

(Editor's note: Originally I dealt pretty heavily with the Messianic prophecies in the chapter and tried to point out that the rejection of the program of God was the source of the difficulty that would try the nation. In effect, they had ruined a good thing and many other good things have been similarly harmed by those who make similar mistakes)

- III. Conclusion: If we take the positive side of these negative things and put them to spiritual employment we will be strengthened and the testimonies will grow. Our poor behavior cannot result in the totality of Israel's but it can certainly follow that pattern to our harm and loss.

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Before continuing this series I need to make this note written now in 2002. The predictive prophetic portion of Zechariah is not dealt with well and these last few chapters suffer from it. I was not trying to expound the whole book but to show how its message that moved the people of that day to the work of God could be used to direct us in our day. Therefore I simply tried to take building lessons from the text and one looking at my notes for these chapters now might wonder what I was doing and why I was not treating many important and prophetic elements. The fact is that this section of Zechariah is one of the most important eschatological sections of the Old Testament but I was not working with eschatology in this series and did not go to develop that very far. The practical implications for immediate service dominated my thinking and that is where the emphasis is. For the prophetic understanding I still recommend Baron: Visions and Prophecies of Zechariah as well as the commentaries mentioned earlier. And this is an editorial note of which I will attempt not to write too many.

MESSAGE # 9: THE BLESSING INDUCED BY SUFFERING

Biblical Passage: Zechariah 12, essentially, although a great passage of predictive prophecy.

Synopsis of the Message:

The trials that Israel was to endure are sketched here and they are grim, indeed. But out of them arises a picture of redemptive truth. There is hope for the people of God when the pressures force them