

## The Apple Of His Eye

Ponder: Do you realize how precious you are to God?

Scripture: “He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye” (Zechariah 2:8)

7,600,000,000 people inhabit this planet. All are made in God’s image, and He values each one. Particularly prized, however, are those who are in a covenant with Him. That was true in Old Testament times and remains so today.

God chose the Israelites, one line of Abraham’s descendants, to be His distinctive people. Sad to say, they didn’t always act like His people; sometimes they behaved so atrociously even their pagan neighbors took a dim view of it. The Lord disciplined His wayward children, eventually using enemy nations to take them into captivity.

But He still loved and valued them! After seventy years, He graciously raised up a new king who allowed them to return to their homeland. Outsiders, however, harassed those Jews who returned to Judah. The Lord assured His chosen people that He would receive glory by defeating “the nations which plunder you, for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.”

“Apple” refers not to a fruit, but to the pupil of the eye. You value your eyes highly. Someone punching your shoulder might cause some pain, but poking you in the eye gets your undivided attention! You instinctively protect your eyes, covering them with your hand or bowing your head low.

God’s people are precious to Him; abusing them is like poking Him in the eye. The pagans who were plundering Israel would suffer severe consequences. “For surely I will shake My hand against them, and they shall become spoil for their servants” (Zechariah 2:9a).

Christians today comprise the Israel of God, His chosen people. When Saul of Tarsus “persecuted the church of God . . . and tried to destroy it” (Galatians 1:13), Jesus confronted him on the road to Damascus with these words: “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” (Acts 9:4). Jesus values His church; it is His body (Ephesians 1:22-23). To harm a Christian is to harm a member of Jesus’ body.

Though the New Testament doesn’t use the expression “apple of His eye,” the point is the same. If you are a Christian, you are especially precious to God; He will defeat any who would harm you.

Song: “God Will Take Care Of You”

Prayer: Mighty Father, we are humbled to think that You place such a high value on sinful creatures like us. We praise You for our Savior, Jesus, Whose blood cleanses us from sin and makes us acceptable to You. Help us to appreciate our value, and to value each other, and value our relationship with You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.