

Minor Prophets
Zechariah
Lesson 9

Text: **Zechariah 9:1- 10:12**

Intro: in the last parts of the book of Zechariah, we find a lot of prophecies about the coming Messiah, and about the future of Israel. It comes in the form of two “Burdens” or oracles. In these last chapters we will see Jesus/ Messiah as: Humble King, Loving Shepherd, Mighty Warrior, Gracious Savior, Righteous Ruler, King & Priest.

I. The First Burden,

A. Preparing the Way, **Vs.1-8**

i. Alexander's March,

- a) In the scripture we have an account or History of the Assyrian, the Babylonian, and the Mede/ Persian empire, in the New testament we have the Roman empire. However we do not have the history of the Grecian empire recorded in the scripture. We do however have several prophecies about the Grecian empire, and Alexander the great.
 - **Daniel 7** painted him as a winged leopard,
 - **Daniel 8** pictured him as a fighting he-goat,
 - Prophecy is often stated as History written in advanced.
- b) In the first 8 verses of **Zechariah 9**, we have a prophecy of the march of Alexander into the promised land.
 - So this was a prophetic writing of the way Alexander would enter into the promised land.
 - In 333 B.C. Alexander defeated the Persians to begin his conquest,
 - Hadarch, **vs.1** was a region in the far north of Palestine,
 - Damascus, **vs.1** was the capitol of Syria,
 - from here the Grecian army would march down the coast and take from the north, Tyre & Sidon, to the south, Ashkelon, and Gaza.
 - The southern areas could see the approaching army, but there was very little they could do about it, **Vs.5**.
- c) Alexander had a two month siege on Gaza, after which he turned his army toward Jerusalem,
 - the night before Alexander was to enter into Jerusalem, the high priest said he had a dream.
 - He told the people, that God had told him to dress up the city, and for all the people to dress in white, and welcome the “visitor”.
 - All the people did, and Alexander marched right into Jerusalem. He was impressed with the people there, and welcomed them in peace.
 - The high priest told Alexander about the prophecies in Daniel. Alexander was said to have even went to the temple and made sacrifices to Jehovah.
 - And He spared the city from destruction.

ii. Jerusalem and Judah Would Be Spared,

a) **Vs.8** “I will encamp about mine house...”

- Alexander marched past Jerusalem on his way toward Gaza, and then turned back to Jerusalem..
- wither the High priest had really revived a vision or not doesn't matter, the point here is that God did spare the city of Jerusalem.
 - God always keeps His word.

iii. Preparation Being Made,

a) We look at the events of the nations that conquered and possessed Israel, we look at them through the prophetic eyes of the bible.

- Just as God had promised they would come, and tat He would spare them, there was more things being done during this time.
- There was a lot of prophecies about the Messiah, they way He would live, and the way He would die.
 - The Lord was preparing the landscape to receive Jesus, and that the prophecies would be fulfilled.
 - Remember the plan of Jesus was not a second thought, it was the plan from the beginning.
 - **I Peter 1:20** “Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,”
 - **Revelation 13:8** “...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”
 - **Galatians 4:4** “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,⁵To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”
 - So God was preparing the way for Jesus.

iv. Palm Sunday, Vs.9

a) Prophecy of Jesus entry into Jerusalem was fulfilled in **Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:29-44, and John 12:12-19.**

b) there are great contrast to be made from the way Alexander and Jesus would come into Jerusalem,

- First they were both Prophesied,
 - Alexander with a few prophecies, Jesus with a multitude of Prophecies,
- Alexander was welcomed by the Whole city, High priest included.
- Jesus was welcomed by the commoners, while the high priest plotted on how they could kill him.
- Alexander came in riding a mighty steed (Bucephalus)
- Jesus came in on a donkey,
- Alexander came in full of honor and pride,
- Jesus came in with humility.
- Alexander came into the submissive will of the people,
- Jesus came into the harden hearts of the people,
- Alexander came in to give a sacrifice,
- Jesus came in to be a sacrifice

B. Messiah's Conquest, **Vs.9:10-10:12**

i. Peace will Reign, vs.9-13

a) When Jesus returns the next time, it will be to bring peace, to put an end to the violence.

- It is interesting to note, that between **vs, 9&10** is the church age,

b) there will be battles and wars between that time.

- This will also be a time of regathering of the people.

ii. Messiah's March, Vs.14- 10:1

a) These verses show the greatness of God, How he will lead them to victory,

b) cover them with His strength and power.

- He actually uses the term flock in connection with fighting.

- Why would anyone take a flock of sheep into war? But the simple fact is, it is not the flock that will bring victory, but God.

c) As the prophecies continue, it moves to the results of His march,

- the land will produce and be abundant again,

- people will have their fill, the crops will produce, and the fields will be pretentious, and the rain sufficient.

- God is going to fulfill the promise of the promise land.

- What does the promise land represent in the bible? Heaven? Or Living in the obedience and blessings of God?

iii. Messiah will Strengthen His Flock, Vs2-12

a) Lead by shepherds that lead astray,

- the Nation of Israel often had high priest that lead the people into rebellion, and lead them away from the will of God.
- Even to the point of calling for the death of an innocent man,

b) Turn them from sheep to horses, **vs3**

- He will take the Jewish people and strengthen them.

- The Jewish people have been at the mercy of others most of their history,

- now is one of the most dependent times they have ever lived in since the Assyrians.

c) A picture is painted here of the Nation almost like the early days of Israel,

- **Ezekiel 16**, gives an allegory of the creation of Israel,

- How she was of the land of Canaan, she was born, and the umbilical cord was not cut, she was not washed, but simply thrown into the street to die.

- Weak, and dying.

- But, the Lord passed by, and picked her up, cleaned her, clothed her, and she grew strong and beautiful.

- But because of her pride she rebelled against the Lord, and started her decline.

- Now, however it was time to be rebuilt.

- I think a great message to us, is to know, that no matter how bad we get, or low, we can depend on God to restore us, to build us up, to strengthen us and restore us.