

Before we begin our review over this lesson let's remind ourselves of WHY we study the things that happened in the past to the Jews and to the Gentiles. We are studying Zechariah to...

1. Learn from what the Jews did, both good and bad. We learn as we observe how God reacted in both punishment and in mercy. We learn what pleases God and what does not please God.
2. We are lifted up with hope as we see the great love and patience God had with his people the Jews. We realize that God loves us just as he loves the Jews. Just as he never gives up on the Jews he will not give up on us either.
3. Our love grows for God's nation Israel and for the Jews. We love what God loves.

"The burden of the word of the LORD in the land of Hadrach, and Damascus shall be the rest thereof: when the eyes of man, as of all the tribes of Israel, shall be toward the LORD. And Hamath also shall border thereby: Tyrus, and Zidon, though it be very wise. And Tyrus did build herself a strong hold, and heaped up silver as the dust, and fine gold as the mire of the streets. Behold, the Lord will cast her out, and he will smite her power in the sea: and she shall be devoured with fire. Ashkelon shall see it, and fear; Gaza also shall see it, and be very sorrowful, and Ekron; for her expectation shall be ashamed; and the king shall perish from Gaza, and Ashkelon shall not be inhabited. And a bastard shall dwell in Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines. And I will take away his blood out of his mouth, and his abominations from between his teeth: but he that remaineth, even he shall be for our God, and he shall be as a governor in Judah, and Ekron as a Jebusite. (Zechariah 9:1-7).

- 1. Chapter 9:1-8** lists those cities and lands that were overthrown before the 1st Coming of Jesus. These same lands will be overthrown again at the 2nd Coming of Christ when this prophecy is completely fulfilled. The burden of the LORD is his judgment upon these cities and lands. "In the land of Hadrach" refers to the kingdom of Syria and the enemies of Israel which border on Palestine. Kingdoms dwelling in these same lands will be destroyed at the 2nd Coming of Christ when prophecy is completely fulfilled.

- Alexander the Great, General and King of Greece, defeated these cities and lands before the 1st Coming of Christ Jesus. At Alexander's death his vast kingdom was divided among his four generals but it still was viewed as a whole the kingdom of Greece. Rome defeated Greece in 146 BC.

"And I will encamp about mine house because of the army, because of him that passeth by, and because of him that returneth: and no oppressor shall pass through them any more: for now have I seen with mine eyes" (Zechariah 9:8).

- A.** The prophecy given in Zechariah 9:8 likely had two fulfillments prior to the 1st coming of Christ. Both were fulfilled by the kingdom of Greece but at two different times. Take note, however, that the third, last, and primary fulfillment of this prophecy will occur at the 2nd Coming of Christ. Let's look at the first two fulfillments of this prophecy now.
- B. First fulfillment:** Around 332 BC God protected Jerusalem from destruction during a military campaign of Alexander the Great. The high-priest of the temple in Jerusalem met Alexander when he arrived with his army at the City Gate. He showed Alexander from the book of Daniel,

which was written some 200 years prior in 533 BC, that his victories over Persia had been prophesied. This greatly impressed the general. The high-priest assured Alexander that he would defeat the Persians which had been prophesied in the book of Daniel. Alexander saw himself as the male goat in Daniel chapter 8 who tramples the ram (Persia). Because of this, Alexander spared any destruction to Jerusalem or the temple. This account is from the first century historian Flavius Josephus. (See Image of a man dream/statue: Daniel 2: 31-45, the ram & he-goat: 8: 20-22)

"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" (Zechariah 9:13).

C. Second fulfillment: Around 167 BC God protected Jerusalem during the conflict of the Maccabean revolt. The evil Antiochus Epiphanes IV, king of Syria, persecuted the Jews. The Jews under the leadership of Mattathias, a priest, and his followers known as the Maccabees, defeated their oppressors and Jerusalem was spared. God protected Jerusalem.

- Note: Upon Alexander's death his kingdom was divided among his four generals. Syria belonged to one of Alexander's four generals. Even though Alexander's vast kingdom was divided into four regions all the regions are viewed as being a part of Greece during this time. Greece was defeated by Rome in 146 BC.
- Note: The Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes IV was a "type" of the Antichrist who will rise at the start of the seven year tribulation period. The Antichrist will be defeated by Jesus who will then fulfill prophecy and set up his 1,000 year kingdom on earth.

D. Third and final fulfillment: These same lands mentioned in Zechariah chapter 9 will be overrun and destroyed, as will all the enemies of Israel, at the 2nd Coming of Christ Jesus.

At the 2nd Coming of Christ

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever" (Daniel 2:44).

