

Zechariah 12:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Analysis

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. This is one of the Old Testament's most remarkable Messianic prophecies. "I will pour" (shafakhti) describes abundant outpouring of the Spirit. "Spirit of grace and supplications" (ruach chen ve-tachanun) enables both divine favor and responsive prayer. The shocking phrase "they shall look upon me whom they have pierced" has God Himself pierced—fulfilled in Christ's crucifixion when soldiers pierced His side (John 19:34-37). The mourning is national, profound, comparing to losing an only son or firstborn. Revelation 1:7 applies this to Christ's return when all will see Him whom they pierced.

Historical Context

Written circa 520-518 BC, this prophecy looked forward centuries to Christ. John explicitly quotes verse 10 regarding the crucifixion (John 19:37). The mourning

anticipates Israel's eventual recognition of their rejected Messiah—both at the cross (some repented) and eschatologically when national Israel turns to Christ (Romans 11:25-27). The first-person divine voice ("me whom they have pierced") mysteriously identifies Yahweh with the pierced Messiah, anticipating Christ's deity.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Yahweh identifying as the pierced one support Christ's deity?
2. What does the Spirit's outpouring enabling recognition of Christ teach about conversion?
3. How will this prophecy be ultimately fulfilled when Christ returns?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁפַכְתִּי	עַל	בֵּית	דָּוִד	וְעַל	יֹשְׁבֵי
And I will pour	H5921	upon the house	of David	H5921	and upon the inhabitants
H8210		H1004	H1732		H3427
יְרוּשָׁלַם	רוּחַ	חֵן	וְתַחֲנוּנֵי	וְהֵבִיטוּ	אֵלַי
of Jerusalem	the spirit	of grace	and of supplications	and they shall look	H413
H3389	H7307	H2580	H8469	H5027	
אֲשֶׁר	אֶת	דָּקְרוּ	בְּמַסְפַּד	עַל	יֹ
H853	H834	upon me whom they have pierced	for him as one mourneth	H5921	
		H1856	H5594		
בְּמַסְפַּד	עַל	הָיָה	בְּהֵמָה		
for him as one mourneth	H5921	for his only	for him as one that is in bitterness		
H5594		H3173	H4843		
עַל	בְּהֵמָה	עַל	הַבְּכוֹר:		
H5921	for him as one that is in bitterness	H5921	for his firstborn		
	H4843		H1060		

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 1:7 (Parallel theme): Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Ezekiel 39:29 (Spirit): Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

Jeremiah 6:26 (Parallel theme): O daughter of my people, gird thee with sackcloth, and wallow thyself in ashes: make thee mourning, as for an only son, most bitter lamentation: for the spoiler shall suddenly come upon us.

Acts 2:33 (Spirit): Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Ephesians 6:18 (Spirit): Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Romans 8:15 (Spirit): For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Romans 8:26 (Spirit): Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Matthew 24:30 (Parallel theme): And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Amos 8:10 (Parallel theme): And I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; and I will bring up sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day.

Hebrews 12:2 (Parallel theme): Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.