

# Zechariah 12:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart;  
the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart;

## Analysis

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**The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart**—after the royal house (David, Nathan), Zechariah names the priestly tribe. Levi represents spiritual leadership—priests, Levites who served in temple worship. Their separate mourning acknowledges that spiritual leaders bear special guilt for rejecting Messiah. **The family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart**—Shimei was a Levite clan (Numbers 3:18), reinforcing the priestly emphasis.

The progression (royal, then priestly) mirrors Israel's leadership structure. Both civil and religious authorities share responsibility for crucifying Jesus. The Gospels confirm this: **"The chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death"** (Mark 14:1). Acts repeatedly emphasizes that 'rulers' killed Messiah (Acts 3:17, 4:27, 13:27). This mourning fulfills Isaiah 53:3: **"He is despised and rejected of men"**—now, at last, that rejection is mourned and confessed.

## Historical Context

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First-century religious leadership—Sanhedrin, chief priests, scribes, Pharisees—orchestrated Jesus's execution (Matthew 26:3-4, 27:20). This prophecy envisions their descendants recognizing and repenting of that crime. Collectively, Israel's spiritual and civil leadership will mourn when the Spirit of grace reveals the pierced One as their own Messiah.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What additional responsibility do spiritual leaders bear when leading people away from truth?
2. How does naming both royal and priestly families show that no sector of society can claim innocence?
3. In what way does the church today need to mourn complicity in rejecting Christ through disobedience?

## Interlinear Text

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מִשְׁפַּחַת	בֵּית	לֵוִי	לְבָד	וְנָשֵׁיהֶם	לְבָד
<b>The family</b>	<b>of the house</b>	<b>of Levi</b>	H905	<b>apart and their wives</b>	H905
H4940	H1004	H3878		H802	
מִשְׁפַּחַת	הַשְּׁמֵעִי	לְבָד	וְנָשֵׁיהֶם	לְבָד:	
<b>The family</b>	<b>of Shimei</b>	H905	<b>apart and their wives</b>	H905	
H4940	H8097		H802		

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