

SECTION 1

The Pouring Out of the Spirit

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The Introduction

“And I will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplications,”
Zechariah 12:10

These words contain a notable description of a gracious gift that God promised to bestow upon His people in the days of the gospel. This gift is the Spirit of grace, set forth first by the donor or giver of it: “I will pour [it out],” which intimates both God the Father and God the Son.

Second, it is described by the manner of bestowing it in a large measure: “I will pour it out.”

Third, the subjects or persons upon whom it will be poured: “the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.”

Fourth, the gift itself: “the Spirit,” amplified by an adjunct and by an effect.

An adjunct: it is “the Spirit of grace.”

The effects are three:

The first work it has in the heart of him in whom it is bestowed is prayer, supplication, that is, humble prayer.

Second, it works a looking upon Christ who is set forth by His passion, and that by their hands.

Third, it works a mourning for Christ; and this mourning is amplified by the greatness of it; and that greatness is amplified

by a double comparison: First, it as the mourning of him who mourns for the loss of his firstborn, and it is like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.

Second, it is amplified by the privacy of it, the secrecy and inwardliness of it, every one apart; which inwardliness of their mourning first implies the soundness and sincerity of it; they shall mourn not only when they are seen, but every one apart, concealing it, at least for that time from any.

Third, it expresses the freeness of it: to mourn one family with another, or the whole congregation together, would provoke and stir us up to mourn with them who mourn. As the weeping eyes of them who sit near us are many times uncomfortable to us, so the sight of some mourning many times melts the hearts of those who behold them. Now this is such a mourning as shall have no such helps; their own hearts shall put work enough into their hands; their looking upon Christ shall make them mourn.

Now for handling these points in order, I might first speak of the Author and Bestower of this gift, also of the manner of bestowing it and, third, of the subjects upon whom it is bestowed. But some other will be more suitable to be first handled. Therefore, first, to speak of the gracious gift that God has promised to pour out abundantly in these days, which is the Spirit, described by the adjunct, “a Spirit of grace,” and his effect, “a Spirit of supplications [prayer]. Whence observe this note:

The Spirit of grace is a Spirit of supplications.

“A Spirit of supplications” is how God describes the Spirit He promises to give His people; a Spirit of supplications, that is, humble prayer. Now the Spirit of grace that God bestows upon His people is partly a Spirit of adoption and partly a Spirit of regeneration, both one Spirit, only having divers manner of workings; and both these are a Spirit of prayer. “Ye have not received the spirit of bondage...but ye have received the Spirit