

Join us in being on mission with God!

OUR VISION

To continually mature and grow as a united body of Jesus-imitators who live out God's greatest commandment to "Love" by exalting God and serving one another, and His greatest commission to "Go" by reaching into and shaping our local, regional, and global communities.

"Victory You Can Count On"

A promise of victory for those who trust God

Zechariah Chapters 12-13

Getting Started

After an introductory time, discuss the following questions in your group or class.

Imaging that your local high school football team is scheduled to play a powerhouse competitor that hasn't lost a game in two years. Your opponents have averaged 35 points more than those they have defeated. They have both depth and experience at all their key positions, and come to the field with great confidence.

Q: If you were to address the players on your high school team, what are some of the things you'd tell them?

You're a business owner of a private company of thirty people that produces a special kind of screw used in the automotive and machinery industry. Your company has a 20-year history with the major manufacturers in the United States, and has done well in the last two decades. Your product is valued by your customers, priced right, and your service has been top notch. You have 70% of the business for your kind of product. You've had offers to sell, but turned them down. You've been able to use robotics to control costs and avoid any serious market loss to China.

You receive word that a Fortune 500 company has bought your nearest competitor. They want to become the dominant player in the market. They are planning to infuse the company with more capital than you could ever begin to match and shave the margins razor thin.

Q: What do you tell the leaders in your company about the future? What is your next move?

Looking at Victory

Victory comes in many shapes and sizes. In business it can range from market dominance to survival. In sports it's an improvement in your win-loss record or the capture of a title. For a youngster it's riding a bike or learning the capitals of the states. Victory is dropping a few pounds, being ready for the next AWANA lesson, or weeding the garden on a regular basis.

No matter what the challenge looks like, there are obstacles to victory in every dimension of life. For the Jews who were busy attempting to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, the obstacles were impossible to miss. They included the rubble of the former capital, the domination of the Babylonian empire, a local economy that was in disarray, and a host of nearby nations that were doing everything they could to stop the project.



Zechariah 12-13

¹ This is 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 spirit of man within him, declares: ²“I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. ³ On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves. ⁴ On that day I will strike every horse with panic and its rider with madness,” declares the LORD. “I will keep a watchful eye over the house of Judah, but I will blind all the horses of the nations. ⁵ Then the leaders of Judah will say in their hearts, ‘The people of Jerusalem are strong, because the LORD Almighty is their God.’ ⁶“On that day I will make the leaders of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will consume right and left all the surrounding peoples, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place. ⁷“The LORD will save the dwellings of Judah first, so that the honor of the house of David and of Jerusalem’s inhabitants may not be greater than that of Judah. ⁸ On that day the LORD will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the Angel of the LORD going before them. ⁹ On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem. ¹⁰“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a first-born son. ¹¹ On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great, like the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. ¹² The land will mourn, each clan by itself, with their wives by themselves: the clan of the house of David and their

The more unlikely the chance of success, the more difficult it is to stay on track and keep motivated in making a positive change and living out your dreams.

The call of God through the prophets sometimes seemed like an invitation to the impossible for the Jews of Zechariah’s day. In chapters 12-13 the prophet breathes hope into their efforts by sharing two kinds of victory God promises his people—victory over their external foes, and victory over their internal issues.

Defeating your foes

1. Tough challenges seem more achievable when we have someone powerful or influential to help us. What does the prophet say about God in Zechariah 12:1 that points to God’s ability to make a difference?

2. Which qualities or attributes of God encourage you most when you face a tough challenge in life?

Verses 2-8 describes the final siege of Israel at the end of time. It pictures the surprising way in which God will empower his people to overcome their foes.

3. Look at the word pictures in verses 2, 3 and 6. How will Jerusalem surprise its enemies in these verses?

(2) Jerusalem as a cup = _____

(3) Jerusalem as a rock = _____

(6) Leaders as a firepot = _____

4. What will God also do in verse 4 to defeat the enemies of his people?

5. How do you see God fighting against the secular culture and its godless values today? What does he do to thwart the intentions of people who oppose his agenda?

6. How does God describe the courage and strength he will grant to his people in verses 7-9?

7. List some of the ways in which God has worked to made you strong or more courageous since you first began your relationship with Christ.

Victory You Can Count On

wives, the clan of the house of Nathan and their wives,¹³ the clan of the house of Levi and their wives, the clan of Shimei and their wives,¹⁴ and all the rest of the clans and their wives.

13:1 “On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity. ²“On that day, I will banish the names of the idols from the land, and they will be remembered no more,” declares the LORD Almighty. “I will remove both the prophets and the spirit of impurity from the land. ³ And if anyone still prophesies, his father and mother, to whom he was born, will say to him, ‘You must die, because you have told lies in the LORD’s name.’ When he prophesies, his own parents will stab him. ⁴“On that day every prophet will be ashamed of his prophetic vision. He will not put on a prophet’s garment of hair in order to deceive. ⁵ He will say, ‘I am not a prophet. I am a farmer; the land has been my livelihood since my youth.’ ⁶ If someone asks him, ‘What are these wounds on your body?’ he will answer, ‘The wounds I was given at the house of my friends.’ ⁷“Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!” declares the LORD Almighty. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones. ⁸ In the whole land,” declares the LORD, “two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. ⁹ This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God.’”

Reaching Up



Reaching Out

Victory over internal issues

Zechariah 12:10-13:9 describes some radical changes that will take place *inside* the Jewish community at the last days.

There will come a time when the Jews revisit the idea of Jesus as their messiah—and this time their response will be much different from the one they had during his first coming.

8. Describe the attitude Jews will display toward Jesus in the last days according to Zechariah 12:10-14.

9. To what is their grief compared in verse 10? How extensive is their sadness in verses 10-14?

In Zechariah 13:1-6 the prophet describes a second change. The attitude toward syncretism (the combination of different religious beliefs or practices) will be much different.

10. How do verses 1-6 picture the attitude toward false religion and the role of fake prophets? (Hint: In verses 3-6, the backdrop is that some who were false prophets would slash their backs with swords in service to their gods.)

11. What would it look like in our culture if all the false religions, religious hucksters, and weird religions were unanimously rejected by all who call themselves ‘Christian’?

Verses 7-9 describe the scattering of the Jewish people from the time of Jesus (verse 7) until their re-gathering at the end of time.

12. How does the New Testament interpret verse 7? (See John 19:37 and Revelation 1:7.)

13. What will be the end result for the Jews who come back to God at the end of history according to verse 9?

14. What do you learn about God’s promises to you in light of his pledge to the Jews of the Old Testament in these two chapters?

Quotations are from THE HOLY BIBLE: NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.