

Zechariah 10:1-11:3

August 17, 2022

III. Past Hypocritical Worship; Future Pure Worship (7:1-8:23)

IV. Yahweh's Sovereignty (9:1-11:17)

A. Coming of the True King (9:1-17)

B. Restoration of the People (10:1-11:3)

The rain necessary to bring about the *grain* and *new wine* of Zechariah 9:17 will be brought about in abundance in 10:1. Even though the Israelites had just started to return to the land after the Medo-Persian portion of the exile, Zechariah continues to look forward to the time when Israel will be restored to the land once and for all. We understand this to be the Messianic Kingdom when Jesus returns.

The ungodly leaders and idol worshipers will one day be done away with (vv. 2-3). In fact, when *the LORD of hosts visits His flock*, He *will make them as His royal horse in the battle* (v. 3). What a transformation from *the sheep of His hand* (Ps 95:7)! In v. 5, we read of the Israelites victory in battle *because the LORD is with them*.

All the more, we note in v. 4 that we have this interesting reference to *the cornerstone*, *the tent peg*, and *the battle bow*. Most commentators see this as a reference to the Messiah. No doubt we are familiar with Jesus be called the *cornerstone* (Acts 4:11; Eph 2:20; 1 Pet 2:1-8). In the Ancient Near East, this word for *tent peg* was used to hang heavy, but beautiful, decorative pieces inside the home (cf. Isa 22:22-24; Ezek 15:3). And, the *battle bow* would be the weapon that would fight on their behalf. He would bring *every ruler together* for their destruction (Rev 19:18).

In vv. 6-12, we note the numerous *I will* statements – 10x in the New King James Version. All that God promises to bring about in

these seven verses will surely be done, for God is the One that will do it! God will *strengthen*, *save*, and *bring them back* because He has *mercy on them* (v. 6). Note that, if it was dependent upon God's *mercy*, then His deliverance was not something they somehow deserved! Their restoration will be such that it will be as if He *had not cast them aside* (v. 6).

Their *heart shall rejoice in the LORD* as He *gathers them and redeems them*, and *they shall increase as they once increased* (vv. 7-8). Even though the Israelites will be *sown... among the peoples*, they will one day *return* (v. 9). The picture is that the Lord was planting them around the globe so that He could one day harvest them. At that time, the LORD *will strengthen them and walk... in His name* (v. 12).

On that day, the LORD will also judge all the nations. Egypt (to the south) and Assyria (to the north) will be brought to nothing (vv. 10-11). It's likely these two countries are named because they were their constant enemies during the monarchy, and because they were to the north and south (i.e., on all sides). The trees of Lebanon – the *cedars* and *oaks* – will be devoured by fire and ruined (11:1-3).

We have dear brothers and sisters that believe these prophecies are being fulfilled today in the Church. Somehow, we are the *house of Judah* and *house of Joseph* and *those of Ephraim* that have been sown and regathered. This is simply an untenable position!

God is faithful to His promises as He has revealed them, not just to Abraham originally, but throughout the entirety of the Old Testament, as well. Yes, we Gentiles benefit greatly from the Israelites' Messiah; however, the promises of a land, a seed, and a blessing, must be and will be fulfilled in the future!