

Bob Deering // October 30, 2018

The Journey Through Zechariah Session 9 Chapter 9 and 10

I. Introduction: Once again, I am blown away by the Word of God! These two chapters are amazing regarding how the Lord will empower Israel before His return. These two prophecies are very weighty from the standpoint of being on God's Heart. It has a general theme of Jesus the Messianic King who brings both judgment, and blessing as He empowers Israel to defeat the Gentile world powers. Zechariah really develops the fact that Jesus is coming back in the midst of a great military conflict. The Messiah will deliver, empower, and gather Israel and overthrow her enemies (Zech. 9-11). The Messiah will save, refine, and transform Israel in the context of a global war (Zech. 12-14).

II. Israel is delivered (9:1-8)

The burden of the word of the LORD against the land of Hadrach, and Damascus its resting place (for the eyes of men and all the tribes of Israel are on the LORD); also against Hamath, which borders on it, and against Tyre and Sidon, though they are very wise. For Tyre built herself a tower, heaped up silver like the dust, and gold like the mire of the streets. Behold, the LORD will cast her out; He will destroy her power in the sea. (Zech. 9:1-4)

- a. Zechariah 9:1-8 is a prototype of what the Lord will do to ungodly nations that oppress others. What He does reveals His nature. He humbles their pride (9:6a), cleanses their sin, (9:7a), and offers them His salvation (9:7b) and participation in His kingdom (9:7c).
- b. Two hundred years later after Zechariah, the people remembered his prophecy and God used Alexander the great as His tool. Alexander the Great swiftly conquered these nations. He was God's tool of judgment against them. These events have a dual fulfillment, initially in Alexander's time, and then ultimately at the end of the age.
- c. After defeating the Persians (333 B.C.), Alexander moved towards Egypt. On his march there he conquered the major cities of Syria and those on the Mediterranean coast. Yet, he refused to harm Jerusalem. For an account of the powerful dream that led Alexander to spare Jerusalem.
- d. The eyes of men and all Israel looked to the Lord as He judged the cities of Syria using Alexander the Great as His instrument of wrath. The nations were filled with fear at seeing how quickly Alexander conquered each nation. They looked to the Lord in fear, especially knowing about Zechariah's prophetic words against them.

III. Zechariah 9:5-8

- a. *Ashkelon shall see it and fear; Gaza also shall be very sorrowful; and Ekron..A mixed race shall settle in Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines. I will take away the blood from his mouth, and the abominations...But he who remains, even he shall be for our God, and shall be like a leader in Judah, and Ekron like a Jebusite. I will camp*

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around My house because of the army, because of him who passes by...No more shall an oppressor pass through them, for now I have seen with My eyes.

- b. *Take away the blood:* This spoke of idolatrous rituals that required that they drink blood and participate in other abominations. God's judgment cleansed this city from idolatry.
- c. The Lord will camp around Israel with angels, especially in the end-time conflicts. This prophecy will not be completely fulfilled until Jesus returns, when "no more" shall an oppressor pass through Israel. The Lord will watch over Israel even as "the army" of the Antichrist passes by.

IV. The Coming of Zion's King (9:9-10)

- a. *"Rejoice greatly...O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey...I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; the battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be...from the River to the ends of the earth. (Zech. 9:9-10)*
- b. *Your King is coming:* Israel's Messiah was to come first on a donkey in humility (9:9). Daniel spoke of the Messiah as the Son of Man coming with the clouds to rule all nations (Dan. 7:14). How could the Messiah come both as the Son of Man on the clouds and on a donkey? Verse 9 was fulfilled at Jesus' first coming by Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Mt. 25:5; Jn 12:15). Verse 10 will be fulfilled at Jesus' second coming.
- c. *Having salvation:* This speaks of deliverance spiritually, politically, physically, etc.
- d. *He is lowly:* The only character trait that Jesus proclaimed about Himself was that He was lowly in heart (Mt. 11:29). Humility is part of His eternal nature. He has existed eternally with a servant's heart. He will forever be the greatest servant with the most humility. Jesus showed us who He is in His core identity when He took a towel to wash dirty feet (Jn. 13).
- e. Only the meek will inherit the eternal leadership of the earth (Mt. 5:5). *Learn from Me for I am gentle and lowly in heart [humble]. (Mt. 11:29)*
- f. Jesus the humble King, everything He does is out of humble leadership. Everything He does is from a place of humility in order to produce humility in others.
- g. *I will cut off the chariot:* Jesus will cause all war to cease when He returns (Isa. 2:4; 9:5-7).

