

Session 10 The Forerunner Message in Zechariah 10

I. INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW

- A. The question arises, what will happen to the Gentile nations who oppress Israel in the end times? Zechariah received *two oracles* (Zech. 9-11 and Zech. 12-14)—each are three chapters—that answer the question of how God will remove the opposition from the Gentiles.
- B. The theme of both oracles is the King bringing judgment and blessing to Israel and the nations as He defeats all opposing world powers in context to establishing His kingdom openly in all nations as seen initially in 6:1-8—Zechariah’s eighth vision that he received in that one night (Zech. 1-6).
- C. The Lord’s zeal is expressed in anointing Israel’s armed forces as a mighty weapon in His hand. We see what happens in the Tribulation and in the 43rd month or the 30 days following Jesus’ return.
- D. Outline of Zechariah 10

Zechariah 10 Israel will be delivered, empowered, and regathered
10:1 Israel’s agriculture will be blessed
10:2-3b Israel’s disobedient leaders will be removed
10:3c-4 The Lord anoints His people for battle
10:5-7 Israel’s victory over her enemies
10:8-12 Israel will be regathered— as second exodus

II. ISRAEL’S AGRICULTURE WILL BE BLESSED (ZECH. 10:1)

- A. Israel’s agriculture will be blessed as they pray for rain (10:1). The Lord exhorted them to ask for rain after His return (9:14-17) and in the Millennium similarly to how we ask for rain in this age.
¹Ask the LORD for rain in the time of the latter rain. The LORD will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, grass [vegetation] in the field for everyone. (Zech. 10:1)
- B. The context of 10:1 is after Jesus returns in 9:14 as the beautiful King of 9:17 who comes to beautify His people and the land of Israel in 9:16-17.
¹⁴Then the LORD will be seen over them...¹⁶The LORD their God will save them [Israel]...for they shall be like the jewels of a crown...¹⁷For how great is its goodness and how great its beauty! Grain shall make the young men thrive, and new wine the young women. (Zech. 9:14-17)
- C. ***Latter rain***: The autumn or “early” rain usually comes in October and November to prepare the soil for sowing. The period of sowing is usually between October and December. The spring or “latter” rain usually comes in March and April to help the crops mature before the harvest (May to July).
- D. ***Ask***: God’s people are invited into partnership with Him in praying for increase of rain, or people, etc. Many of God’s promises are not guarantees, but invitations to partner with Him (Jas. 4:2). The Lord’s people will forever function as a “house of prayer” to release God’s blessings on earth.
³⁷...“I will let the house of Israel inquire of Me to do this for them: I will increase their men...³⁸Like the flock at Jerusalem on feast days, so shall the ruined cities be filled... (Ezek. 36:37-38)

III. ISRAEL'S DISOBEDIENT LEADERS WILL BE REMOVED (ZECH. 10:2-3B)

- A. Israel will be blessed spiritually as the Lord confronts and removes idolatry from the nation (10:2). There will be much idolatry in Israel in the end times related to the Antichrist and the False Prophet. Ever since Israel was released from Babylonian captivity (538 BC), they have abandoned idolatry.

²The idols speak delusion; the diviners envision lies and tell false dreams; they comfort in vain. Therefore the people wend their way like sheep; they are in trouble because there is no shepherd. (Zech. 10:2)

1. ***Idols***: The idols and diviners spoke lying prophecies and false dreams that comforted the people with vain expectations. Thus the people wend their way (or wander) like sheep. In 10:2, he contrasted trusting idols instead of God for rain in 10:1, but that brings judgment.
2. ***Tell false dreams***: The leaders giving flattering dreams to comfort people is vanity (10:2).
3. ***Wend***: The result of listening to false prophetic narratives is that Israel wanders like sheep.
4. ***Troubled***: Strife and fear are the result of a society lacking godly leadership (Mt. 9:36).
5. Jesus will cleanse Israel from sin, idols, false prophets, and the unclean spirit (13:1-2) related to the abomination of desolation or Antichrist worship based in Jerusalem (Mt. 24:15).

¹“In that day a fountain shall be opened for...sin and for uncleanness.²...I will cut off the names of the idols...cause...the unclean spirit to depart from the land.” (Zech. 13:1-2)

- B. Israel will be blessed governmentally as God removes their bad leadership (10:3). His anger with false shepherds (civil and political leaders, priests, etc.) is an expression of His zeal (1:14; 8:2). Jesus shows His love for His people by personally delivering them from their false shepherds.

