

**God Remembered**  
**Zechariah 12:10-14**  
**Chapter 19**  
**“Israel’s Day of Atonement”**

**Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the house of David and the residents of Jerusalem, and they will look at Me whom they have pierced. They will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child and weep bitterly for Him one weeps for a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning of Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The land will mourn, every family by itself: the family of David’s house by itself and their women by themselves; the family of Nathan’s house by itself and their women by themselves; the family of Levi’s house by itself and their women by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself and their women by themselves; all the remaining families, every family by itself, and their women by themselves.** **Zechariah 12:10-14**

As we have already discussed, the last three chapters of *Zechariah* deal with the events that will take place at the end of the Great Tribulation. Enticed by Satan himself, all the nations of the earth will send their armies to encompass The Holy Land of Israel. It is God’s intent to gather these armies together for one final battle before Christ comes to set up His Millennial Kingdom. And for a time it will seem that Israel will be removed from the face of the earth. The enemies of God will inflict some casualties and do some damage, but God will empower the Israeli fighters with supernatural fighting powers, and they will hold the world’s armies at bay (***Zechariah 12:5-8***).

And then, when all odds seem to be insurmountable, Christ Himself will return with all the battle hosts of heaven following with Him. He will take His stand against the armies of this world and will destroy them altogether. The twelfth chapter of *Zechariah* gives us a glimpse of this victory, while more detail will be given in the fourteenth chapter. But suffice to say, when Christ returns and joins in the fight as the defender of His chosen people, nothing, not even the antichrist himself will be able to withstand His power. And this is how God will cleanse the world of the wicked and unbelieving.

The nation of Israel has suffered loss for centuries. They were delivered into the hands of the Babylonians for their idolatrous ways. And since the first century A.D., they have suffered greatly, because they rejected their Messiah. But God has preserved a remnant of His chosen ones to be saved in the last days. And this will happen once they see King Jesus return in the clouds to come to their national defense!

Thomas, the disciple of Jesus, has been callously nicknamed “*Doubting Thomas*” for his refusal to believe that Christ had risen from the dead (***John 20:24-29***). He is famous for stating:

**...“If I don’t see the mark of the nails in His hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand in His side, I will never believe.”** **John 20:25b**

And of course we all know the rest of the story, Jesus revealed Himself to Thomas who repented and believed.

This is a microcosm of what will happen within the surviving remnant of the Jews, when they see Christ revealed to them. They will see the nail prints in His hands, when He appears, and they will know in that moment that it was their ancestors who crucified their rightful Messiah King, thereby bringing such pain and suffering upon their nation. And *Zechariah* tells us that in that moment they will be broken.

**...and they will look at Me whom they pierced. They will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child and weep bitterly for Him as one weeps for a firstborn.** **Zechariah 12:10b**

But God in His lovingkindness shall pour out a spirit of grace and prayer upon His people (**vs 10a**), and they will turn to their Savior in repentance.

I find the Hebrew language intriguing quite often. The word that is translated “*me*” in this verse is actually a Hebrew word that has no English equivalent. It is the word “*et*”, and it is used as a prepositional word that marks the direct object of a sentence. It is placed between the verb and the direct object. In this particular instance it is translated as “*me*” so you will know that the “*pierced one*” is none other than God Himself. The spelling of “*et*” in the Hebrew is two letters, namely *aleph* and *tav*. These are the first and the last letters of the Hebrew alphabet. So in this particular case, it actually serves to remind us that Christ is indeed the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last. When they pierced Him on the cross, they were piercing none other than God Himself. And the realization of this will cause a nationwide call to mourning and repentance throughout the land of Israel.

The prophet describes the mourning of the remnant of Israel that will be broken for their sin and will turn to Christ; the family of David, the family of Nathan, and the family of Levi. These represent the rulers, prophets and priests respectively. The fact that he separates the men from the women is merely an expression to reveal that the whole of Israel will mourn, as they come to grips with the nation’s great sin of crucifying its Messiah.

Then the prophet makes an interesting declaration about a fourth family that will also mourn. Shimei was the relative of King Saul who cursed David, God’s anointed king, as he was fleeing across the Mount of Olives during Absalom’s rebellion. As David was weeping in sorrow, this wicked man saw an opportunity to throw stones and vent his anger toward David, because he saw him as an enemy of his people (**2 Samuel 16:5-14**). This man mocked and cursed the king, when he faced the most difficult time in his life. And David did not take revenge upon him, but rather humbled himself and suffered his insults.

