

Message #13**Zechariah 10:1-12**

We may recall that last week we saw that God intends to send His King/Son back to Israel to shower her with His blessings. One of the proofs that He will literally fulfill this is what He did with Alexander the Great. He sovereignly directed him to conquer certain cities, which were conquered in the very order that He predicted 150 years before it happened.

Chapter 10 is a follow up to that. When Israel is flourishing and rejoicing in her land, they will only be looking to God for everything.

WHEN JESUS CHRIST RETURNS TO ISRAEL AND REIGNS ON EARTH, THERE WILL BE WONDERFUL BLESSINGS FOR HIS NATION ISRAEL AND EACH MAN WILL LOOK TO THE TRUE GOD OF THE BIBLE FOR EVERYTHING.

We may dogmatically say that what is happening in Israel today is not the fulfillment of this. Even though Jews are moving back to Israel and even though there is talk of Jerusalem being the capital of Israel and even though there is talk of rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem, there is one key element missing. **The missing element today for Israel is these Jews are not looking to their God. These Jews are not depending or trusting only on her King Jesus Christ for blessings.**

When the blessings of God come to Israel, she will totally and only look to God and depend on Him. This is something she has never done in her history. But this is what God predicts will happen. There are four amazing blessings spelled out in this chapter:

BLESSING #1 – His people will be able to directly ask Him to send rain. **10:1**

Verse 1 is interesting. It opens up with how things will eventually be. Israel will realize God controls everything, including the weather and all she has to do is ask Him to shower her with His earthly blessings. God has promised that He will cause the land of Israel to produce the best grain and wine and all God's people will need to do is call on Him to send it.

God does not want His people to forget about Him when they are experiencing blessings. He wants them trusting Him and talking to Him and praying to Him. In fact, at the end of **verse 1**, He desires that “each man” pray to Him for blessings.

God is the One who makes the storm clouds. He is the One who sends the rain. He is the One who sends showers that causes vegetation to grow. When Jesus Christ is reigning, His people will be able to ask Him to send rain and He will.

Wouldn't it be something if the world today acknowledged this but they don't? Just imagine a time when you turn on the weather on TV and the meteorologist says, “Let's all ask God to send rain today because He is a great God and He will send it if we ask.” Just imagine a time when you turn on the weather and never again hear about mother nature. That day will come.

But there is something so important to see from **verse 1**. During the millennial reign of Jesus Christ, people will still need to talk with God and ask Him things. This was exactly what got Adam and Eve in trouble. They talked with Satan, not God. They thought they could make a decision apart from consulting with God and that did not work out too well.

During this time, God will bless Israel and her land and “each man” will be talking to God and trusting God.

Now God has not promised the Church earthly land blessings but He has promised the Church spiritual heavenly blessings. However, we too need to be talking with God all the way through life.

BLESSING #2 – False religion and false religious leaders will all be destroyed. **10:2-4**

What an amazing time this will be. God will literally destroy every false religion and religious leader. This is what has dominated Israel—false Rabbis, false religious leaders—none of whom know Jesus Christ.

In **verse 2**, Zechariah mentions the “teraphim.” The “teraphim” were household idols or gods that were used for the purpose of Satanic occult stuff. They were probably in some human miniature form and were like the household deities of the Romans. All these deities did was lead people to “iniquity,” which was perverse evil. This is where false religion will lead you, straight into evil.

Now the religious leaders were false ministers. They presented lying visions. In other words, they went around telling people that they were getting visions from God and messages from God and they were all liars.

They would tell false dreams. They would say God gave them revelatory dreams and they tried to use these things to comfort people. They gave “vain” “empty” counsel.

As a result, the people were wandering around like sheep with no shepherd and they were afflicted by God because they were not walking in the ways of God. The religious leaders were leading people away from God and the truth through their false counsel and there was no one to defend them or protect them with truth.

After the Rapture, truth will be very hard to find because all you have left is false religion. People won't know who to believe or what to believe.

According to **verse 3**, God's anger was kindled against these false leaders. Do you see that? God's anger is aimed straight at false religious leaders. They are demonic. He calls them male goats who were religious and political leaders who had led the people away from God and His Word and His blessings.

God says, “I will punish them.” **False religions and false religious leaders are heading to one place, the wrath of God.**

God says My people are My flock and I will visit My flock and I will make it into a war horse. Israel is my flock and My family and I will visit them and make them like a majestic horse in battle. God would turn His people from being scattered sheep into a majestic, conquering horse. They would be a war horse “fit for a king.” God says I will destroy those false religions and My people will worship Me.

Verse 4 is powerful. **Four times in the verse it is specifically stressed that this one will come “from them,” that is from Judah.** From the tribe of Judah will come One who is the cornerstone, the tent peg, the bow of battle and the ruler over all rulers.

From the tribe of Judah will come One who is the key to a relationship with God, the key to stability, the key to victory and the key to a reigning King.

The metaphors of “cornerstone,” “tent peg,” “battle bow” and “ruler” are all metaphors directly connected to Jesus Christ. In other words, God says I will send My Son, the Messiah, to Israel and He will come from the tribe of Judah. Judah was the exact tribe of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:1-3; Luke 3:33).

Jesus Christ is the cornerstone or the foundation of a relationship with God. He is the peg that brings stability and grounds us in a relationship with God. He holds us up in our relationship with God just as a tent peg holds up the tent. He is the battle bow, the One who fights for Israel and gives her conquest and victory. He is the ultimate ruler. When He is ruling over a nation or a life, wonderful things happen. This very Person will come into any sinner’s life, if He is invited.

One day the ruler will be here on earth who will love and care for His people as the glorious King and what a time that will be.

