

THINGS TO COME

Zechariah 12

PAT NEMMERS

October 15, 2023

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- How closely have you followed the events happening in the Middle East over the last few weeks?
- Why do you think it's important for Christ-followers to have an understanding of what is happening in the world around us?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat helped us see the current events in the Middle East through a biblical lens.**

The World Looks To Israel Because:

1. God made it the center of the nations (Ezekiel 5:5)
2. It is the apple of God's eye (Zechariah 2:8)
3. God choose it for Himself (Zechariah 3:2)
4. It's where the heart of God resides (Psalm 132:13-14)
5. It's the land where God made one of His greatest promises to Abraham and to the world (Gen. 12:3)
6. Where Jesus walked, performed miracles, taught, was tried, crucified, rose and ascended.

But Why Is The World Drawn To Jerusalem And The Jew With Hatred?

1. Because Jerusalem is intoxicating (Zechariah 12:1-2)
2. Because demonic madness drives them (Zechariah 12:3)
3. Because God is planning His masterpiece of justice there (Zechariah 12:5-8)
4. Because there the Jews will look to Jesus and be saved (Zechariah 12:10-11)

Questions:

1. On Sunday, Pastor Pat, temporarily suspended our series in James to address the war in Israel with its prophetic ramifications. Do you think it's right that we go "off script" from time to time? In your mind, what constitutes doing so?
2. What were some of the reasons pastor Pat himself addressed, from God's Word, why we should pay close attention to what's happening in Israel?
3. Zechariah mentions God, referring to Himself as being "pierced" (Zechariah 12:1, 10-11). As Pastor pointed out, this is a clear prophecy of the crucifixion of Christ, hundreds of years before he died on the cross. What are some other OT prophecies that point to Jesus?
4. If God uses this bloodshed to turn Israel towards the person of Jesus, maybe it's a reminder that God's good and perfect gifts, in our limited human view, at first will often lack the appearance of goodness or perfection. Have you seen examples of that in your own life recently?
5. Zechariah tells us that the terrible events preceding Jesus's second coming will cause the Jews to "look to (Jesus)". Are YOU looking to him? Take some time before you conclude your Community Group to fervently seek the Lord, "pray for the peace of Jerusalem" and cry out with the apostle John, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20)

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and for peace in your own soul.