

Zechariah Chapter 9

V: 1 We're entering into the final section of this prophecy. The Temple has been built and the focus is on the future. Looking to the first coming of the Messiah.

- Not unlike the previous prophets prior to the Babylonian exile, Zechariah describes the judgment that will befall Israel's enemies. This time at the hand of Alexander the Great.
- **Genesis 12:3** is almost like the natural laws of physics and gravity, it is always in play:

God's promise to Abraham:

Genesis 12:3 "I will bless those that bless you, and I will curse him who curses you, and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

- So he speaks a word against Hadrach, and Damascus. Hadrach was once a city, and an area near Damascus, the city itself has long been destroyed, but Assyria records attest to its existence.
- Damascus is considered the oldest continuously inhabited city on the planet, but it is included in this judgment against Israel's enemies and even though it hasn't happened yet, it will one day be destroyed.
- This is one of those prophetic events that we're not sure of the timing so it's kind of a "wild card" as far as prophetic events go.

Isaiah 17:1 "The burden against Damascus. Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, and it will be a ruinous heap."

- There will be a time that coincides with this even when the eyes of men and all the tribes of Israel will be fixed on the LORD. As these events unfold exactly as the Bible has foretold indeed many will be fixed on the Lord, as they should have been all along.

Amos 1:3-5 "3Thus says the LORD: for three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because they have threshed Gilead with implements of iron. 4But I will send a fire into the house of Hazael, which shall devour the palaces of Ben-Hadad. 5I will also break the gate bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitant from the Valley of Aven, and the one who holds the scepter from Beth Eden. The people of Syria shall go captive to Kir, says the LORD."

V: 2-4 Also against Hamath which borders it: Hamath, another city near Damascus will be destroyed

- Then there is mention of Tyre & Sidon though they are wise.
- Interesting story: Nebuchadnezzar laid a siege against Tyre that lasted for 13 years. They attacked from the land side, but the inhabitants of Tyre were able to re-supply themselves from the sea, so they were able to hold out for quite a while.
- While the siege was in place the inhabitants of Tyre fortified the island of Tyre that was about a mile off the coast and transferred all their citizens, wealth, and goods to the island fortress so that when Nebuchadnezzar finally broke through it was an empty city where all their fabulous wealth and goods had already been removed. Nebuchadnezzar never did conquer Tyre.
- A while later Alexander the Great came through, with an army and a navy - and he conquered and destroyed Tyre fulfilling this prophecy about their doom - but they were wise for a season.

Ezekiel 28:4-8 “⁴With your wisdom and your understanding You have gained riches for yourself, and gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; ⁵By your great wisdom in trade you have increased your riches, and your heart is lifted up because of your riches, ⁶therefore thus says the Lord GOD: because you have set your heart as the heart of a god, ⁷behold, therefore, I will bring strangers against you, the most terrible of the nations; and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom, and defile your splendor. ⁸They shall throw you down into the Pit, and you shall die the death of the slain in the midst of the seas.”

Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

V: 5-6 Moving on to the Philistines: Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, Ashdod. (no mention of Gath)

- Ashkelon & Gaza will see what happens to Tyre & Sidon and fear for their own safety. Ekron will lose hope, her expectations drying up.
- As Alexander the Great came through the area along the coast on his way to Egypt, he took the coastal cities of the Philistines (Gath is inland). On his way back from Egypt he came to Jerusalem where the priests met him at the gate. He was superstitious and did not violate the city, but passed on by without conquering or destroying it.
- Ashdod will be settled by a mixed race. It was once a Philistine city, now it's a Jewish city - not all that far from Gaza.
- The pride of the Philistines will be cut off.

Ezekiel 25:15-17 “¹⁵Thus says the Lord GOD: Because the Philistines dealt vengefully and took vengeance with a spiteful heart, to destroy because of the old hatred, ¹⁶therefore thus says the Lord GOD: I will stretch out My hand against the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethites and destroy the remnant of the seacoast. ¹⁷I will execute great vengeance on them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I lay My vengeance upon them.”

- The destruction will be so severe that Ashkelon shall not be inhabited.

Zephaniah 2:4-5 “⁴For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon desolate; they shall drive out Ashdod at noonday, and Ekron shall be uprooted. ⁵Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast, the nation of the Cherethites! The word of the LORD is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines: I will destroy you; so there shall be no inhabitant.”

V: 7 The Levitical law prohibited the Jews from eating or drinking blood. The animals that they sacrifices and or ate had to be drained of the blood.

Leviticus 17:11 “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”

Leviticus 3:17 “This shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwellings: you shall eat neither fat nor blood.”

- This mixed race of Philistines has no such compunctions against blood, or the abominations that they sacrificed and then consumed. He won't just eliminate their pagan idolatrous ways, He will remove them from the land.
- It would seem that they are being held to the standard of the Law even though they are pagans.
- Those that remain, those that are left will be for our God - to serve Him.

