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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Zechariah 10.

(2014)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Zechariah 10.

Topics.

- The people wandered because of a lack of a shepherd.
- The LORD will make Israel like, "His majestic steed in battle."
- Jesus Christ, the cornerstone, the tent peg and the battle bow.
- God will save Israel and it will be as though He had not rejected them.
- Their children will see the LORD is with their nation and be happy.
- The LORD will gather Israel from the nations He scattered them into.
- Assyria and Egypt will accept the LORD and walk in His name.

INTRODUCTION: the following introduction is quiet long, but it does help understand the the background of Zechariah, to skip the introduction scroll down to Zechariah chapter ten. As Haggai encouraged the returned Jewish exiles to rebuild the Temple, Zechariah encouraged them to repent and renew their covenant with God. Such spiritual renewal would be necessary for the people to be ready to worship God once the Temple was rebuilt (about 515 B.C.). Zechariah accused them of doing the very things their ancestors had done before the exile. He was concerned about social justice for widows, orphans, and foreigners. As the people endured opposition from the non-Jewish inhabitants of Judea, Zechariah reassured them of God's abiding comfort and care and that He would continue his covenant with Israel.

The Messianic hope was rekindled during Zechariah's ministry by the ordination of Joshua as priest and Zerubbabel as governor. From Zechariah chapter one through to the end there is a beautiful message of comfort and encouragement for the people of Israel during the era of Zechariah and for those who are rebuilding the temporal Temple of God, but as the visions progress through the chapters the focus slowly shifts from the era of Zechariah and transcends time to a future age where God is building an eternal Temple in the Lord Jesus Christ. The visions then progress to Jesus returning in glory and climax's in the final chapter with Christ reigning from Jerusalem as King over the entire earth and ends with the promise that the Lord would establish his rule over all the earth (Zechariah 14:9).

The historical background: twenty years after untied Israel returned from their seventy years in captivity to Babylon, the Temple was still a blackened ruin and the discouraged people did not see how it could be restored. At this critical moment God raised up the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the Jews to rebuild the Temple. The prophecies of the two men were delivered almost at the same time. Zechariah gives a series of eight symbolic night-visions, to encourage the Israelites to complete the Temple.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

God will answer Israel's Prayers.

Zechariah 10:1-2 ----- ¹Ask rain from the LORD in the season of the spring rain, from the LORD who makes the storm clouds, and he will give them showers of rain, to everyone the vegetation in the field.
²For the household gods utter nonsense, and the diviners see lies; they tell false dreams and give empty consolation. Therefore the people wander like sheep; they are afflicted for lack of a shepherd.

Everyone in this context applies to all the people of Israel.

Diviners: from Strong's Concordance means to determine by lot or magical scroll, a soothsayer.

Diviners: from the English Dictionary means having a god or goddess like nature, or to search for underground water, metal, or minerals using something such as a divining rod. The people of Israel had been looking to the diviners in their land to find water instead of praying to the LORD. God is telling them He will answer their prayers and give them gentle rain (contrasted with stormy rain) to water their crops if they pray to him and stop listening to the lies of their diviners and trusting in the false hope they are giving the people of Israel.

The household gods utter nonsense: (v2) refers to the idols Israel had in their homes and at their worship centres the statement "the household gods utter nonsense" does not mean that the idols or their so called gods actually spoke, we know this because the Bible tells us idols cannot speak, but those who believed in idols had appointed priests who spoke on behalf of the idol or god, just as a priest or prophet of the LORD speaks on His behalf. When God says, "the household gods utter nonsense" He is referring to their appointed priests and contrasting praying to the idols which Israel had embraced and collected over the years, to praying to the LORD their God.

The people wandered because of a lack of a shepherd: this is one of the saddest statements in the Bible. Israel had multitudes of shepherds, but the shepherds were more concerned about their own prosperity and power, their position of importance and the control they had over the people than they were for God and the welfare of their followers, and because of this multitudes of innocent people were led astray.

The LORD will make Israel like, "His Majestic Steed in Battle."

Zechariah 10:3 ----- ³"My anger is hot against the shepherds, and I will punish the leaders; for the LORD of hosts cares for his flock, the house of Judah, and will make them like his majestic steed in battle.

God is angry with the leaders, but He cares for the faithful flock (the lay people of Judah) and is going to make them like "His majestic steed in battle," meaning God will make Israel's armies fearsome, skilled, courageous and victorious in battle.

Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone, the Tent Peg and the Battle Bow.

Zechariah 10:4-5 ----- ⁴from him (Judah) (v3) shall come the cornerstone, from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow, from him every ruler all of them together ⁵they shall be like mighty men in battle, trampling the foe in the mud of the streets; they shall fight because the Lord is with them and they shall put to shame the riders on horses.

From him: refers back to the LORD'S majestic stead which is Judah (v3).

