

2. Analysis of 12:1-8

This section envisions Jerusalem surrounded by armies and in a state of siege. The Lord identifies himself in a creatorial role and produces a dramatic deliverance. The fact is that Jerusalem itself becomes a burden to the foes.

3. Analysis of 12:9-14

Key to some understanding is the sequence "in that day" connecting the events to the earlier part of chapter 12. A great national repentance is produced in Israel and there is a weeping for the Messiah. It sweeps through the houses of the kings, the prophets, and the priests and includes the whole of the community. It is produced, by the grace of God, of course, through the agency of the threatening oppression and results in the oppressed being delivered spiritually and then physically.

4. Analysis of 13:1-6

Verse 1 belongs to the context of chapter 12 and reaffirms the spiritual cleansing and health. Vss 2-6 are hotly disputed among Bible students and prophetic preachers. I interpret them to mean that the presence of the Lord and the opening of the fountain have made further revelation unnecessary and that anyone who claims to give such is not telling the truth. I do not see verse 6 as being Messianic...for a bunch of reasons. But I do not split churches over it either. The thrust of the passage, in my mind, is to certify the reality of the repentance and restoration of the community to the favor of God.

5. Analysis of 13:7-9

A description of the tribulation judgments, I think, and the way in which Israel will be led to the Lord.

Just in capsule form, it seems to me these passages go beyond anything historically known and require the end times for fulfillment. They teach us of God's ways and they give a clue as to how the historic people will be saved.

6. Analysis of 14:1-15

This is the great final battle for Jerusalem...a fuller picture of the ideas of 12:1-8. I associate it with the action of Revelation 12 and Isaiah 24. The return of the Lord is not that of the calling of the saints but of the militant victory (v. 4) and the method of deliverance is by protection (v. 5) and conquest. (v. 12) Jerusalem will be established and made firm and safety and peace will be the rule of the land.

7. Analysis of 14:16-21

This is our epilogue that shows the centrality of God's blessing and the way in which He will keep the peace. Verse 20 gives us the great picture of the state of the land when the Lord rules...holiness is witnessed everywhere.