

12:5... גְּוֹרָמִים "governors" "chief men" The use of this term may be instructive or may be simply a synonym for leaders. I think it interesting that the king is not mentioned although, to be honest, he could be among the governors. See an interesting concept in Jeremiah 30:21.

חֲזָקָה "strength"

As I see it, this picture is quite a contrast with the events of the Babylonian Captivity. The idea as expressed by the governors is that "the people dwelling in Judah (Jerusalem) are the strength of the nation because of their dedication to God."

Judah and Jerusalem seem used as the near and far ends for the designation of the Jews as in vs. 2.

12:6... "an heath of fire" ..but in a wood כִּי־רֹךְ אֵשׁ
 "a torch of fire" ..but in a sheath.. אֵשׁ אֶת־פָּרִי־אֵשׁ

These powerful speech figures portray the effect the inhabitants of Jerusalem and Judah will have on those about them.

עַד "again" can be translated "yet" or "still". Again is an attractive reading from my point of reference.

The thrust seems to be that not only will Israel be delivered but also she will be a means of judging those about her. The result is a rebuilding and strengthening of the key city.

12:7... בְּרִשְׁתָּהּ "first"
כְּהַגְּלִי "glory"

This verse is not easily phrased into translation. I think it shows a means whereby one aspect of the people is not allowed to develop a base of boasting itself against another. It may indicate a re-building of the staff "binders".

12:8... הַחֲזָקָה "feeble"

This is a verse of power...note the speech figures that suggest the upgrading and force of the Judaeen power.