

## **THE LORD VISITS HIS FLOCK: THE CORNERSTONE**

Intro: Zechariah comes with an encouraging message to the remnant of all twelve tribes: Judah struggling, ten tribes is dispersion.

-Though exposed to all kinds of wrongs, they will be safe through aid from heaven.

-The message in Zech. 9:9 is "Rejoice, thy King cometh unto thee." This king is not only from David, but he will come from on high.

### **I. AN IMPORTANT MESSIANIC IMAGE.**

A. "out of him came forth the corner".

1. We read that this one who is called "Corner" is out of him. We must determine to whom this pronoun refers.
2. There are those who make it refer to Judah, either as an individual or as a name for the nation or the church.
3. Better understood as referring back to the LORD who is visiting his flock and preparing them as his goodly horse (vs. 3).

B. Old Testament usage.

1. We find this title in Isa. 28:16 that God himself will lay this stone in Zion, and those who believe will not be disappointed.
2. We find this title in Ps. 118:22,23 regarding the stone rejected becomes the headstone. This is the Lord's doing.

C. New Testament usage.

1. Jesus takes Ps. 118: 22,23 and applies these verses to himself in Matt. 21:42.
2. Peter in his defense before the unbelieving Jewish verses leaders quotes these verses re. Jesus, to their shame!
3. In Pet. 2: 2 Peter quotes all these verses for the comfort and the establishing in the faith all those that believe in Christ.
4. Paul in Eph. 2: 19-22 uses these verses to point out the function of Christ gathering his church from Jew and Gentile.
5. We are living stones built upon and deriving our life from Christ Jesus.

### **II. WHAT THIS TITLE SIGNIFIES.**

A. Christ is the Rock through whom God's grace and life flows to us.

1. Over and over God is called a Rock (Dt.32:4, Ps. 18:2, Ps. 31:3, Ps. 61:2, Ps. 94:22).
2. We think of the Rock that followed the Israelites in the wilderness, giving them water to refresh and quicken ( I Cor.10:4).
3. In Zech. 3:9 we have the promise of the stone with seven eyes in which there will be the removal of iniquity in one day.
4. In Matt. 16:18 the rock is the confession of Peter that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the Living God.
5. There is no temple or dwelling of God with us, or reconciliation with God except in our Rock, Jesus Christ

B. Christ as stone is a sure foundation.

1. The stability and safety of a building depends upon the foundation.
2. God laid as a foundation for the house in which he is pleased to dwell his own "Son, who abideth ever (John 8:35)."
3. We are living stones prepared by the Spirit of God to become part of that temple.
4. On this foundation rests the spiritual superstructure which is now in the process of completion.
5. This structure is raised by God for a habitation of God through the Spirit.

C. Christ is that stone that unites the two walls of the corner.

1. Here in Zechariah, joined together are the elect in both the Southern Kingdom and the Northern Kingdom.
2. In Eph. 2: 13 the two walls joined together are both Jews and Gentiles, made one in Christ.
3. In spite of all the mutual prejudice, hatred, and ceremonial gulf, Gentiles are no longer unclean, no difference betw.

D. Christ is the head of the corner.

1. The head of the corner was a costly, precious stone, not on the top of the wall, but in a conspicuous position.
2. It was the crown and glory of the building.
3. Christ is the crown and glory of his church.

### **III. THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS TRUTH.**

A. What is true of the church corporately is also true of each believer individually

1. This is why we come to church, not merely because we have to, but we desire to drink from this Rock.
2. I rest on him that is that sure foundation, united to him so that no one can snatch me away, Christ is the crown of my glory.

B. We must be careful what we do with this Cornerstone!

1. The Jews of Jesus' day were offended and rejected Christ, and the Stone will fall on all unbelievers to their condemnation.
2. But whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed (Rom. 9:33).

C. There is one church of Christ.

1. Dispensationalists want to make a break between the kingdom of Jews and the church.
2. We rejoice that all those who believe on Jesus Christ are sons of Abraham.

D. Our eternal security. What is the future?

1. The question of Judah and Joseph was, "What does the future hold? Shall we be saved?" God visits his flock!
2. Taught in this name of Christ as cornerstone is the continuance and immovableness of the Chr. church in spite of storms.