

ZECHARIAH CHAPTER NINE

Zechariah Lesson 84-86

Lesson 84

1. Last week I taught Zechariah chapter eight, an introduction to chapters 9-14 and then we analyzed Zec 9:1-8; when time expired we were in the process of exegeting Zec 9:9-17.
2. Before we continue I want to read an expanded translation of Zechariah chapter 8.

Zec 8:1 Again the Word of the Lord of the Armies came to me saying.

Zec 8:2 Then the Lord of the Armies spoke again to me in this manner, I as the Grand Marshal of both the terrestrial and heavenly armies declare I am jealous with a unique jealousy for Zion; I am full of great love and great passion for Zion in fact I will always be zealous for her and I will always turn My fury upon those who abuse her.

Zec 8:3 The Lord of the Armies again spoke to me saying, I shall one day return to Zion and I shall live and abide in the middle of the Holy City and Jerusalem shall be called the city of truth, the mountain of the Lord of the Armies, a Holy mountain.

Zec 8:4 The Lord of the Armies then said: during the restoration the old men and old ladies will sit peacefully in the streets of Jerusalem, the old men because of their age will sit with cane in hand.

Zec 8:5 And after the Lord returns the market place of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing in the streets totally oblivious to any potential danger, peace and prosperity will be the divinely enforced ambiance.

Zec 8:6 The Lord of the Armies spoke in this way just because what I will do seems impossible in the eyes of the eschatological remnant; will it be impossible and difficult in My eyes? The answer said the Lord of the Armies, is of course not!

Zec 8:7 Then Lord of the Armies said to me, listen Zechariah, pay attention, in the future I am going to deliver My people and restore them to the land; I will call them to return from wherever they may have wandered, from both the farthest points east and the most distant points west.

Zec 8:8 When I return in My Glory, I will cause Israel to come to Me and they shall rest in prosperity in the city of Jerusalem and they shall be My people and I will be to them their Triune God in Truth and righteousness.

Zec 8:9 The Lord of the Armies accordingly declared to Zechariah, you and those working with you must be strong; tell the people to think constantly on the Words delivered by the prophets; particularly, that taught by both you and Haggai; who, since the day the foundation of the Temple of the Lord of the Armies was constructed, have faithfully preached; tell the people to finish the work earlier begun in order that all the world will see and be encouraged.

Zec 8:10 When you first returned to the land there was significant activity as you rebuilt both the altar and the foundation of My house; but then you neglected My mandate and worked instead on your own homes. As a result I brought economic depression to the land; I also brought animosity upon you; even your neighbors threatened you from all sides, and that's how I got you to resume the work on the Temple. The land is now being blessed with prosperity and your neighbors are no longer a threat. Stay the course and I will bless you both now and in the future when the Messiah comes to reign with you.

Zec 8:11 Because you turned around and did what I the Lord of the Armies ordered, I will not discipline you as disobedient children.

Zec 8:12 No, I am going to bless you, your crops will abound, the heavens shall give forth abundant rain and you will possess the land and all that is therein.

Zec 8:13 However, before that time of blessing, you will be disciplined at the hands of many gentile nations; in fact you will be reviled and despised in order that I can deliver you and then you will become a source of blessing to all the world.

Zec 8:14 The Lord of the Armies then declared, just as you caused Me to be angry and discipline you, that does not mean that I changed My mind about you and ceased to love you.

Zec 8:15 No, in fact I shall one day return and bless both Jerusalem and the entire land of Judah; therefore be not afraid.

Zec 8:16 Zechariah, I want you to say to Israel: I demand that you speak the truth to all men, show compassion to all, show justice and peace to all mankind and make Jerusalem famous as a city where the poor and down trodden can come for refuge.

Zec 8:17 And think no evil toward one another, nor swear falsely against anyone, for I hate those who distort My justice system.

Zec 8:18 And then the Word of the Lord of the Armies came again unto me saying,

Zec 8:19 the fast of the 4th, 5th, 7th and 10th months shall, when I return, become glorious festivals of joy and thanksgiving.

Zec 8:20 Then the Lord of the Armies said yes it shall come to pass that many shall one day come and abide safely in the many cities I have given you.

Zec 8:21 In that day, the citizens of those cities shall say, let us go to Jerusalem and worship the Lord of the Armies.

