

Zechariah 12:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.

Analysis

In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon (בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יִגְדַּל הַמִּסְפָּד בִּירוּשָׁלַם כַּמִּסְפָּד הַדָּדְרִמּוֹן בְּבֶקְעַת מִגְדּוֹן)—misped (mourning/lamentation) at unprecedented intensity. Hadadrimmon near Megiddo recalls King Josiah's death in battle (609 BC, 2 Chronicles 35:22-25), when Judah lost their most righteous king. National mourning for Josiah was proverbial for deepest grief.

Zechariah 12:10 explains the cause: **"They shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son"**—Jerusalem will mourn when recognizing they crucified their Messiah. This is eschatological repentance when Israel corporately acknowledges Jesus. Paul confirms this in Romans 11:25-27: **"All Israel shall be saved."** The mourning is godly sorrow producing repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10), preparing for national conversion.

Historical Context

Josiah's death (609 BC) at Megiddo fighting Pharaoh Necho was national catastrophe—Judah's last good king killed, leading to rapid decline and Babylonian captivity. This historical mourning typifies Israel's future grief when the 'spirit of grace and supplications' (12:10) opens their eyes to recognize the pierced Messiah they rejected.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that repentance can be both deeply sorrowful and ultimately redemptive?
2. How does corporate recognition of sin (national mourning) differ from individual repentance, yet require it?
3. When will this prophecy be fulfilled—at Christ's second coming, or progressively as Jewish people receive Jesus?

Interlinear Text

בִּיר וּשְׁלָם	כְּמִסַּד	יִגְדֹּל	הָהּ וְאֵל	בֵּי יוֹם
in Jerusalem	as the mourning	shall there be a great	H1931	In that day
H3389	H4553	H1431		H3117
מִגְדּוֹן:	בְּבִקְעָת	רִמּוֹן	הַדָּדִרְמֹן	כְּמִסַּד
of Megiddon	in the valley	of Hadadrimmon	H0	as the mourning
H4023	H1237	H1910		H4553

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 23:29 (Parallel theme): In his days Pharaoh-nechoh king of Egypt went up against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates: and king Josiah went against him; and he slew him at Megiddo, when he had seen him.

2 Chronicles 35:24 (References Jerusalem): His servants therefore took him out of that chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had; and they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died, and was buried in one of the sepulchres of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

