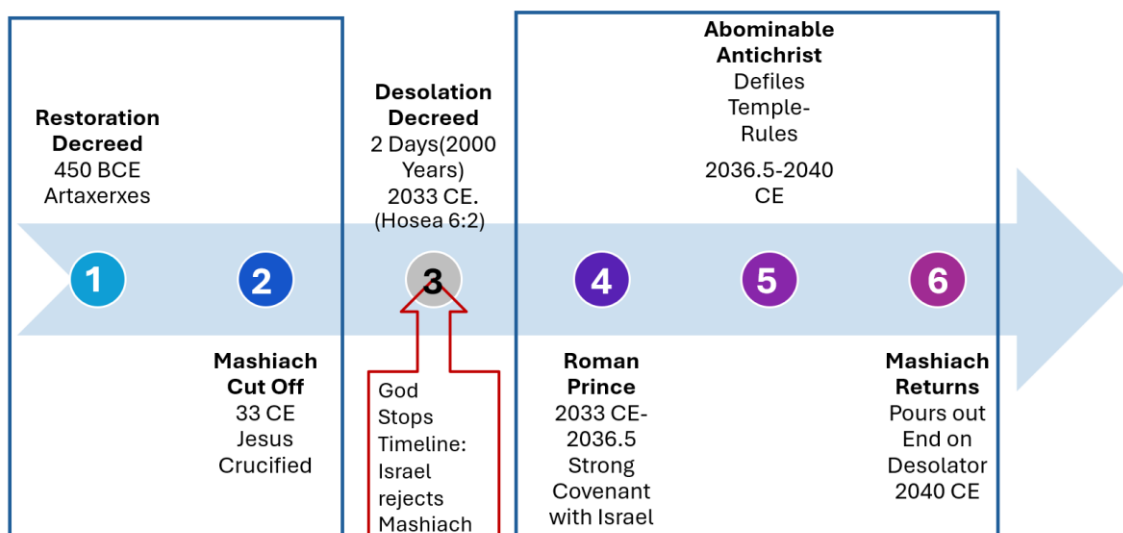


10. Zechariah 12:10-14. Why does Israel mourn for the Pierced One?

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a **spirit of grace and pleas for mercy**, so that, when they **look on me**, on him **whom they have pierced**, they shall **mourn** for him, as one mourns for an **only child**, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps **over a firstborn**.¹¹ On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.¹² The land shall mourn, each family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves;¹³ the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves;¹⁴ and all the families that are left, each by itself, and their wives by themselves. Zechariah 12:10-14

Answer: In the middle of God’s timeline of Israel’s Future History, the Lord speaks a chilling pronouncement: “Desolations are Decreed” (Daniel 9:26). So, when we see Israel engaged in mass-mourning, family-by-family, each household broken in a heart-rending agony.

Oddly, this mourning marks the *end* of this foretold time of Desolation. Shouldn’t there be celebration, rejoicing, and laughter? Consider once again the Lord’s timeline in the book of Daniel:



For two “days,” that is, two thousand years, Hosea has foretold a *deadened Israel*—wandering the nations and dead to God (Hosea 6:2), Israel says: “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed **cut off**” (Ezekiel 37:11).

These are words of loss, of deprivation, and separation. But, from what has Israel been “cut off”? We have seen these words before, because Daniel has also said that Mashiach was “**cut off**” in the year 33 CE, the same year Jesus was crucified and Israel rejected him as Mashiach.

Jesus was “cut off,” but it is Israel that feels the weight of separation. For, what Mashiach was meant to bear on the cross for his people, Israel has carried for two thousand years. The Life of Redemption Mashiach had won for Israel was withdrawn, so Israel only knows a dryness that has wasted away its life for two thousand years. Like two fated lovers kept apart by stubbornness, Israel suffers a self-inflicted wound.

But, to “mourn” means that one has a heart to mourn. For two thousand years, Israel has collectively resisted, denounced, dishonored, derided, and sullied the name of “Jesus.” In its heart, Jesus was apostate, deluded, and worst yet, a traitor.

For, the love and redemption Israel rejected, the Gentile World gladly accepted, and for two thousand years, the Church has been a thorn in Israel’s side. How could these foolish, unlearned, and chaotic Gentiles enjoy the Spirit’s Rebirth which had been promised to its sons and, brashly, boast that Israel has been forever rejected.

But, there will be a day when the Church is taken, as its last flame of witness flickers out.

And, the Lord will give Israel a new heart by a new Spirit—for, replacing its overweening pride and a defensive Self-justification will be replaced with a spirit of “grace” and “pleas for mercy.” The Spirit will restore Israel’s heart, so that it will look up to its Savior on the day of its national suffering, and it will see Jesus. And, Israel will mourn the lost years of

desolation, it will mourn the lost relationship with its greatest “Son, and it will feel the Loss of a future that never will be.

But, as Paul says, if their “rejection is the reconciliation of the world,” what will their “acceptance” be but “life from the dead? (Romans 11:15).

What will Israel offer to Jesus Mashiach at his return? The broken hearts of those who mourn.