Zec 8:22 Not only that but many gentiles from all over the world shall come to the Holy City to worship the Lord of the Armies.

Zec 8:23 Then the Lord of the Armies spoke with me saying In that day gentiles from all over shall ask of you, please let me go with you to Jerusalem that I might also worship the Lord, please show me the way!

3. Chapter eight is a grand summary of what will happen to Israel in first the Tribulation and then the Millennium.

4. The promises found therein are for believing Israel when Anti-Semitism becomes a thing of the past and the promises of Psalm 122 become a reality.

NIV

Psa 122:1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

Psa 122:2 Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem.

Psa 122:3 Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.

Psa 122:4 That is where the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel.

Psa 122:5 There the thrones for judgment stand, the thrones of the house of David.

Psa 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure.

Psa 122:7 May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels."

Psa 122:8 For the sake of my brothers and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you."

Psa 122:9 For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.

5. I want to review some of that learned from our study of Zec 9:1-8 and then I will provide an expanded translation of the first eight verses of chapter nine where the coming judgments of Israel's surrounding nations are predicted.
6. In contrast to the ultimate blessing of God on the people of Israel was the prediction of judgment on the nations and cities surrounding Israel.
7. The future judgments include those on the city of Damascus, the nation of Syria and the city states of Tyre and Sidon.
8. Though Tyre was a stronghold with great wealth, the Lord will take away her possessions and destroy her.
9. Likewise He would deal with the major cities of the Philistines such as Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gaza, and Ekron. God declared, "Gaza will lose her king and Ashkelon will be deserted and foreigners would occupy Ashdod. The land of Philistia would be destroyed.
10. Many of these prophecies were literally fulfilled when the Holy Land was invaded by Alexander the Great, after winning the Battle of Issus in 333 B.C.
11. Though Alexander was the instrument, the result would be a destruction of the cities that had oppressed Israel. Tyre, in particular, was subdued in a five-month siege and destroyed.
12. In the same period the armies of Alexander by passed the city of Jerusalem without destroying it, a fulfillment of God's protection of the city. These judgments and the protection of Jerusalem in this situation in the fourth century B.C. foreshadow the ultimate protection of Israel and Jerusalem in the millennial kingdom.
13. Alexander's coming and work was the near term application, the far term coming at the return of Christ to begin the Millennium.
14. Alexander after the battle of Issus defeats Syria as the near term fulfillment of Zec 9:1-2.

NIV

Zec 9:1 The word of the LORD is against the land of Hadrach and will rest upon Damascus-- for the eyes of men and all the tribes of Israel are on the LORD--
 Zec 9:2 and upon Hamath too, which borders on it, and upon Tyre and Sidon, though they are very skillful.

15. Alexander also besieged the grand city of Tyre, burning the city and casting what is left into the Mediterranean Sea. Included was much of the silver and gold she had gathered. This action on the part of Alexander fulfilled the near term prophecy of Zec 9:3-4.

NIV

Zec 9:3 Tyre has built herself a stronghold; she has heaped up silver like dust, and gold like the dirt of the streets.

Zec 9:4 But the LORD will take away her possessions and destroy her power on the sea, and she will be consumed by fire.

16. On the way to Egypt Alexander destroyed the cities of Philistia thus fulfilling that predicted in Zec 9:5-7.

NIV

Zec 9:5 Ashkelon will see it and fear; Gaza will writhe in agony, and Ekron too, for her hope will wither. Gaza will lose her king and Ashkelon will be deserted.

Zec 9:6 Foreigners will occupy Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines.

Zec 9:7 I will take the blood from their mouths, the forbidden food from between their teeth. Those who are left will belong to our God and become leaders in Judah, and Ekron will be like the Jebusites.

17. Now with reference to verse eight of Zechariah nine, here we have a prediction of Israel being spared.

17.1 There seems to be a cryptic prophecy relating to Alexander's sparing of the city; cryptic in the sense that the original language of Zechariah may be highly specific of that which history records.

Expanded Translation

Zec 9:8 And I will cause an army to camp outside My Holy City and these foreigners passing through shall do the city no harm because I have caused many eyes to see it. My eyes in fact have always watched over my city.

18. Let me give you several points concerning what history teaches of Alexander's sparing of Jerusalem and Judah.

18.1 Alexander had a dream in which he saw a bearded man coming out of the city to meet him. Israel's High Priest also had a similar dream.