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- h. *His dominion*: His dominion will go from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth, i.e., it will cover all the earth. All the kings of the earth will worship and obey Him in the Millennium.

V. The Return of the King

- a. When Jesus returns He will liberate, empower, defend, and save Israel (9:11-17). He will destroy the Antichrist armies surrounding Jerusalem and liberate Jewish prisoners (12:2-3; 14:2; Joel 3:2, 12). He will empower the Israeli army as His agents for this *before* He returns (10:3-7; 12:5-8).
- b. *“As for you also, because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to the stronghold, you prisoners of hope...I will restore double to you. I have bent Judah, My bow, fitted the bow with Ephraim, and raised up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and made you like the sword of a mighty man.” (Zech. 9:11-13)*
- c. *Blood of your covenant*: The Lord delivers us based on the blood of the covenant. The expression *the blood of the covenant* is found in Exodus 24:8. Jesus uses this phrase when speaking of His death—only in Him is our deliverance found and fulfilled (Mk. 14:24). The blood of the covenant is God’s pledge of faithfulness to deliver us.
- d. *“This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.” (Mk. 14:24)*
- e. *Restore double*: The Lord promises to restore double of what the enemy took from Israel. A double restoration means a complete restoration.
- f. *I raised up your sons like a mighty man*: The Lord promised to raise up *sons of Zion* as mighty men to overthrow Greek oppression. He will make Judah His bow and Ephraim His arrow. The Lord promised to anoint Jewish soldiers to do battle against oppressors or to defend Israel against an attack, but not to wage war as aggressors seeking conquests.
- g. *Greece*: Greece defeated the Persians to become the next great world power. The initial fulfillment of Israelites being anointed to fight against the Greeks was seen when the Jews overthrew the Greeks during the Maccabean revolts in the second century BC. The Maccabean uprising against Greece was only a partial fulfillment of this prophecy. The ultimate fulfillment of this will be in the future battle of Jerusalem (10:5-7; 12:3-9).

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VI. Jesus will personally be a part of this battle:

- a. *Then the LORD will be seen over them, and His arrow will go forth like lightning. The Lord GOD will blow the trumpet, and go with whirlwinds from the south. The LORD of hosts will defend them; they shall devour and subdue with slingstones."*
- b. The Lord will be "seen" over His people (9:14) and will defend Israel (9:15) when Israel's sons are raised up as mighty men to resist a military attack from the sons of Greece (9:13). This seems to be the same situation as Zechariah 12:3-10, where Israeli soldiers are anointed, like David, to resist the Antichrist's armies, and then "see" the One whom they pierced (12:10).
- c. *The Lord shall defend them:* They shall devour and subdue with slingstones, even as David did.
- d. The overthrow of the Gentile powers is followed by the exaltation of God's people (9:16-17). God's people are so valuable to Him, even like precious stones in a king's crown, and we are lifted like a banner in the sky to proclaim our worth to Him. Zechariah proclaims the greatness of the goodness and beauty of God and of His people as a crown of jewels (9:17).
- e. *The LORD their God will save them in that day...They shall be like the jewels of a crown, lifted like a banner over His land—For how great is its goodness and how great its beauty! (Zech. 9:16-17)*
- f. God's people are so valuable to Him, even like precious stones in a King's crown. . (Isa. 62:3)