The Lord God will protect Jerusalem and will be her Glory:

"For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her" (Zechariah 2:5).

"And I will encamp about mine house because of the army, because of him that passeth by, and because of him that returneth: and no oppressor shall pass through them any more: for now have I seen with mine eyes" (Zechariah 9:8).

- a. God protected Jerusalem, "mine house", from the armies of Greece.** The army and "him that passeth by" refers to the army of Alexander the Great. God's protection ensured that future prophecies would be fulfilled. "Him that returneth" refers to Israel's enemies at the 2nd Coming of Christ when Jerusalem will also be protected from destruction. The Lord will be like a "wall of fire around Jerusalem", which no one will penetrate.

2. The prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 was fulfilled at Christ Jesus' 1st Coming in Matthew 21:4-9...

The Lord Jesus came into Jerusalem riding a little donkey of peace at his 1st Coming. Donkeys were a royal animal that kings rode when they were at peace. Donkeys speak of meekness, which is how Christ came. He brought peace at his first Coming, but at his 2nd Coming he will enter on a white horse of warfare. His 2nd Coming is one of majestic strength and power. He will avenge Israel from her enemies.

"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" (Zechariah 9:9). This prophecy is fulfilled in Matthew 21: 4-9 (& John 12: 12-15):

"All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, TELL YE THE DAUGHTER OF SION, BEHOLD, THY KING COMETH UNTO THEE, MEEK, AND SITTING UPON AN ASS, AND A COLT THE FOAL OF AN ASS. And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them. And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying Hosanna to the son of David: BLESSED IS HE THAT COMETH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Hosanna in the highest."
(Matthew 21:4-9) Note: "strawed" means to spread or scatter.

3. The time period between Chapter 9:9 and 9:10 is the present dispensation of Grace.

"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" (Zechariah 9:10).

God temporarily set Israel aside when the nation (Jewish religious leaders) rejected Christ as their Messiah. Following this, God then began the dispensation of Grace when he saved Paul in Acts 9. Paul was the first one saved into the Body of Christ. This present dispensation of Grace will end at the Rapture when God turns his attention back to Israel and will fulfill all prophecy for Israel.

(Paul: Acts 9:1-16; Israel temp. set aside: Ro 11:11- 25; Paul's gospel: Ro 16:25; Apostle Paul: Ro 11:13).

- A. Had the nation of Israel believed by faith that he was their Messiah** they would have shortly entered into the prophesied seven years of tribulation which is followed by kingdom of heaven on earth with Jesus Christ as King and Priest. But the Israel's religious leaders rejected him and Jesus went to the Cross. At his 2nd Coming Christ Jesus will fight for Israel.
- B. Jesus knew the nation's religious leaders would not accept him as their Messiah.** The offer was made, but in unbelief they would not accept him as Messiah. In truth, his entry into Jerusalem at his 1st Coming was not a triumphal entry. He wasn't preparing for his reign as King but for his death on the Cross. He was preparing for his triumphal exit only to return again for his church (in the air at the Rapture 1TH 4: 13-18) and then back to Jerusalem (after the seven year tribulation) to defend Jerusalem at his 2nd Coming and establish his 1,000 year reign of peace.
- C. Zechariah 9:10 marks the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ** when he unites Ephraim, the Northern kingdom of 10 tribes, with Jerusalem, Judah the South kingdom of 2 tribes. Christ will remove the need for all weapons and instruments of war (battle bow and horse), the heathen will finally know peace, and "his dominion shall be from sea even to sea..."

Chapter 10 is very similar to Chapter 9 with a few exceptions

4. The LORD will bless Israel during the Millennium Kingdom on earth.

- A.** *He will bless and fulfill both their physical and spiritual needs in the "latter rain". To understand how God will do this we look at Zechariah, Deuteronomy and Joel. First we will see how the LORD will bless the physical needs of Israel:*

"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" (**Zechariah 10:1**).

"That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full" (**Deuteronomy 11:14-15**).

"Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month" (**Joel 2:23**).

The physical needs of Israel...

1. **Literal rain.** Rain is a blessing because it is necessary for the crops to grow. Just as it was a blessing to the Jews during the time of Zechariah it will also be a blessing to them in the 1,000 Kingdom on earth. God refers to two rains: the first rain and the latter rain. The first rain is in the Spring and the latter rain is in the Fall.
2. Israel's hope is their kingdom of heaven on earth. So God promises her earthly blessings. The hope of the church the Body of Christ is reigning with Christ in heaven, so God promises us spiritual blessings: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out by spirit" (**Joel 2:28-29**).

The spiritual needs of Israel...