BLESSING #3 – God will cause His people to be mighty people who have great victory. **10:5-7**

When you read these verses, you must marvel. God says this is what I am going to do for My people. Much of this has Tribulation application. This is what My people will become. This is what Israel will be. When Christ is here on earth, He will turn His people and His nation into an amazing force. There are fourteen facts brought out:

Fact #1 - They will be as mighty men. **10:5a**

The adjective “mighty” describes one that is recognized as being very strong, as one who always prevails (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 156). Now just imagine a time when God’s people are viewed this way. Just imagine a time when people look at Israel and say they are unbeatable. They are the strongest people in the world.

Fact #2 - They will stamp out enemies. **10:5b**

No enemy will be able to defeat His people. Many of God's people are defeated every day. However, if Jesus Christ is in the life, there is no good excuse for it.

Fact #3 - They will fight and win because the LORD will be with them. **10:5c**

The covenant God of Israel will once again be with Israel.

Fact #4 - They will put to shame all opposing forces. **10:5d**

The Word of God is very clear on this point; those who are against Israel will eventually be brought to shame. **Every enemy of God and every enemy of the people of God needs to know this; eventually that enemy will be brought to shame.**

Fact #5 - God will strengthen Judah. **10:6a**

Judah was located north of Jerusalem but was in the southern Kingdom. It will become a key target during the Tribulation.

Fact #6 - God will save Joseph. **10:6b**

The name Joseph stands for several things. It obviously stands for the man named Joseph (Gen. 49:22-26). It also stands for a tribe that lived in the northern part of the Promised Land (Judges 1:22-23). Joseph's sons controlled land north of Judah that will also come under great assault.

So what is described here is that the entire nation north and south will be saved by God.

Fact #7 - God will regather Israel. **10:6c**

This idea of bringing Israel back to her land is stressed here and again in **verses 8, 9, 10**. It is very clear from Scripture that God intends to bring Israel back to her land and bless her in her land. You cannot help but see that over and over again.

Fact #8 - God will have compassion on Israel. **10:6d**

That Hebrew word "compassion" is a wonderful word for God's people to know. The word means that God has a tender affection for His people that prompts Him to pity them, show favor to them and pour out His grace on them (*Ibid.*, p. 766).

Fact #9 - God will have wonderful relationship with Israel. **10:6e**

It will be like nothing was ever wrong in the relationship.

Fact #10 - God will answer Israel. **10:6f**

They will pray to the true God and get immediate answers.

Fact #11 - God will make Ephraim like a mighty man. **10:7a**

Even a tribe like Ephraim will be viewed as strong and unbeatable. Ephraim was one of the northern tribes. It certainly was not a big name tribe, but it, too, will be strong.

Fact #12 - God will cause Israel to have glad hearts. **10:7b**

Fact #13 - God will cause the children to be glad. **10:7c**

Fact #14 - God will cause their hearts to rejoice. **10:7d**

What is described here is a land and a people who are happy and blessed. It will be a joyous time. Even Jewish children will be happy. Notice where the happiness is found; it is found “in the LORD.” You cannot possibly have joy in your heart until you are “in the LORD.”

BLESSING #4 – God will cause a national regathering. **10:8-12**

There are eleven facts brought out about this regathering, which obviously has not happened yet:

Fact #1 - God will regather Israel. **10:8a**

This regathering will be a worldwide regathering of Israel and a restoration to her land.

Fact #2 - God will redeem Israel. **10:8b**

In the Septuagint, the Greek word “redeem” (λυτροω) is one that means that God has paid the price for His people and He will set them free.

Fact #3 - God will multiply Israel. **10:8c**

The numbers of Jews will be the highest numbers ever seen. They will be more numerous than they were in the time of Egyptian bondage. Not only a regathering and a redeeming, but also a repopulating.

Fact #4 - God will cause His people to remember Him. **10:9a**

God’s people have been scattered all over the world. God will whistle for them and they will come back fast.

Fact #5 - God will cause them and their children to return to Israel. **10:9b**

They are not just going to return to the land, they are going to return to the Lord.

Fact #6 - God will bring Israel back from Egypt and Assyria. **10:10a**

These are areas that enslaved Jews in the past. They will no longer be enslaved.

Fact #7 - God will cause Israel to be so numerous that they will overflow into Lebanon and Gilead (Jordan). **10:10b**

There will be so many Jews returning to the land that they will need more and more land. Those land boundaries God gave to Abraham in Genesis 15:18 will literally house all Jews.

Fact #8 - God will miraculously dry up seas so Israel can return to the land. **10:11a**

There will be no hindrances or barriers that will prevent any of God's people from returning. As Charles Feinberg said, God "will dry up every hindrance in the path of their restoration and return to the land of promise" (*The Minor Prophets*, pp. 323-324).

Fact #9 - God will destroy dominant, arrogant powers like Assyria and Egypt. **10:11b**

These were two major powers who made life miserable for Israel. God says I will bring them down.

Fact #10 - God will strengthen them in the LORD. **10:12a**

To be strengthened in the LORD is a work of God. Don't miss this. Every spiritual need will be strengthened, never weakened.

Fact #11 - Israel will walk with God in His name. **10:12b**

All of life will be lived with a focus on God and His Word.

There are Jews returning right now to Israel. There is a sense that something is coming and it is. But what Israel needs to know and what all people need to know is that the blessings of God are possible right now through One Person. That Person is Jesus Christ.

If God would invite a nation like Israel to return to Him, He certainly invites you.

Whether Jew or Gentile, believe on Jesus Christ and you will walk with God and He will strengthen you now.