VII. Israel is to be blessed and regathered (10:1-12)

- a. *Ask the LORD for rain in the time of the latter rain. The LORD will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, grass in the field for everyone. The idols speak delusion; the diviners envision lies, and tell false dreams; they comfort in vain. Therefore the people wend their way like sheep; they are in trouble because there is no shepherd. "My anger is kindled against the shepherds, and I will punish the goatherds. The Lord of hosts will visit His flock...and will make them as His royal horse in the battle."*
- b. Israel will be blessed agriculturally (10:1). This speaks of literal rain. The rain comes in response to obedience and prayer (Deut. 28:12). He promised to send rain to bless the crops (Deut. 11:13- 14). Many of God's promises are not guarantees, but invitations to partner with Him (Jas. 4:2).
- c. Israel will be blessed spiritually as the Lord confronts and removes idolatry from the nation (10:2).

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- d. Israel will be blessed governmentally as God removes their bad leadership (10:3). His anger with false shepherds (civil and political leaders, priests, etc.) is an expression of His zeal.
- e. *His royal horse in battle:* The Lord will visit them by releasing His power through them so that they function as a royal horse that He will “ride,” or use, in the end-time battles. Israel’s weak sheep (10:2) will become strong horses (10:3), as seen in Zechariah 12:3-9.

VIII. Israel will be blessed militarily (10:5-7)

- a. *“They shall be like mighty men, who tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle. They shall fight because the LORD is with them...I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph...Those of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man...their children shall see it and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD.”(Zech. 10:5-7)*
- b. Israel will be blessed militarily (10:5-7) as emphasized elsewhere (9:13; 10:3; 12:5-8). Later, Zechariah develops the theme of the Lord being with the military force as He was with David, by empowering the Israeli army to resist the Antichrist even *before* Jesus returns (12:5-8)
- c. Zechariah specifically says that the “house of Judah” in the south of Israel (10:3, 6) and the “house of Joseph” (10:6), which is the same as the “Ephraim” in the north, (10:7) will be empowered and blessed together, thus fully overcoming the historic rivalry (12:7).
- d. *Their children:* The children will also have a dynamic relationship with Jesus (10:7, 9). They will personally see the Lord as their joy and source of security and strength, instead of only relying on what their parents say and experience in the Lord (Mal. 4:5-6).
- e. *“I will whistle for them and gather them, for I will redeem them; and they shall increase as they once increased. I will sow them among the peoples, and they shall remember Me in far countries; they shall live, together with their children, and they shall return.” (Zech. 10:8-9)*
- f. *I will whistle:* This describes the Lord arresting Israel’s attention in a way that causes them to respond swiftly to Him, even from the far countries of the earth *“He will lift up a banner to the nations from afar, and will whistle to them from the end of the earth; surely they shall come with speed, swiftly. (Isa. 5:26)*
- g. Zechariah gives details about the end-time regathering of the Jewish people (10:10-12). In particular, they will return from Egypt and Assyria (10:10) because of great miracles (10:12)

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- h. *"I will also bring them back from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon...He shall pass through the sea with affliction, and strike the waves of the sea: all the depths of the River shall dry up. Then the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the scepter of Egypt shall depart. I will strengthen them in the LORD, and they shall walk up and down in His name." (Zech. 10:10-12)*
- i. *Great miracles:* The dividing of the Red Sea when Israel was released from captivity in Egypt foreshadowed the great miracles in the end times that will be seen by the nations.
- j. *"As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders. The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; they shall put their hand over their mouth...They shall be afraid of the LORD our God." (Mic. 7:15-17)*
- k. At key times in history, the Lord drew attention to His power by great miracles related to water, such as parting the Red Sea, drying up the Jordan River, Jesus calming the Sea of Galilee. He will do this again when He dries up the Euphrates River (10:11; Rev. 6:12).
- l. *"...poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up. (Rev. 16:12)*