

# Zechariah 10-11

Bible Study

## Review

**Zechariah 8** is one of the great prophecies of the promises of God for the future:

“I will return”... “and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem”

“Jerusalem shall be called the city of Truth”

“The streets shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets’

Ch. 8--Find prophecies of the **remnant** returning from the east and west:  
“they shall dwell in Jerusalem”—**a physical restoration**

“they shall be My people...in truth and righteousness”— **a spiritual restoration**

### **Zechariah 9**

v. 1-8 A prophecy of Alexander the Great’ conquest --which is a type of **Christ’s judging the nations**—which is one of the repeated themes in the rest of the book

Prophecies of the return of Christ as **peacemaker** (v.10) ...teaching peace and destroying the weapons of war

Another prophecy of the **remnant returning** (a repeated theme in the book)

Chapter 9 finishes describing: after deliverance comes blessings and prosperity

## Chapter 10

### Verse 1

God's people are to **pray to him** asking for blessings and he will take care of them

➤ He will give them rain in response to their prayer of belief

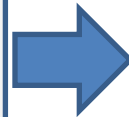
**"Ask the Lord for rain"**

Baal was thought to control the weather and rain—Israel looked to Baal (the storm god)

### Verse 2

But Israel failed to seek God, did not trust in God, but rather trusted in idols for guidance

"idols" = teraphim...were household gods used for divination....



**"envision lies"**

By lies and "false comfort"-- the people are led astray

Consulting idols was more of a problem with northern Israel (who were scattered)...than with Judah of Zechariah's day

"They are in trouble" (margin—afflicted)...or **in exile because of their idol worship**

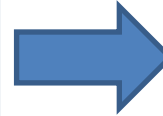
"no shepherd" or leader to lead them from evil

### Verse 3

God is angry with the shepherds who led Israel **spiritually** astray

“goatherds”= civil leaders also punished for not leading the people correctly

The prophecy now begins to point to the **true shepherd** who will lead God’s people



God “will visit his flock”—the “house of Judah”  
(where the **Messiah** would come from)

‘royal horse’= one carefully groomed and equipped for the battle

### Verse 4

“From him (Judah) comes...” -----(the **Messiah**)

“the cornerstone”= the leader on whom the government rests figuratively

“tent peg”—valuables hung on it  
➤ Messiah is worthy of trust, hope and support

“battle bow”= weapons of war and might

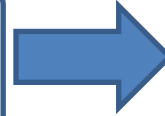
- The Messiah is the commander of his people

“every ruler together” ...divinely sanctioned kings and ultimately the Messiah would come from Judah  
(paraphrase) ‘the ruler over all the earth’

Verse 5

- With the **Messiah's help** they will overcome their enemies... “tread down their enemies”
- At his return

“They shall fight” against the enemies gathered together”



“the Lord is with them”

“The riders on horses...put to shame”=  
No Calvary can withstand them

Verse 6

Again the **theme of the return of the remnant**

“I will strengthen  
Judah”

“I will save Joseph”



**Judah and Joseph** (northern tribes)  
**reunited**  
(never happened in the past)

Restored to the land in mercy...as if they had never been cast away

God will be attentive to them as they return in a spirit of obedience

Verse 7

“Ephraim”—represents the northern tribes  
Rejoicing and joy for what God has done for them

Verse 8

“**whistle**” for them as a shepherd who **gathers** the flock

“**redeem**”—buy them back (from slavery)

“they shall increase”= Their numbers will multiply as they did in ancient Egypt (Ex. 1:7)

Verse 9 (flashes back)

They are scattered “sowed” among nations... (Isaiah 11: 11-12)

“They shall remember me”



And return with their children

Verse 10

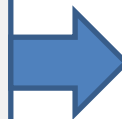
**Gathered** from the south (Egypt)...and from the north (Assyria)

To: “Gilead and Lebanon” –the area of the former northern kingdom... **will return to their lands**

“**Until no room for them**”—will have multiplied so much...where will they go?