What a picture of how Israel has mocked and cursed Jesus, the Son of David their rightful king! And yet, He is willing to forgive them for their transgressions. And on the day of His return, those who repent and call out to Him will, in fact, be forgiven. It will be Israel’s final Yom Kippur, the ultimate Day of Atonement, when the blood of the sacrifice will be applied to them.

Many people within the church today are unaware of The Feasts of The LORD, because we do not have a Jewish heritage that teaches us in regard to their observances. But these feast are more than simply Jewish holidays meant to commemorate events long past. They are also God’s prophetic timetable that reveals His plan for the world.

There are four spring feasts and three fall feasts that God specifically instructed the Jewish people to observe without exception (**Leviticus 23:5-44**). The Spring feasts are Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Weeks (Pentecost). These four feasts speak of Christ’s death and resurrection, as will as the age of grace. Let me explain further.

The Passover is the first feast of the year, and it revolves around a sacrificial lamb whose blood was applied to the houses so that death would passover them, and the people could be delivered from Egyptian bondage. **Christ is the ultimate passover Lamb of God.** When we place our faith in Him, our sins are washed away by His blood, and we are delivered from the bondage of sin.

The feast of Unleavened Bread occurs simultaneously with the Passover and lasts for one week. The people were required to eat no leaven for seven full days, only eating bread that was unleavened. Leaven in the Scriptures represents sin, because of its ability to permeate an entire lump of dough when just a pinch of it is added; to eat only unloved bread, therefore, represents a departure from sin and turning to God in repentance. Because Christ has freed us from sin’s bondage just as he freed the Israelites from their enslavement in Egypt, we have been called to walk in newness of life for our sinless Savior now lives within us. We are partakers in the bread of life, so we are free from sin and death.

The feast of Firstfruits also comes in conjunction with Holy Week, for it was a springtime feast that represents the first portion (first fruits) of the harvest that is to come. Each year, the first sheave of grain that sprouted was plucked up and waived as an offering before The LORD, thanking Him for the harvest of grain that was to come. Christ rose from the dead on the day of “Firstfruits”. Therefore, He was the first or the “firstfruits from among the dead” (**1 Corinthians 15:20**), which simply means that because He rose, we who are His will also rise. We are the harvest that comes from His Firstfruits as it were!

The next spring feast was held fifty days after the feast of Firstfruits. It is known as “The Feast of Weeks” or “Pentecost” (*pente means fifty*). This feast represented the time when the first portions of the harvest were coming in. On the day of Pentecost in the book of Acts, the harvest (or the beginning of the “church age”) began! People were filled by The Holy Spirit, and thousands began to trust in Christ. That harvest is still continuing to this day, for we are still living in the age of grace. And those are the four spring feast in God’s prophetic time table.

The Fall Feasts of The LORD are Trumpets, Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) and The Feast of Tabernacles. The feast of Trumpets occurs on the first day of the seventh month. Trumpets were to be sounded at the new moon. For those who aren’t into lunar cycles, the new moon is pitch black and cannot be seen. It always marks the beginning of the lunar cycle. The feast of trumpets represents Christ coming for His Church like a thief in the night at the sound of the trumpet. The seventh month represents the fullness of time (seven means completeness), when the raptured church will be removed from the earth and the tribulation period will begin. As Paul has so eloquently written:

***I don’t want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you will not be conceited: A partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, The deliverer welcome from Zion; He will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this will be My covenant with them when I take away their sins. Romans 11:25-27***

Which brings us to where we now are in Zechariah’s prophecy, namely *The Day of Atonement*. This fall feast came in the seventh month shortly after the feast of trumpets. It was a solemn day when the High Priest of Israel entered into the holy of holies to sprinkle blood upon the mercy seat (top of the Ark of The Covenant) in order to “atone” (cover over) the sins of the nation. Those Jews who did not repent by the time of the Day of Atonement were thought to have been cursed and would not live out the next year.

When Christ returns to defend Israel and reveal Himself too them, the remnant of Israel will turn from their sin and trust in Him as their Messiah and High Priest once and for all. Those who are the enemies of Christ will be forever destroyed in the fiery judgment. This is Israel’s ultimate Day of Atonement, as they look upon the One they have pierced and mourn for Him as one would for a firstborn son who has died. He is The Only Begotten Son of God, The Lamb Who was slain, The High Priest Who has washed away the sins of His people with His own blood. He is The Messiah, King of kings, and LORD of lords, who is coming soon to fulfill all His covenant promises.

Now, if you were keeping count, there are seven Feasts of The LORD, and we have only covered six of them! The last one is revealed for us by Zechariah in the final chapter of this book of prophecy, so we will have to wait until we get there! But have no fear, this great feast on God’s prophetic time table will also come to pass. An how do we know this?

Because Our God... Remembers!