dominion. **God strengthens his church for world dominion by giving them a way to remove any obstacle– the biggest obstacle being sin.** He gave them repentance.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. Receive these gifts. Remember these gifts. Practice these gifts.**

**2. Why must you use these gifts?** You must use these gifts because you belong to Jesus Christ. He redeemed 救赎 you, body and soul on the cross. You are now to work for him.

Finally: Let me target you today if you are not a Christian. I aim this message for your heart. I pray it pierces you. Repent of your sins and believe in Jesus. If you refuse Jesus you will die for your own sins.