(Isa. 49: 20)

“The place is too small for me;  
give me a place where I may  
dwell”



(Gen. 49: 22)

“Joseph is a fruitful bough...his branches run over  
the wall” (colonizing people)

They will return to their former lands—America  
and Britain

## Verse 11

Just as ancient Israel was delivered-- God will go before them and “dry up” **any hindrance** to their return and restoration

“pride of Assyria brought down”

➤ The power to the **north** of Jerusalem... core part of the beast power

“the scepter of Egypt shall depart”

The power to the **south** of Jerusalem who gets trampled by the king of the north

## Verse 12

(After restoration).....They will finally walk with God

“strengthened” spiritually by him

And will be the fitting representatives of God’s name that they should have been all along

“Says the Lord”

## Chapter 11

Chapter 9-10 spoke of the **deliverance and restoration** that the Messiah would bring...(the high point for the nation)

Now Chapter 11 prophecies the nation **rejecting the Messiah** and it's consequences (the low point for the nation)....remember this prophecy given around 480 BC

### Verse 1-3

Tells of the destruction to Lebanon, Bashan and the Jordan valley (the pride)-- (great part of the promised land)

- Points to the destruction at the hands of the Romans (AD 70)...the result of the rejection of the Messiah
- Forerunner of the end time destruction of these lands as well

V. 1-3 shows the effect...(destruction)

Verse 4 will show the reason:

### Verse 4

The Messiah who was to "feed the flock"-- (headed) for slaughter....



### Verse 5

Abuse of the people (by the Romans)...and sold out by Jewish leaders for position and authority

“their shepherds (Leaders) do not pity them”—as the Pharisees did to the people

### Verse 6

Judah a nation riddled with factions during Christ’s day...and given over to the king (Caesar)

“they shall attack the land...and I will not deliver them” (Roman destruction of Judah)

Josephus says a million and a half were killed in the war with Rome

### Verse 7

Christ fed the flock, especially the poor (Luke 4: 18)---giving them spiritual nourishment....

But who would eventually be slaughtered...because of rejection


Two staves (symbolic)

1. “Beauty”= grace—for protection
2. “Bonds”=unity—to keep the flock together

### Verse 8

Three shepherds: leaders, priests and prophets (leaders of verse 5) who did not pity the people

“One month” –short period of time



They abhorred him..... and he rejected them

### Verse 9

The Messiah withdraws his protection...to the point that cannibalism set in when the Romans put Jerusalem under siege

### Verse 10

“Staff” —represents divine favor on the people  
Broke in half...symbolizing withdrawal of protection

“covenant I had made with all the peoples” ---a restraint not to destroy the people was withdrawn

### Verse 11

In anticipation of the fulfillment of the prophecy, Zechariah says the staff was broken in that day  
(Divine favor broken)

It was the poor who **understood** the message from God to the nation

### Verse 12

To make a point of the spiritual condition of the people-- the Messiah asks to be paid his wages

↓  
Thirty pieces of silver  
(Ex. 21:32)—the price of a gored slave...an insult

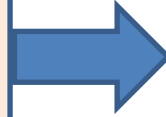
### Verse 13

The 30 pieces of silver--Cast into the "house of the Lord"-----to be more solemn and public

→ The price was so low  
➤ Cast to the potter who was busy with things of little value

The prophecy was fulfilled—Judas received 30 pieces of silver for betrayal of Christ

He later flung the money into the temple in remorse



The Priests then gave it to a potter to buy a field  
(Mat. 26: 14-16; 27: 3-10)

Verse 14

The 2<sup>nd</sup> staff: “bonds” is **broken**— representing the unity of God’s people

The nations of Judah and Israel remain divided ...until the time of restoration comes

Verse 15

By rejecting the Messiah the nation is given to worthless shepherds

“**instruments** of a foolish shepherd”:

➤ his **behavior** and **lack of spiritual feeding** to the flock

Verse 16

**Foolish shepherd described:**

1. Does not care for those who are spiritually lost
2. Does not care for the young or inexperienced
3. Does not heal those who are hurt
4. Does not feed those who stand...so that they can remain standing
5. He feeds **on** the sheep instead of feeding them

## Verse 17

“woe” to the shepherd who abandons the flock...when times get tough

He has no heart for the sheep...nor does he look after them

Judgment will come upon him:

**arm** (organ of power) withers because it did not lend a hand to the sheep

Eye (organ of intelligence) darkened because it did not look to the sheep

## Summary of chapter 11:

Parallels between Christ's day and those of the end time...

1. The Jews rejected Christ.... and people **today** are becoming less religious and anti-God
2. Leaders are not leading people toward God but away
3. Punishment that came for rejection of God will be fulfilled again