

Post-Exile Prophets
GOD'S SHIELD & STRENGTH

Thursday, September 11
Reading: Zechariah 12:4-9

Zechariah 12:5 *Then the clans of Judah will say in their hearts, 'The people of Jerusalem are strong, because the LORD Almighty is their God.'*

Zechariah now describes how the Lord will “destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem.” The “horse” was the premier military weapon. It pictured the strength of a nation’s military forces. The “rider” pictures the soldiers who wage war against Jerusalem. God will confuse the enemy nations who have their eye on Israel’s destruction. Their weapons will fail and their soldiers will panic. The Lord proclaims: “I will keep a watchful eye over Judah, but I will blind all the horses of the nations.”

God’s deliverance of Jerusalem will not only overcome the enemy nations, it will also conquer Israel’s unbelief. They will believe in their hearts that they are strong “because the LORD Almighty is our God” (12:5) With this new-found trust in God, the Lord will make the people of Judah like a wildfire that destroys the enemies that surround them (12:6). He will give them strength and courage so that even the weakest among them will like the warrior-king David and the leaders of Israel (house of David) will seem like God to their enemies. This will all happen because God has purposed to “destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem (12:7-9).

This salvation is not just for Jerusalem, but for the entire nation (clans of Judah). The citizens and soldiers of Jerusalem and the common people who live throughout the land will be saved from their enemies. They have now learned what the prophet Jeremiah had told them centuries before.

Jeremiah 9:23 This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, 24 but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know Me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the LORD.

What God will do for Jerusalem on that future day, He can do for us today! When we put our trust in the Lord Jesus and rely on His power, we can defeat the enemies that surround us.¹ The apostle Peter reminds us:

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, Who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To Him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 5:8-11)

What weapons against our enemy do these verses mention?

¹ Also see Paul’s discussion of the Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20)