3. **Spiritual rain.** Rain can also be a symbol of spiritual refreshment. Just as literal rain refreshes the land and allows food to grow, the out pouring of the Holy Spirit will do likewise for the spiritual lives of the people. The second meaning of the "latter rain" is a spiritual meaning. God will pour out his spirit upon the Jews to refresh their spiritual lives.
- *The latter rain has a twofold meaning: literal and spiritual.*

B. God reminds Israel of those things which led them astray and his response in anger.

"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. 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". (**Zechariah 10:2-3**).

- a. The idols have spoken vanity, diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams, and they comfort in vain to Israel. These practices led them away from the LORD and under the influence of Satan. **Vanity:** Their worship of idols, stone objects carved to represent the false god that they worshiped was worthless. Those **who have seen a lie:** The diviners and those who told false dreams do not tell the truth because they are not going to the source of truth which is God. The practice of divination often involved cutting open an animal and studying the shape of its liver to see into the future.
 - Reading the tea leaves in your tea cup is another way divination is practiced, as well as following your horoscope and reading Tarot cards.

The LORD did not want Israel to do those things and he doesn't want us to follow these practices today:

"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee" (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

- C. **Israel was missing a true shepherd.** God was angry at the shepherds because they didn't stop the practice of the occult but he chose to punish only those false shepherds who actually practiced the occult: these were the "goats". Israel was enticed to follow the satanic ways of the occult though the worship of idols and by looking to diviners for truth about their life and their future. They received only lies and they did not receive any comfort from these idols or diviners. There is no comfort when there is no assurance of the truth and the ways of Satan offers lies and confusion in the end.
- D. **The LORD of hosts selected "his goodly horse" from the house (tribe) of Judah.** His "goodly house", who is Jesus Christ, provided true hope and salvation for the Jews, and for the world. Jesus Christ is Israel's hope and promised salvation against her enemies.
 - a. Jesus Christ is described as "his goodly horse in the battle" because horses are associated with battle. Jesus Christ will save Israel from her enemies by making them as a herd of war horses ready for battle from the flock of sheep that they are now. They will be transformed into mighty men and he will cause them to defeat their enemies.

E. More ways the character and attributes of the Lord Jesus Christ will bless Israel...

"Out of him came forth the corner, out of him the nail, out of him the battle bow, out of him every oppressor together" (Zechariah 10:4)

"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof" (Revelation 5:5).

"And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house" (Isaiah 22: 23).

"Therefore thus saith the LORD GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste" (Isaiah 28:16).

- a. Jesus Christ is from the tribe of Judah, he is the Root of David. *He alone* is qualified to open the book and to loose the seven seals as recorded in Revelation 5:5.
- b. Jesus Christ is the *precious cornerstone*, he alone is the first and he is the foundation upon which all things find their direction and support. He is the standard and the measure for everything that follows. Jesus Christ is the *sure foundation*.
- c. Jesus Christ is the "*nail in a sure place*" because he holds everything securely.
- d. Jesus Christ is the "*battle bow*" because he is a mighty fighter for Israel.

"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...I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them: and they shall increase as they have increased...And I will strengthen them in the LORD; and thy shall walk up and down in his name, saith the LORD" (Zechariah 10:5, 8, 12).

1. The Jews will be mighty soldiers because the LORD is with them. Their enemies will become terrified, amazed, and unable to think.
2. The LORD will strengthen the house of Judah and will save the house of Joseph
3. The LORD will "hiss" for them. He will call his people and gather them back to him.
4. The LORD will again gather them out of Egypt and Assyria.

My reflection upon the depth of the LORD's love for Israel...



Let me share with you my reflection about God's love for Israel...

I have seen how the LORD nurtures the Jews as a Father with his children. He is not eager to punish or discipline his children and he gives them many warnings through his prophets. But when Israel is stubborn and does not listen then the LORD takes action. He tells them WHY he is punishing them.

He never gives up on Israel and he forgives them over and over again. He calls his people the redeemed of Israel as jewels in his crown. The LORD is proud of Israel, so proud that he would display them as jewels in his crown! It's a beautiful love story. I love the accounts of the Jews when they fought against armies who greatly outnumbered them and yet they won! They knew it was God who gave them the victory. They praised God and thanked him for their victory. All these accounts and others tell a story of love and trust by the Jews and a story of a protective Father toward the "jewels in his crown". Many times in history man has attempted to eradicate the Jews. Yet God's love prevails each time because the Jews are still here! And one day those saved Jews, the "little flock", will experience their promised kingdom of heaven on earth ruled by Jesus Christ, their High-priest and King.