

The Kingdom of God - What will it be Like – 8

Zechariah 12:10 prophesied - *"I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will **look on Me whom they have pierced**; they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn."*

Israel, upon the shock of recognizing Jesus as Messiah, will doubtless react as those in **Acts 2**, who were amazed and marveled when everyone heard the apostles speak in his own language. Then, being convicted by the Spirit-powered message from Peter, they urgently implored Peter, asking him, **"What shall we do?"** God will pour out a similar **"spirit of grace"** = merciful kindness, on the **"third"** that have not been cut off - **Zechariah 13:8**, and they will respond with **"supplications"** = earnest prayer. They had been instructed to look for the coming of Messiah but now they realize that he is Jesus of Nazareth whom their fathers crucified! They will whole-heartedly **repent** and **acknowledge** their King.

Zechariah 13:9 *"I will bring **the one third** through the fire, will **refine them** as silver is refined, and **test them** as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; and each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"*

By this time **major geological changes, divinely controlled, will have taken place in this northern end of the Great Rift Valley. The great earthquake which accompanied the standing of Jesus at his appearance on the Mount of Olives - Zechariah 14:4** - will have changed the contours of the country. It will lift up the site of the temple soon to be constructed there - **"All the land shall be **turned into a plain** from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. **Jerusalem shall be raised up and inhabited in her place**" - Zechariah 14:10.**

The prophet shows how **a major subterranean river will be routed under the temple site** - *"Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east..." - Ezekiel 47:1.* Where the water first wells up it will be only ankle deep, but as it flows along the outside wall of the temple it will become progressively deeper until it will be **"water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed"** as it flows eastward away from the temple - **vv. 2-5.**

For this superabundant supply of fresh spring water to reach this level, **it must originate in the northern mountains to generate such water pressure.** One of these is **Mount Hermon**, the snowcapped ridge on the Lebanon-Syria border west of Damascus, rising to 9,232 feet and the highest point on the east coast of the Mediterranean. At its foot rise the two major sources of the Jordan River.

The 133rd Psalm describes the joy which will accompany the everlasting fellowship of the faithful who have been made immortal, and may be alluding to the literal waters which have fallen on Mount Hermon and have found their way to Jerusalem - *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!... It is like **the dew of Hermon**, descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing - Life forevermore."*

The prophet then heard the one who conducted him through his vision - **Ezekiel 40:3** - inform him, *"This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, **its waters are healed.**"* More next time, God willing.