

Repentance & Redemption

Zechariah 12:10 – 13:1

Pastor Michael Lynn / West Hampden Baptist Church

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Introduction: Traditionally, a 2 minute silence is observed on November 11, at 11 a.m., each year since 1919. It commemorates the exact time fighting ceased during WW I (11-11-18). The day recognizes the sacrifice of those who fought (& their families) as well as those who lost their lives defending freedom. In 1954 the day was renamed “Veterans’ Day.” It now stands as a day to honor all military veterans of the US Armed Forces. As we come today to Zechariah 12, we have recorded the yet future war that will be decided at Armageddon, when Christ returns in glory to defend Jerusalem from its attackers. Consider that the phrase “*in that day*” occurs 16 times in chapters 12-14. The conclusion of this war ushers in the Millennial Kingdom, Christ’s 1,000 year reign. Zechariah prophesies in 12:1-3 (& 14:1-2) that Jerusalem will be attacked; & that the Lord will appear (14:3-7); & that the enemies will be annihilated (12:4-9). Our text for this morning begins at verse 10 of chapter 12. As I read the text, note with me 2 thoughts: Repentance & Redemption.

I. Individual (& national) **repentance** (12:10-14)

A. There is **conviction** by the Spirit (:10a).

1. The **revelation** of the Spirit >

- a. He is “*the Spirit of grace*” who is poured out (initiated by God; all of grace).
- b. He is “*the Spirit of supplications*” – “The outpouring of His conviction upon them will drive them to believing prayer (Ezekiel 39:24 & Joel 2:28-29)” (Feinberg).

2. The **realization** by the people (:10b) >

- a. Christ says “*they shall look upon Me*” – to look with earnest regard & attention; fulfills Isaiah 53:1-5 & cf. Revelation 1:7.
- b. “*Whom they have pierced*” – “By their unbelief & rejection of Him they have made the actions & deeds of their ancestors their own (John 19:34, 39)” (Feinberg).

Application: Consider our rejection of Christ – song, “Were you there...” & Rembrandt.

Summary: “The Jews will come under strong conviction as their eyes are opened at last to Christ, to the One ‘whom they have pierced.’ Calvary in all its horror will loom up before them. Suddenly they will realize that right there at the place of the skull outside the city of Jerusalem they crucified the true Firstborn. Their grief & shock will know no bounds” (Phillips).

B. There is **confession** by the people (:10c-14)

[Note: Their repentance is indicated by their mourning – deep sorrow & repentance never seen before.]

1. The **illustrations** of mourning:

- a. Their greatest private sorrow – “*for his firstborn*” > Childlessness was considered a curse & dishonor; loss of the firstborn (& only child) brought deep grief.
- b. Their intense public sorrow – “*as the mourning of Hadadrimmon...*” > a faithful king; Josiah, would was killed in the valley of Megiddon (see II Chronicles 35:24).

Summary: II Corinthians 7:10 says, “*For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.*”

2. The **individuals** in mourning:

- a. There is mourning by family groups (“*every family apart*”).
- b. There is mourning by individuals (“*wives apart*”) – “...mourning will so intense as to transcend the dearest ties of earth, those between husband & wife. Each will want to be alone with God in that hour” (Feinberg).

Summary: “God does give them grace to recognize what they have done (rejected His Messiah) & to mourn over such a sin (true repentance)” (Custer). See Romans 11:15, 25-26.

II. National (& individual) **redemption** (13:1)

A. There is a **fountain opened**:

1. “*Fountain*” >
 - a. Contrast this “*fountain*” with the laver in the Tabernacle (& Temple) which needed continually to be filled.
 - b. Compare this with the “*fountain*” (provision) of Christ’s blood at Calvary.
2. “*Opened*” >
 - a. This speaks of a continuous, permanent opening (a perennial purification).
 - b. This was previously offered in Isaiah 1:16-18 & Jeremiah 4:14.

B. There is a **forgiveness offered**:

1. Forgiveness is implied in this verse >
 - a. “Forgiveness comes to any believing sinner only through faith in the sacrifice of Christ on the cross” (Wiersbe).
 - b. “As long as there is sin, there will be cleansing for the one who believes” (MacArthur).
Summary: “The Jews could cleanse their external ceremonial uncleanness by washing in water, but for internal cleansing the sinful heart of man & woman can be cleansed only by the blood of the Savior (Leviticus 16:30; 17:11)” (Wiersbe).
2. “*For sin & uncleanness*” >
 - a. “*Sin*” – missing the mark; going the wrong way; an act of disobedience, indifference, or rebellion.
 - b. “*Uncleanness*” – something to be shunned; ceremonial impurity (like touching a dead body). Compare the teaching of the N.T. in Romans 3:9-18 & Hebrews 9:13-14.

Conclusion: Our text speaks of repentance & redemption. How about you this morning? Have you experienced repentance & redemption? It is well said, “The blood of Christ is sufficient to cleanse the sin of all the human race, but it is efficient to cleanse only when it is applied to the guilty soul by saving faith” (Phillips). Consider I John 2:2, “*And He (Jesus Christ) is the propitiation (satisfactory sacrifice) for our sins: & not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*” Christ’s shed blood is sufficient for the whole world but it is efficient only for those who put their trust in Christ, He who was pierced on the cross, to pay the penalty for our sins & by so doing reconcile us to God. The fountain of Zechariah 13:1 is opened today for anyone who repents & experiences redemption – the complete forgiveness from sin & uncleanness. Hear again Hebrews 9:13-14, “*For if the blood of bulls & of goats, & the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*”

The song writer asks: “What can wash away my sin?” The answer: “Nothing but the blood of Jesus.” Zechariah 13:1 became the basis for a song written by William Cowper. Though plagued by bouts of depression (melancholia) all his life (even as a Christian), he would write one of the best known & loved hymns of the Christian Church. He was troubled during his life by the thought that God might turn His back on him. It was not until he was on his death bed that he could confidently declare: “I am not shut out of heaven.” What was that hymn? “There is a Fountain Filled with Blood.” Have you experienced the truth of this song? If not, why not call upon the Lord today & trust His finished work on the cross for your sins? If so, might this be our testimony in song this morning.