

Post-Exile Prophets
THE LORD WHO...
Tuesday, September 9
Reading: Zechariah 12:1-2

Zechariah 12:1 *A prophecy: The word of the LORD concerning Israel. The LORD, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the human spirit within a person, declares*

These last chapters begin the same as the previous (9-11) with the words “A prophecy” or burden. The Hebrew word means ‘a load’ and comes from the root word to lift, bear, or carry. This final prophecy is weighty. It concerns to deep wickedness of humanity and the final judgment of God. Zechariah states it is “the word of the Lord.” This is not Zechariah’s imagination or wishful thinking. It is the “word of the LORD.” And it is “concerning Israel.” In Romans, the apostle Paul shows us that God’s focus today is more toward the Gentile nations, but that one day He will turn His full attention to Israel to fulfill His promises to them as a people and nation (Romans 9-12). The repeated references to Jerusalem, Judah, and the house of David confirm that this prophecy is about national Israel, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

This message is so weighty, that God begins by affirming who He is. He is the One who “stretches out the heavens.” This is a picture of setting up a tent and stretching out its fabric (Psalm 104:2). God stretched out the universe from one end to the other and set everything in its place.

Next, God states that He is the One who “lays the foundation of the earth.” This is more than merely making the land, but establishing the earth to its very core. In His response to Job, the Lord says:

“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?” (Job 38:4-7)

Finally, God is the One who “forms the human spirit within a person.” He not only designed our physical form but created our eternal soul. Paul reminds us that God “gives everyone life and breath and everything else” (Acts 17:25). Mankind was made in His image to love and follow Him.

Throughout these last chapters, God will repeatedly say “I will...” do such and such. All these truths show that nothing and no one is beyond God’s control and nothing or no one can thwart His purposes and plans. What God says He will do, will be done! How does this fact help you live on a daily basis? How does it help you face the difficult times? How does it remind you to praise Him at all times?