From Judah a man will come who is called the cornerstone, the tent peg and the battle bow. This man will bring all rulers of Israel from all nations together and they will be mighty in battle because he is with Israel. In a limited sense this may have applied to Zerubbabel and the preceding king. Zerubbabel was heir to the throne of Judah and is listed in the genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ. When Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem he appointed Zerubbabel governor of the colony that returned to re-build the Temple. The Temple was completed four years later and a great celebration was held at the dedication of the new Temple. (1 Chron. 3:17-19) (Matt. 1:13) (Luke 3:27).

But it is also very clear echo of the Lord Jesus Christ who came from Judah and who is bringing all of God's people together and building new nation made up of Jews and Gentiles called the body of Christ. Christ as the head of this new nation will return as King of kings and Lord of lords and gather together all who belong to this new nation and establish them as his majestic steed ruling from Jerusalem as kings and priest with him. They will act as God's government over the earth and establish His Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

For further information see the title: -

- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.
- In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

God will save Israel and it will be as though He had Not Rejected Them.

Zechariah 10:6-7 ----- ⁶"I (the LORD) will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph (Israel) ⁶I will bring them (Judah and Israel) back because I have compassion on them, and they shall be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the LORD their God and I will answer them. ⁷then Ephraim shall become like a mighty warrior, and their hearts shall be glad as with wine their children shall see it and be glad; their hearts shall rejoice in the LORD.

Ephraim is another name for Israel this is because he became such a leader in the new Northern Kingdom (the ten tribes in the land of Samaria) that in addition to their more common name Israel, the kingdom is also called Ephraim. Prior to the seventy year captivity God had rejected both Israel and Judah because they were committing gross sins and had turned from the LORD to worshipping idols and pagan gods. Despite all of this, God says, He will save them and treat them as though He had never rejected them. When the Temple was completed there was a time of great rejoicing, God favoured Israel and answered their prayers and a golden age of peace, prosperity and safety followed.

Their children will see the LORD is with their nation and be happy: (v7) it is not enough for Christian parents to simply teach their children the Bible they need to see that what they are being taught is actually lived out in the parents' life. When Israel's children saw their leaders, priests and parents upholding the things God valued, and showed mercy justice, kindness to others and were not oppressing the less fortunate for their own gain the children were happy and continued on in the faith. Children need to see that God is not something a parent adds to their life, but that He and what He values is their life.

The LORD will Gather Israel from the Nations He Scattered them Into.

Zechariah 10:8-10 ----- ⁸"I will whistle (call) for them (Israel) and gather them in, for I have redeemed them and they shall be as many as they were before. ⁹though I scattered them (Judah and Israel) among the nations, yet in far countries they shall remember me, and with their children they shall live and return. ¹⁰I will bring them home from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria, and I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon, till there is no room for them.

Prior to the seventy year captivity multitudes of Jews fled into the surrounding nations to escape the terror of the Assyrian and Babylonian armies. During the seventy year captivity many of them had established their families and homes amongst these nations, but God says He is now going to call them back to their own land.

Assyria and Egypt will accept the LORD and walk in His Name.

Zechariah 10:11-12 --- ¹¹he (Israel) shall pass through the sea of troubles and strike down the waves of the sea, and all the depths of the Nile shall be dried up the pride of Assyria shall be laid low, and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart. ¹²I will make them strong in the Lord, and they shall walk in the Lord's name," declares the LORD.

Israel will pass through the sea of troubles and strike down the waves of the sea: refers to nations along the coastline that are considered their enemies.

All the depths of the Nile shall be dried up: refers to Egypt and the nations along the Nile River losing their power.

The pride of Assyria shall be laid low: Assyria's sense of superiority and haughty attitude that others are weaker and socially inferior will be destroyed, they will be conquered and humbly submit to the rule of another.

The sceptre of Egypt shall depart: a sceptre is used as an emblem of a monarch's royal or imperial power or authority, God is saying Egypt's royal authority and power will be removed.

The final outcome of all of this is Assyria, Egypt and the surrounding nations will humbly accept the people of Israel and their King. This applied (with limitations) to the time of Zechariah and the completion of the Temple, but it also echoes a future age when the eternal spiritual global Temple (made up of Jews and Gentiles) is completed and the top stone is laid. This of course will be when Israel's ultimate King returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign.

The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

The prophet Isaiah says: -

- In that day (the day Jerusalem becomes a terror to the Egyptians) there *will be a highway* from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. ²⁴In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, ²⁵whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance." (Isaiah 19:23-24).

John the greatest prophet of all picks up on Isaiah's theme: -

- As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." (Luke 3:1-10).

Those who walk on this Highway of God are faithful Jews and Gentiles who have accepted Israel's Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and King and made him the Lord of their heart, mind and life. They together with Jesus when he returns as, King of kings and Lord of lords will rule and reign with him to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his millennial reign.

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
 - The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.
- In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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