18.2 In the dream the bearded man informed Alexander he would be successful and defeat the Persians.

18.3 When Alexander arrived at the Holy City, a bearded man, along with many Levite singers came out of the city; the High Priest showed Alexander Daniel's predictions of his success.

Dan 8:3 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns (Medes and Persians): and the two horns were high; but one was higher (Persians) than the other, and the higher came up last.

Dan 8:4 I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great.

Dan 8:5 And as I was considering, behold, a he goat (Greece) came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn (Alexander) between his eyes.

Dan 8:6 And he came to the ram that had two horns (Medo-Persian), which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power.

Dan 8:7 I saw him (Alexander) attack the ram (Persia) furiously, striking the ram and shattering his two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against him; the goat knocked him to the ground and trampled on him, and none could rescue the ram from his power.

Dan 8:8 Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken (Alexander died early in life - age 32); and from it came up four notable ones (Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Seleucus) toward the four winds of heaven ...

Dan 8:15 And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man.

Dan 8:16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision ...

Dan 8:20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.

Dan 8:21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

Dan 8:22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.

18.4 Alexander then went into the Temple and watched the Priests offer various sacrifices.

18.5 Alexander was so impressed, he took many Jews to administer his conquered territories and provided Israel immunity from taxation every seventh year.

19. Now let me give you an expanded translation of Zec 9:1-8.

Zec 9:1 Oh Syria, will I ever discipline you, you and your capital Damascus will be destroyed first by Alexander and then by the Messiah when He returns; this ultimate judgment shall take place when the eyes of all Israel are upon the Lord as He descends from the Heavens.

Zec 9:2 Before their demise however both Syria and the city states of Tyre and Sidon shall grow strong and prosperous.

Zec 9:3 In fact Tyre shall become an impenetrable fortress, an island city impossible to siege; within her walls she shall layup riches of silver and gold; such treasure will however be first swept away like dust when Alexander arrives and then ultimately in spades when Christ returns.

Zec 9:4 Behold, the Lord shall cause her destruction and then push her into the sea and her strength shall be devoured with fire.

Zec 9:5 Even the Philistine city of Ashkelon shall see it and Gaza shall fear and Ekron shall be caused to be shaken and the hope of Ekron shall dry-up and the Kings of Gaza and Ashkelon shall wander in the desert lost and afraid.

Zec 9:6 And a foreign King shall rule Ashdod and the pride of Philistia will be destroyed.

Zec 9:7 And I will cause the idolatry of Ashdod to cease and her former fierceness will become like a lamb; in fact Ashdod will become like a city of Judah; Ekron will be defeated and become like the Jebusite city of Jerusalem when David assaulted her walls and made it his city.

Zec 9:8 And I will cause an army to camp outside My Holy City and these foreigners passing through shall do the city no harm because I have caused many eyes to see it. My eyes have always watched over my city.

20. Now we are ready to resume new material as we return to Zec 9:9-17 where we see the coming of Christ the King.

KJV

Zec 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Zec 9:10 And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

Zec 9:11 As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water.

Zec 9:12 Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even today do I declare that I will render double unto thee;

Zec 9:13 When I have bent Judah for me, filled the bow with Ephraim, and raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece, and made thee as the sword of a mighty man.

Zec 9:14 And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south.

Zec 9:15 The LORD of hosts shall defend them; and they shall devour, and subdue with sling stones; and they shall drink, and make a noise as through wine; and they shall be filled like bowls, and as the corners of the altar.

Zec 9:16 And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land.

Zec 9:17 For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids.

Principles

1. In contrast to the destruction of the enemies of Israel, Jerusalem would be blessed when her Messiah came. A particular prophecy was given concerning Christ entering Jerusalem in the triumphant procession, "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

NIV

Zec 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

2. The prophecy particularly described Christ in His first coming as "gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." This was literally fulfilled as recorded in Matthew chapter 21.

Mat 21:1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,

Mat 21:2 saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.

Mat 21:3 If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

Mat 21:4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

Mat 21:5 "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

Mat 21:6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.

Mat 21:7 They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them.

Mat 21:8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

Mat 21:9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!"

