

Zechariah Chapter 10

V: 1 In Israel at that time they did what is referred to as “dry farming” meaning they would plant their crop, their wheat or barley, or tomatoes into the dry ground, relying on the early rain / former rain from October to December or the latter rain of spring (April-May) to water their crops and produce fruit.

- Ask God for rain because He is God and can actually produce rain, He is powerful, He is able, and He loves His people. Cry out to Him and He will answer.

Psalm 34:15 “The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.”

Psalm 34:17 “The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.”

- This is in comparison to the false gods of this world that can’t do anything.

Psalm 115:3-8 “³But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. ⁴Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. ⁵They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; ⁶they have ears, but they do not hear; noses they have, but they do not smell; ⁷they have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter through their throat. ⁸Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them.”

Jeremiah 14:22 “Are there any among the idols of the nations that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are You not He, O LORD our God? Therefore we will wait for You, since You have made all these.”

Joel 2:23 “Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you - the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.”

- The encouragement is to ask:

James 4:2 “... Yet you do not have because you do not ask”. (You have not because you ask not.)

V: 2 For the idols speak delusion / vanity: (compared to God who always speaks truth.)

- Delusion: (H-205) “awen” - vanity, nothingness, trouble, sorrow, empty, deceitful words.

Psalm 10:7 “His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression; under his tongue is trouble and iniquity.”

Jeremiah 27:9 “Therefore do not listen to your prophets (false), your diviners, your dreamers, your soothsayers, or your sorcerers, who speak to you, saying, “you shall not serve the king of Babylon.””

- Sheep without shepherds / bad shepherds:

Jeremiah 50:6 “My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray; they have turned them away on the mountains. They have gone from mountain to hill; they have forgotten their resting place. (God)

Jeremiah 50:17 “Israel is like scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away. First the king of Assyria devoured him; now at last this Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has broken his bones.”

V: 3 God will deal with the bad shepherds, the false prophets, and with the false teachers of our day as well.

Ezekiel 34:2 “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, “thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: “woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves!” Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?””

James 3:1 “My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.”

- Shepherds vs: goatherds? (goats / KJV)

Separation of the sheep and the goats:

Matthew 25:33 “And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.”

- Goatherds / goat: (H-6260) “attud” - a male goat, a leader, used figuratively of a leader, strong character / personality in the negative sense.

Ezekiel 34:16-17 “¹⁶I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment. ¹⁷And as for you, O My flock, thus says the Lord GOD: behold, I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats.”

“For the LORD of hosts will visit His flock...”

Revelation 22:12 “And behold, I am coming quickly and My reward is with Me, to give to every man according to his work.”

- When He visits Judah He will make them like His royal horse in the battle, a powerful war horse!

Proverbs 21:31 “The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the LORD.”

V: 4 Speaking in a future sense: “the Cornerstone.” (Jesus)

Isaiah 28:16 “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily.”

- “*Tent peg*:” when the tent pegs are pulled up, what happens to the tent? It, the house collapses.

Psalms 127:1 “Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”

- There is a Messianic prophecy in Isaiah that relates to this: Jesus is the Peg.

Isaiah 22:22-24 “²²The key of the house of David I will lay on His shoulder; so He shall open, and no one shall shut; and He shall shut, and no one shall open. ²³I will fasten Him as a peg in a secure place, and He will become a glorious throne to His father’s house. ²⁴They will hang on Him all the glory of His Father’s house,...

- “*The battle bow*,” the ability to make war:

Psalms 144:1 “Blessed be the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle.”

“*From Him every ruler...*”

Psalms 75:6-7 “⁶For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. ⁷But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another.”

Another perspective:

- The cornerstone speaks loosely of our Lord’s first coming & His rejection.
- The peg / nail represents His cross / the crucifixion.
- The battle bow - His 2nd coming, coming back to make war.
- Every ruler bowing down to Him.

V: 5 They, the house of Judah will be like mighty men...

Describing David would eventually lead his mighty men of valor:

1 Samuel 16:18 “Then one of the servants answered and said, Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him.”

“They shall fight because the LORD is with them.”

Romans 8:31 “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

- The riders on horses, the enemy cavalry, their strongest weapon, will be defeated and put to shame.

V: 6 God will strengthen Judah, the Southern kingdom, and save the house of Joseph, meaning Ephraim and Manasseh, speaking of the Northern kingdom - combined He will strengthen and save the nation of Israel.

Isaiah 41:10 “Fear not for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

- Ezekiel describes the restoration of the nation of Israel, part of that is the re-unification of the nation, as it is today.

Ezekiel 37:21-22 “²¹Then say to them, thus says the Lord GOD: surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; ²²and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one King shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.”

- He will bring them back from their captivity, He will have mercy upon them. Isn't that Just our God?!

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.”

V: 7 Those of Ephraim, speaking of the Northern kingdom will rejoice and be joyful, their hearts will rejoice in the LORD.

- It's like the prodigal son coming home repentant and wanting to walk rightly with his Lord.

Psalm 28:7 “The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.”

Psalm 33:21 “For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name.”

V: 8 “*I will whistle for them...*” Reminds me of when I was a kid there were a few parents in our neighborhood that would literally whistle loudly off their front porch to signal for their kids to come home.

Isaiah 5:26 “He will lift up a banner to the nations from afar, and will whistle / hiss to them from the end of the earth; surely they shall come with speed, swiftly.”

- As He brings them back they are going to increase, they are going to prosper - as they are today.

V: 9-10 “... *they shall return...*”

- God will initially disperse them in judgment, cast them out of their land. Then He will gather them back.

Deuteronomy 30:1-5 “¹Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you, ²and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, ³that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you. ⁴If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. ⁵Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.”

- God will bring His people back into the land in such large numbers that it will be hard to place them, for lack of room, lack of housing.
- One of the biggest issues in Israel today is housing. There have at times been waves of Jewish immigrants coming back in such large numbers that there is a severe lack of housing. Thus the constant pressure for development and expansion.

Isaiah 49:19-20 “¹⁹For your waste and desolate places, and the land of your destruction, will even now be too small for the inhabitants; and those who swallowed you up will be far away. ²⁰The children you will have, after you have

lost the others, will say again in your ears, the place is too small for me; give me a place where I may dwell.”

V: 11 Speaking of the future: Again describing the restoration of Israel to the land.

Isaiah 11:11-16 (turn to / read)

Psalm 66:10-12 “¹⁰For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined. ¹¹You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs. ¹²You have caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; but You brought us out rich fulfillment.”

V: 12 Again referring to Israel - God will strengthen them in Himself, in the LORD.

Psalm 68:35 “O God, You are more awesome than Your holy places. The God of Israel is He who gives strength and power to his people. Blessed be God!”

(Again)

Isaiah 41:10 “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”