

Post-Exile Prophets
POURING OF THE SPIRIT

Friday, September 12
Reading: Zechariah 12:8-10

Zechariah 12:10 *"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication."*

In the final war of human history, Zechariah has described the nations attack on Jerusalem and God's salvation of His people. Now he finally records the moment that changes everything – the arrival of the Messiah. While he will go into more detail of His actual appearing in chapter 14, in this passage he reveals Israel's response to seeing their Messiah coming to rescue them.

The arrival of the Messiah is hinted at when he mentions "the Angel of the Lord going before them" (12:8). As we have discussed earlier in Zechariah's book, the Angel of the Lord is none other than Jesus Christ Himself. Israel has strength and salvation because their Messiah Jesus is leading them.

The word "Spirit" in these verses should probably be capitalized to reference the Holy Spirit. In his prophecy of these events, the prophet Joel records God's promise: "I will pour out My Spirit on all people" (Joel 2:28-32; see also Ezekiel 39:29). The arrival of Messiah brings two blessings from the Spirit. First is "a Spirit of grace." For centuries, Israel has denied and rejected Jesus as their Messiah. But He now extends His unmerited favor to them. The second is "a Spirit of supplication." This Hebrew word is used to describe people crying out to God for His mercy. Messiah Jesus heard their prayers and has come to redeem them.

We do not have to wait until the end of time to experience these blessings today. Since Jesus died and rose again, we have been "justified by faith" and have "peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). Because of this, "God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us" (5:5). When we put our faith in the Lord Jesus we have this wonderful promise:

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:4-7)

Through Him, we have been born again and renewed. These Greek words together tell us that the Holy Spirit makes us different than what we were in the past. While our salvation is a one-time event (justification), it is also an on-going process (sanctification). Each day we must allow the Holy Spirit to transform us into the image of Christ. And one day, the Lord will finish the job when we reach eternity (glorification).

How are you doing in the on-going process of becoming like Christ?
What areas do you need to yield to the Holy Spirit's control?