3. The announcement relates to the first coming of Christ (Isa 9:6-7; Mic 5:2-4; Luk 1:32-33).

Isa 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isa 9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Mic 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Mic 5:3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

Mic 5:4 He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

Luk 1:32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,
Luk 1:33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

4. His righteous character is revealed in both the Old and New Testaments.

Psa 45:6 Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

Psa 45:7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.

Isa 11:1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

Isa 11:2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD--

Isa 11:3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;

Isa 11:4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

Isa 11:5 Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

Isa 32:17 The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.

Jer 23:5 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

Jer 23:6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.

Jer 33:15 "In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land.

Jer 33:16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.'

5. He will come as a Deliverer having salvation, both in the sense of providing personal salvation for those who put their trust in Him and ultimately in delivering Israel from their enemies.

6. The prophecies which follow leap the present age and blend the first and second comings of Christ as if they were one event (Isa 9:6-7; 61:1-2; Luk 4:18-21).

Isa 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isa 9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Isa 61:1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
Isa 61:2 to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

Luk 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,
Luk 4:19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
Luk 4:20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him,
Luk 4:21 and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

End Lesson Taught 12-15-2004

Zechariah Lesson 85

12-29-2004

1. Earlier I taught an introduction to Zechariah chapters 9 through 14 and exegeted Zec 9:1-8; when we last met we were analyzing Zec 9:9-17.
2. I want to review some of that learned from our study of Zec 9:1-8 and then I will provide an expanded translation of those verses.
3. In contrast to the ultimate blessing of God on the people of Israel the first eight verses of chapter nine describe a future judgment on the nations and cities surrounding Israel.
4. The future judgments include those on the city of Damascus, the nation of Syria and the city states of Tyre and Sidon.
5. Though Tyre was a stronghold with great wealth, the Lord will take away her possessions and destroy her.
6. Likewise He would deal with the major cities of the Philistines such as Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gaza, and Ekron. God declared, "Gaza will lose her king and Ashkelon will be deserted and foreigners would occupy Ashdod. Ó The land of Philistia would be destroyed.
7. In each of the national judgments studied we noted a near and far term application. And now let's see how the verses look by way of expanded translation.

Expanded Translation

Zec 9:1 Oh Syria, will I ever discipline you, you and your capital Damascus will be destroyed first by Alexander and then by the Messiah when He returns; this ultimate judgment shall take place when the eyes of all Israel are upon the Lord as He descends from the Heavens.

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Zec 9:8 And I will cause an army to camp outside My Holy City and these foreigners passing through shall do the city no harm because I have caused many eyes to see it. My eyes have always watched over my city.

8. In Zec 9:9-17 Zechariah is told of the coming of Christ the King.

KJV

Zec 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Zec 9:10 And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

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Principles

1. In contrast to the destruction of the enemies of Israel, Jerusalem would be blessed when her Messiah came.

1.1 A particular prophecy was given concerning Christ entering Jerusalem in the triumphant procession, "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

NIV

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2. The prophecy particularly described Christ in His first coming as "gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." This was literally fulfilled as recorded in Matthew 21.

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Mat 21:7 They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them.

Mat 21:8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

Mat 21:9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!"

2.1 In Doctor Luke's account he makes clear inevitable nature of prophecy; if the crowds had not shouted and spread the palm branches, God would have raised up the rocks to proclaim His arrival. Why? Because Daniel said they would.

3. The announcement relates to the first coming of Christ.

4. He will come as a Deliverer having salvation, both in the sense of providing personal salvation for those who put their trust in Him and ultimately in delivering Israel from their enemies.

5. The prophecies to Zechariah concerning the coming of Christ leap the present age and blend the first and second comings of Christ as if they were one event (Isa 61:1-2; Luk 4:18-21).

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Luk 4:19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
Luk 4:20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him,
Luk 4:21 and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

6. The prophetic vision extends to the future kingdom on earth, "I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. (Zec 9:10)

NIV

Zec 9:10 I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

7. This was not accomplished in His first coming but will be accomplished in His second coming. The millennial kingdom will be characterized as a time of peace (Isa 2:4 and Mic 4:3-5).

7.1 The nation Israel will occupy the land as originally promised to Abram from the river of Egypt to the River Euphrates. The rest of the world will come under the rule of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.

8. Now for new material.

9. In referring to "the blood of My covenant with you" (v. 11), the prophecy indicated the absolute certainty of the fulfillment of the covenant concerning the land sealed with blood (Gen 15:7-17).

