

Note the three phrases used to identify the Lord:

- "stretching forth the heavens"
- "forming the earth"
- "forming the spirit of man within him"

It is worthwhile to compare the ways in which God speaks of himself as introductory thoughts to the expression of His will.

12:2... דש participle form...

כף רעף "cup of trembling"

It is often suggested that the phrase עץ יהוה be linked grammatically with עץ ישראל of vs. 1

A Big question is the matter of when? The best answer at this point seems to be "when Jerusalem is surrounded with armies." But that has happened and will happen several times. Which of these is in the prophetic forefront?

12:3... מענפה "carry as a load"

שדוטי שרטון "cut in pieces" and it is more the idea of a

laceration or the sort of irritation that comes with wearing something that rubs you the wrong way. The suggestion is that they have picked it up and the stone they have grabbed has become "too hot to hold."

ונצחם פה "though they be gathered"

The waw is decisive. The question raised is one of whether it poses a hypothetical setting or an actuality.

12.4... This verse must be compared with 9:10. The contrasting action between the house of Judah and the nations about it will help answer the "when" question raised in vs. 2, I believe.

שגעון "madness" (BDB 993)

תמהון "astonishment"

The picture is one of utter confusion...reminiscent of the overthrow of the chariots of Sisera in the time of Deborah and Barak.