

# Connection Group Participant Guide

August 8, 2021

## Zechariah 12:1-9

### Introduction

Notice that chapters 9-11 basically deal with events concerning Christ's first coming and chapters 12-14 deal with the period involving His return to defeat Israel's enemies and establish His earthly kingdom. These chapters focus on Israel, and specifically on Jerusalem (22 times in these chapters). The phrase "that day" occurs 17 times and "the nations" occurs 14 times, pointing to the period of time when God brings His purpose for Israel and the nations to culmination. As we saw last week, chapter 11 predicts Israel's rejection of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and her subjection during the Tribulation to the worthless shepherd. This will plunge the nation into a time of severe testing, described by Jeremiah (30:5-7) as "the time of Jacob's distress." Daniel (12:1) calls it "a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time."

This time of testing culminates in the Battle of Armageddon (Joel 3:9-16; Rev. 16:16-21; Zech. 12:1-9; 14:2-3), when God will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle. At the last minute, just before Israel is annihilated, God will supernaturally rout the enemy and deliver His people. Our text describes the *physical* deliverance of Israel in verses 1-9, and the *spiritual* deliverance of Israel in verses 10-14.

### Highlight

What will the Lord do "on that day" regarding the inhabitants of Jerusalem (Zech. 12:8)?

### Explain

How will Jerusalem survive the attacks of "all the nations"? What is the secret of their strength? How will they dispatch their enemies?

### Apply

Should we pray that God would bring trials into the lives of loved ones to bring them to repentance? Why/why not?

### Respond in Prayer

Read through Psalm 118 and listen with your heart to what it has to say. We recommend praying through this text on your own at home and together with your Connection Group.