NIV

Zec 9:11 As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.

Gen 15:5 He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars-- if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Gen 15:6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Gen 15:7 He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

Gen 15:8 But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"

Gen 15:9 So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."

Gen 15:10 Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half.

Gen 15:11 Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

Gen 15:12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

Gen 15:13 Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.

Gen 15:14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.

Gen 15:15 You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age.

Gen 15:16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."

Gen 15:17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.

10. The prisoners or captives in foreign lands will return to fortress Jerusalem where God will bless them (Zec 9:12-13). There is also a near term application to those imprisoned by the Greeks during the Maccabean Rebellion.

NIV

Zec 9:12 Return to your fortress, O prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.

Zec 9:13 I will bend Judah as I bend my bow and fill it with Ephraim. I will rouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and make you like a warrior's sword.

11. Many expositors consider verse 13 a reference to the Maccabean period (169-135) when the Children of Israel were oppressed by Antiochus IV Epiphanes (compare Dan 11:31-32). There is a dual application of this prophecy.

Zec 9:13 I will bend Judah as I bend my bow and fill it with Ephraim. I will rouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and make you like a warrior's sword.

Dan 11:31 "His (Antiochus) armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.

Dan 11:32 With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.

12. Ultimately, Israel won the victory, cleansed their temple, and restored their worship. In picturesque language God was described as their ultimate leader who causes them to conquer over their enemies (Zec 9:14-17).

Dan 9:14 The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.

Dan 9:15 "Now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong.

Dan 9:16 O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our fathers have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.

Dan 9:17 "Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary.

End Lesson Taught 12-29-2004

Zechariah Lesson 86

1-5-2005

1. Last week I completed an analysis of Zec 9:1-8 and then we studied in part Zec 9:9-17. When time expired I had just begun exegeting verse seventeen.

2. I want to review some of that learned and then we will resume our analysis of Zec 9:17, but first let's take a look at an expanded translation of Zec 9:1-17.

Expanded Translation

Zec 9:1 Oh Syria, will I ever discipline you, you and your capital Damascus will be destroyed first by Alexander and then by the Messiah when He returns; this ultimate judgment shall take place when the eyes of all Israel are upon the Lord as He descends from the Heavens.

Zec 9:2 Before their demise however both Syria and the city states of Tyre and Sidon shall grow strong and prosperous.

Zec 9:3 In fact Tyre shall become an impenetrable fortress, an island city impossible to siege; within her walls she shall lay up riches of silver and gold; such treasure will however be first swept away like dust when Alexander arrives and then ultimately in spades when Christ returns.

Zec 9:4 Behold, the Lord shall cause her destruction and then push her into the sea and her strength shall be devoured with fire.

Zec 9:5 Even the Philistine city of Ashkelon shall see it and Gaza shall fear and Ekron shall be caused to be shaken and the hope of Ekron shall dry-up and the Kings of Gaza and Ashkelon shall wander in the desert lost and afraid.

Zec 9:6 And a foreign King shall rule Ashdod and the pride of Philistia will be destroyed.

Zec 9:7 And I will cause the idolatry of Ashdod to cease and her former fierceness will become like a lamb; in fact Ashdod will become like a city of Judah; Ekron will be defeated and become like the Jebusite city of Jerusalem when David assaulted her walls and made it his city.

Zec 9:8 And I will cause an army to camp outside My Holy City and these foreigners passing through shall do the city no harm because I have caused many eyes to see it. My eyes have always watched over my city.

Zec 9:9 Israel this is your day, shout for joy, be happy because Christ the Messiah, your King is coming to Jerusalem; He is the personification of righteousness and ever so gentle, He comes bringing salvation to all who would but accept Him. He will be riding on a donkey and closely following will be a colt the foal of that donkey.

Zec 9:10 The Christ will disarm all of Israel, there will be no need for war anymore for the Messiah shall be your protector. He will demand obedience from the nations, they will make war no more and He will rule the entire world as the King of kings.

Zec 9:11 He will become the Lamb of God who will be slaughtered for the sins of the world and He will make peace with God by His perfect sacrifice; as a result all prisoners will be released there will be no incarcerations when the Prince of Peace comes.

Zec 9:12 Until He comes you must trust in His promises and anticipate the day of deliverance; I will provide your every need; in fact you can expect and anticipate twice over that needed.

