

Post-Exile Prophets  
**GOD'S CUP OF WRATH**  
Wednesday, September 10  
Reading: Zechariah 12:2-3

**Zechariah 12:2** *"I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. 3 On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations.*

The final war in human history will not be the United States verses Russia or some Muslim faction. It will be the nations of the world against God's people Israel. The prophets of full of statements to this fact.

Joel 3:1 "In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat" ... 14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

Zephaniah 3:8 Therefore wait for Me," declares the LORD, "for the day I will stand up to testify. I have decided to assemble the nations, to gather the kingdoms and to pour out My wrath on them—all My fierce anger"

Revelation 16:14 They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty ... 16 Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

Notice God says that "I am going" to do this. Satan gathers this army to oppose and attempt to defeat God. The nations have their own plans to pillage and plunder God's people. But overruling them all is God's purpose to bring the wicked nations to judgment.

This war is not a short one-day event! It will be focused on Jerusalem but include all of Judah/Israel. In chapter 14, the prophet will describe some of the collateral damage for God's people. Here, he focuses on the effects on Israel's enemies. God will make Jerusalem like "a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling." The Bible often speaks of God's wrath as a cup.

Jeremiah 25:15 This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from My hand this cup filled with the wine of My wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. 16 When they drink it, they will stagger and go mad because of the sword I will send among them." (see also Isaiah 51:17, 22-23; Revelation 14:10)

God also promises He will make Jerusalem like a heavy stone that will crush those who try to attack it. The nations believe that Israel and Jerusalem are 'easy pickings.' But they will find that the God who fights for them is all-powerful.

The mention of God's cup of wrath should remind us of what Jesus did for us. We all deserve God's wrath because of our sin, but Jesus drank that cup for us. In the garden, He prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may Your will be done" (Matthew 26:42). When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we no longer experience God's wrath. Jesus took the punishment for our sin on the cross. Now we can "lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD" (Psalm 116:13).