V: 8 The promise of God, you're building My house - and I will camp around My house as you build it. This is God's promise of His protection.

- When Alexander the Great showed up and conquered the cities along the coast and into Syria - He stopped at the gates of Jerusalem, he had respect unto the God of Israel - because God camped around His house.

Psalms 34:7 “The Angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.”

Psalms 125:2 “As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people from this time forth and forever.”

V: 9 Shifting from the rebuilding of the Temple to the One who shall fill it with His glory.

Psalm 118:24-26 “²⁴This is the day the LORD had made; we will rejoice and be glad in it, ²⁵Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. ²⁶Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!...”

- This is describing the triumphant entry of the Messiah into Jerusalem.

Isaiah 40:9 “O Zion, you who bring good tidings, get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, you who bring good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, “behold your God!””

Isaiah 52:9-10 “⁹Break forth into joy, sing together, you waste places of Jerusalem! For the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”

- This prophecy is fulfilled in **Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 12** detailing the triumphant entry of our Lord into Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 “⁵Behold the days are coming, says the LORD, that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. ⁶In His days Judea will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” (Jehovah Tsidkenu)

Psalm 45:6-7 “⁶Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. ⁷You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”

- Alexander the Great was 33 years old when he rode a black stallion surrounded by his soldiers to the gate of Jerusalem, after being shown the prophecies of Daniel that he fulfilled, he offered a lamb as a sacrifice for his own sins.
- At the Triumphant entry, Jesus was about 33 years old, riding into Jerusalem on a donkey surrounded by his followers, the Lamb of God who would give His life for the sin of all men.

V: 10 Describing a message of peace, speaking peace to the nations, to the Gentiles - the chariot, a weapon of war no longer in Ephraim, similarly the horse removed from Jerusalem and the battle bow because He is speaking peace to the nations because the “Prince of Peace” has come! (2nd coming)

- His dominion will be world wide, from sea to sea, from the River / Euphrates, to the ends of the earth.

Hosea 1:7 “Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword or battle, by horses or horsemen.” (It’s going to be supernatural)

Hosea 2:18 “In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, with the birds of the air, and with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, to make them lie down safely.”

- During the Millennial reign of our Lord, there will be no more war.

Isaiah 2:4 “He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

V: 11 Jesus established the “*blood of your covenant*” through His death. The prisoners who were in the waterless pit (gehenna) have been set free.

Matthew 26:28 “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

Isaiah 42:6-7 “⁶I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, ⁷to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.”

Hebrews 13:20-21 “²⁰Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹make you complete in every good work to do His will,....”

V: 12 Jesus is our stronghold, He is our hope. Return, repent, turn back to the LORD!

Psalms 18:2 “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

Matthew 11:28-30 “²⁸Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

- God will bless, He will restore double unto them.

V: 13 The preparations have been made, He has drawn His bow, He has notched His arrow, He’s taking aim.

- **Zechariah 12** describes the battle of Armageddon, the last battle leading into the Millennial kingdom of our Lord.

Psalm 18:32-35 “³²It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect. ³³He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on high places. ³⁴He teaches my hands to make war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. ³⁵You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great.”

Psalm 149:6 “Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in the hand.”

V: 14 Sounds like the Lord is going to war! (Tribulation)

Psalm 18:14 “He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe, lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them.”

Isaiah 66:15-16 “¹⁵For behold, the LORD will come with fire and with His chariots, like a whirlwind to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. ¹⁶For by fire and by His sword the LORD will judge all flesh; and the slain of the LORD shall be many.”

V: 15 The Jews will be persecuted, but God will defend them: He will strengthen them.

Zechariah 12:8 “In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them.”

V: 16 God will save them: He will re-gather them and protect them.

Jeremiah 31:10-11 “¹⁰Hear the Word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock. ¹¹For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of one stronger than he.”

Jeremiah 23:3 “But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.”

- Like jewels of a crown, lifted up like a banner over His land - in a prominent place:
- Previously in Zechariah Ch. 3 Joshua the High Priest had been given clean clothes and a clean turban.
- Then in Ch. 6 he was given a kingly crown.

- Both instances made mention of the “BRANCH” - the Messiah.
- Now the people are the bejeweled crown!

The heavenly song:

Revelation 5:9-10 “⁹And they sang a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”

- Jew and Gentile alike.

Zechariah 8:23 “Thus says the LORD of hosts: in those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.”

Isaiah 60:14 “Also the sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you, and all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; and they shall call you The City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.”

V: 17 How great is His goodness?! How great is His beauty?!!

Psalm 31:19 “Oh how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men!”

Psalm 86:5 “For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon you.”

- Grain and new wine speak of prosperity and abundance, things to look forward to!