Zec 9:13 While waiting there will be trials but I promise to be up to the task of protecting you; Greece will invade your land and abuse you but I shall motivate and prepare a cadre of warriors who shall attack and defeat Antiochus the Great and you will become a sovereign nation.

Zec 9:14 After this and more, the Lord Himself shall appear on the horizon, He will come in a great ball of fire, like lightning shall Christ streak across the heavens. The Messiah will sound a trumpet blast which all the world will hear and He will descend to earth with a mighty army.

Zec 9:15 The Armies of the world will surround Jerusalem but the Lord will defend His people; The heavenly army commanded by the Messiah will route your enemies and their blood will flow and run down upon the ground like the blood of the sacrificial animals as when it is poured out on the Temple Altar.

Zec 9:16 Yes the Messiah will in one day save His people; Israel will sparkle in His land like Jewels in a King's crown.

Zec 9:17 How attractive will Israel be when Christ returns and establishes His perfect environment; the land will prosper, the young men will display ecstatic happiness and the young ladies of the land will blossom like fresh grapes glistening in the sun on a perfect day.

3. In Zec 9:9-17 Zechariah is told of the coming of Christ the King.

4. In contrast to the destruction of the enemies of Israel, Jerusalem was to be blessed when her Messiah came.

4.1 A particular prophecy was given concerning Christ entering Jerusalem in a triumphant procession, "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

NIV

Zec 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

5. The prophecy of His coming as "gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey," refers to His 1st Advent; Matthew records its fulfillment. Mat 21:1-9

6. Christ at His first advent will come as a Deliverer having salvation, both in the sense of providing personal salvation for those who put their trust in Him and ultimately in delivering Israel from their enemies.

7. Christ taught with subtlety the differences between the first and second advents. Isa 61:2 compared with Luk 4:18-21

8. In referring to "the blood of My covenant with you" (Zec 9:11), the prophecy indicated the absolute certainty of the fulfillment of the covenant concerning the land sealed with blood (Gen 15:7-17).

NIV

Zec 9:11 As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.

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Zec 9:13 I will bend Judah as I bend my bow and fill it with Ephraim. I will rouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and make you like a warrior's sword.

9. Many expositors consider verse 13 a reference to the Maccabean period when the Children of Israel were oppressed by Antiochus IV Epiphanes (compare Dan. 11:31-32). There is a dual application of this prophecy.

Zec 9:13 I will bend Judah as I bend my bow and fill it with Ephraim. I will rouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and make you like a warrior's sword.

10. Ultimately, Israel won the victory, cleansed their temple, and restored their worship. In picturesque language God was described as their ultimate leader who causes them to conquer over their enemies (Zec 9:14-17).

Zec 9:14 Then the LORD will appear over them; his arrow will flash like lightning. The Sovereign LORD will sound the trumpet; he will march in the storms of the south,

Zec 9:15 and the LORD Almighty will shield them. They will destroy and overcome with sling stones. They will drink and roar as with wine; they will be full like a bowl used for sprinkling the corners of the altar.

Zec 9:16 The LORD their God will save them on that day as the flock of his people. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown.

Zec 9:17 How attractive and beautiful they will be! Grain will make the young men thrive, and new wine the young women.

11. The phrase translated in the KJV "The Lord shall be seen over them" represents a promise of the Messiah's personal intervention on their behalf.

12. In the phrase "his arrow will flash like lightning. The Sovereign LORD will sound the trumpet; he will march in the storms of the south" we see a vivid picture of Christ leading Israel in battle. Not only will He lead them says verse fifteen but He will also protect and shield them from harm.

13. Clearly the ultimate fulfillment will occur at Christ's second advent, however one could make a case for Israel's defeat of Antiochus in the Maccabean rebellion as a near term fulfillment.

14. Verse 17 is idiomatic of their material, national and spiritual prosperity. All such prosperity being a product of God's marvelous grace.

Zec 9:17 For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids.

15. Let's look at two maps which will give indication of the region where the last battle of the Armageddon campaign will take place.





16. Before studying Zechariah chapter ten, I want to give you an expanded translation of Zec 9:17.

Zec 9:17 How attractive will Israel be when Christ returns and establishes His perfect environment; the land will prosper, the young men will display ecstatic happiness and the young ladies of the land will blossom like fresh grapes glistening in the sun on a perfect day.

