

Zechariah 9-11—Prophecies of the Messianic King

Judgment on Israel's Enemies (Zechariah 9:1-8)

Prophecies are directed against enemy nations to the north, northwest, and south of Israel. Syria included Damascus and Hadrach and Hamath (both of these were north of Damascus). Tyre and Sidon were coastal cities of Phoenicia. Ashkelon and Gaza and Ekron were part of Philistia.

1. What was the oracle or burden of prophecy against the prominent cities and countries just outside of Israel's borders?
2. Verse 7 states that Ekron will be like the Jebusites. The Jebusites lived in a well-defended city on a hill. Joshua and subsequent judges could not dislodge them. King David, in the 7th year of his reign, was victorious over them and renamed the city Jerusalem. The Jebusites were absorbed into Judah, just as some of the Philistines would be absorbed into God's people. Relate this to what Jesus said to the faithful centurion in **Matthew 8:10-12**.

The Coming of Zion's King (Zechariah 9:9-13)

3. What is the reason for rejoicing and celebration?
4. What two processions of Jesus are foretold here by Zechariah?
 - a. **Matthew 21:1-5**
 - b. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**
5. Relate verse 11 to **Colossians 1:18-20**.

The Lord used Judah as his bow and the Northern Kingdom of Ephraim as arrows. He wields His people as spiritual weapons against the devil and his angels—ESV Study Bible

The Lord Appears to His People (Zechariah 9:14-17)

6. Verse 14 speaks of the Lord sounding His trumpet. Old Testament stories like the walls of Jericho (Joshua 6) and Gideon (Judges 7) show trumpets being blown just before God makes a decisive move to defeat the enemy. In **1 Corinthians 15:51-55**, what victory does the trumpet signify?
7. How does Zechariah's metaphor of God's people being like crown jewels help us understand the parable of the hidden treasure and pearl in **Matthew 13:44-45**?

The Lord Will Care for Judah (Zechariah 10:1-12)

8. The terms in verse 4 are Messianic—referring to Christ. He is a tent peg (ruler in support of the nation) and bow (warrior). What role does the cornerstone play? See **Ephesians 2:19-20**.

9. Read Zechariah 10:8 and **John 10:14-16, 27**. How does God seek out and gather His scattered sheep?

In chapter 10, Zechariah “launched right into some examples of this rich generosity that the Lord can’t wait to dole out...Your heavenly Father is not going to give blessings because you said the right words or did something worthy of a reward. If you were to believe that, then you would actually be denying Christ and behaving like a pagan....Jesus died and rose from the dead not because we needed good things in this life, but because we were separated from our Creator and needed a Savior to bring us the greatest blessing: eternal life.”

“So why, in chapter 11, are we back on the subject of punishment, even slaughter?...[He] was to predict the judgment and destruction of the Jewish nation that would eventually follow their denial and crucifixion of Jesus, as well as their persecution of His early followers”—LifeLight Leaders Guide

The Flock Doomed to Slaughter (Zechariah 11:1-17)

10. Thirty pieces of silver was the replacement value of a slave, a person valued little by the community. When that amount was paid for Judas’ betrayal of Jesus, what did it reveal about how the Jewish leaders regarded Christ? How do we see that same treatment in this chapter?

11. The shepherding of the flock doomed to be slaughtered and the breaking of the two staffs can be described as an “action prophecy”—proclaimed through a demonstration rather than through preaching.

a. What did the breaking of the staff called “Favor” signify (vv. 10-11)?

b. What did the breaking of the staff called “Union” signify (v. 14)?

Verse 15 describes an unworthy shepherd who cares nothing for his flock. The description of his actions stand in contrast to the actions of our Good Shepherd. This counterfeit shepherd may have referred to some of Israel’s rulers in the past and may refer, in the future, to the end times and the anti-Christ.



Sources:

NIV and ESV Study Bibles

Peoples Bible Commentary on Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi

LifeLight Leaders Guide and Study Guide on Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi

Matthew 8:10-12: ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹² while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 21:1-5: Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵ “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17: ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

Colossians 1:18-20: ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

1 Corinthians 15:51-55: ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” ⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

Matthew 13:44-45: ⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls,

Ephesians 2:19-20: ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

John 10:14-16, 27: ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd... ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.