



Israel's Salvation

“It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it” (Zachariah 12:3 NASB).

God often uses the image of a stone to speak about His Son, Jesus, and to describe His will as immovable and strong. Here in Zachariah, we see that God intends to make Israel “immovable” on the Day of the Lord. Although Israel rejected Jesus, they are still a part of God’s plan and a testimony and a witness to His power, until the nation’s ultimate salvation at the hands of Jesus Christ Himself.

This truth has not stopped the Jews from abandoning God time and time again to sin beyond the sins of all the nations around them. As He says through Isaiah: *“I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people”* (Isaiah 65:2a). God allowed this rebellion to prove His faithfulness to Israel despite their unfaithfulness to Him.

At no time was this more true than when the Jews denied His only begotten Son, their own Messiah, Jesus Christ, who they brutally murdered, though He came to save them from their sins. Because they turned against God’s Rock of salvation, Israel stumbled as a nation and God scattered *“them among the peoples”* (Zachariah 10:9b) at the hands of the Romans, fulfilling what Isaiah and the Prophets said—to those who believed in Jesus, *“He shall become a sanctuary; But to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, And a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem”* (Isaiah 8:14). Jesus told the Jews He was *“the stone which the builders rejected, This became the chief corner*

stone...Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it” (Matthew 21:42-43). God’s Kingdom is given to anyone who believes in Jesus. *“Why? Because [the Jews] did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, just as it is written, ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed’”* (Romans 9:32-33), because God is faithful, and because God is faithful, He also will not abandon Israel. Israel fell through their rejection of Jesus and they will continue to reject Jesus until just before the Day of the Lord when all the nations of the earth come to destroy Israel and in their desperation, the Jews will realize Jesus is the Messiah and will call out upon His name, just as Jesus told them: *“from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’”* (Matthew 23:39), *“and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory”* (Matthew 24:30). At this moment, God says, *“I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn”* (Zachariah 12:10).

When Jesus comes to save Israel, they will know Him. Today, they do not know that He is their salvation and their Rock, but it is God’s will that the nation of Israel WILL call upon Jesus, believe in Him, and receive His salvation, even as we have done as Believers.