17. The Promise of Deliverance for both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms is declared in Zec 10:1-8.



KJV

Zec 10:1 Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

Zec 10:2 For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain: therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because there was no shepherd.

Zec 10:3 Mine anger was kindled against the shepherds, and I punished the goats: for the LORD of hosts hath visited his flock the house of Judah, and hath made them as his goodly horse in the battle.

Zec 10:4 Out of him came forth the corner, out of him the nail, out of him the battle bow, out of him every oppressor together.

Zec 10:5 And they shall be as mighty men, which tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the LORD is with them, and the riders on horses shall be confounded.

Zec 10:6 And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the LORD their God, and will hear them.

Zec 10:7 And they of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see it, and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD.

Zec 10:8 I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them: and they shall increase as they have increased.

Principles

1. God is described as the One who ultimately brings victory to Israel. God is the One who gives showers of rain and discipline to those who should have cared for Israel, but didn't.
2. God will punish her shepherds (Israel's ecclesiastical leaders) who did not properly care for the flock.

NIV

Zec 10:1 Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who makes the storm clouds. He gives showers of rain to men, and plants of the field to everyone.

3. God will in the future raise up Judah as a power for God.
 - 3.1 Inherent in the meaning of verse one is the sovereignty of God, one of His essences. This is embodied in the phrase it is the LORD who makes the storm clouds. He gives showers of rain to men, and plants of the field to everyone.
4. Sovereignty - God has the supreme volition and always has possessed the powerful rulership of all things.
 - 4.1 There is no higher power or higher volition.
 - 4.2 All things are subject unto Him.

4.3 Everything falls under the permissive Will of God and that certainly includes that which has and will happen to Israel.

4.4 God desires the best for His family and His people but because of volition and imperfect choices, He provides less than the best but perfect.

4.5 God is sovereign and there will come a time at the 2nd Advent when the Father will say to the Son: now is Your time, implement operation footstool. Until then however the Lord laughs from heaven at how serious man considers him and herself.

Psa 2:1 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

Psa 2:2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

Psa 2:3 "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters."

Psa 2:4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

Psa 100:3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Psa 104:17 There the birds make their nests; the stork has its home in the pine trees.

Psa 104:18 The high mountains belong to the wild goats; the crags are a refuge for the coney (animals and birds seeking shelter).

Psa 104:19 The moon marks off the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down.

Psa 104:20 You bring darkness, it becomes night, and all the beasts of the forest prowl.

Psa 104:21 The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God.

Psa 104:22 The sun rises, and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens.

Psa 104:23 Then man goes out to his work, to his labor until evening.

Psa 104:24 How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Psa 104:25 There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number-- living things both large and small.

Psa 104:26 There the ships that go to and fro, and the ϕ leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

Psa 104:27 These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time.

Psa 104:28 When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.

Psa 104:29 When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.

Psa 104:30 When you send your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

Psa 104:31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works--

Psa 104:32 God it is Who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

Psa 104:33 I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Psa 104:34 May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD.

Psa 104:35 But may sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked be no more. Praise the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD.

Phi 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Phi 2:11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Isa 45:23 By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear.

Rom 14:11 It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God."

Rev 5:13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

5. In verses two and three Zechariah addresses the problem of false teachers in Israel. Israel's prophets, priests, kings and scribes will fail Israel miserably. They are called by Zechariah shepherds.

Zec 10:2 The idols speak deceit, diviners see visions that lie; they tell dreams that are false, they give comfort in vain. Therefore the people wander like sheep oppressed for lack of a shepherd.

Zec 10:3 "My anger burns against the shepherds, and I will punish the leaders; for the LORD Almighty will care for his flock, the house of Judah, and make them like a proud horse in battle.

1. Jeremiah, like most of the pre-exilic prophets had to contend with many false prophets.

Jer 6:13 For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealth falsely.

Jer 6:14 They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

Jer 14:14 Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.

Lam 2:14 The visions of your prophets were false and worthless; they did not expose your sin to ward off your captivity. The oracles they gave you were false and misleading.

2. During the incarnation of Christ, many false prophets existed; they were the Scribes, the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Mat 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Luk 6:26 Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

End Lesson Taught 1-5-2005