³“My anger is kindled against the shepherds, and I will punish the goatherds...” (Zech. 10:3)

1. ***Shepherds***: This was a familiar metaphor for Israel's political and spiritual national leaders. The people suffered at the hands of unrighteous leaders who did not lead them properly.
2. ***I will punish the goatherds***: He equated the shepherds with goatherds or male goats (NAS). This punishment is not a reference to the Babylonian captivity which had ended over 20 years earlier (538 BC). Zerubbabel and Joshua were the primary leaders in Zechariah's day.

IV. THE LORD ANOINTS HIS PEOPLE FOR BATTLE (ZECH. 10:3C-4)

- A. The Lord will “visit” Judah—transforming the nation from a society of troubled sheep into His royal war-horses that are led by the Messiah and His excellent leadership team of rulers (10:3-4).

³“...For the LORD of hosts will visit His flock, the house of Judah, and will make them as His royal horse in the battle.”⁴From him comes the cornerstone, from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow, from him every ruler together. (Zech. 10:3-4)

- B. ***Visit His flock***: When He visits His flock, He will raise up anointed leaders as “His royal horse.”
- C. ***He will make them as His royal horse***: The Lord will transform weak Judah so that they function as a royal warhorse that He will “ride,” or use, in the end-time battles to defeat His enemies.

- D. The Lord visited Judah by sending Jesus as the cornerstone, the tent peg, and the battle bow. These three metaphors highlight His strong, reliable, stable, skillful, and victorious leadership. 10:4 tells us how the Lord transforms Israel from a flock of troubled sheep into His royal warhorse.

⁴From him [Judah] comes the cornerstone, from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow, from him every ruler together. (Zech. 10:4)

1. ***The cornerstone:*** A cornerstone unites two walls at the corner, providing a strong supporting structure. This denotes His steadfast leadership on which the whole House of God depends. The cornerstone is a title of the Messiah (Ps. 118:22; Isa. 28:16) that Jesus applied to Himself (Mt. 21:42; Mk. 12:10-11; Lk. 20:17; cf. Acts 4:11; Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet 2:6-7).

²²The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. (Ps. 118:22)

¹⁶...“I lay in Zion...a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation...” (Isa. 28:16)

2. ***The tent peg:*** This peg holds a tent in place, even in the pressures of a storm (Isa. 22:22-24). It also describes a strong peg inside a tent on which valuable and beautiful things were hung. Jesus is like the peg that holds God’s tent (kingdom) firmly in place and upholds all the ministries that hold fast to Him. He is the peg on whom the weight of the whole world rests.
3. ***The battle bow:*** This bow used in war speaks of Jesus’ victory over His enemies (9:13). Jesus will fight all the nations that come against Jerusalem (Zech. 12:9; 14:2-3; Rev. 19:15).

²For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem...³Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. (Zech. 14:2-3)

- E. ***Every ruler together:*** From Judah (10:3), the Lord will raise up leaders to provide strong, godly leadership to Israel’s social and political infrastructures. Jesus will remove bad leadership (10:3).

V. ISRAEL’S VICTORY OVER HER ENEMIES (ZECH. 10:5-7)

- A. The Israeli army will be anointed by God to topple the armies of the Antichrist (10:5-7). The battle of Jerusalem will be the most intense battle and greatest military reversal in human history. Both Judah in the south (10:3c, 5) and Ephraim in the north (10:7) will be anointed and mighty in battle. The Lord’s messengers will declare God’s promises to anoint Israel in the final battle for Jerusalem.

⁵“They [Judah] shall be like mighty men, who tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle. They shall fight because the LORD is with them, and the riders on horses shall be put to shame. ⁶I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph...and I will hear them. ⁷Those of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice... Yes, their children shall see it and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD. (Zech. 10:5-7)

- B. ***They shall be like mighty men:*** The vastly outnumbered Israeli military force may be surprised when the Spirit anoints them as mighty men—in the 43rd month or during the 30 days after Jesus returns (Isa. 11:14; 41:15; Obad. 18; Mic. 4:13; 5:8-9; Zech. 9:8, 13, 15; 10:3, 5-7; 12:5-8; 14:14).
- C. ***Who tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets:*** There will be mud in the streets after a 3½ year drought because of a great hailstorm (Isa. 28:17; 30:30; Ezek. 38:22; Rev. 11:6; 16:21).

¹⁰...My eyes will see [my enemy]... she will be trampled down like mud in the streets. (Mic. 7:10)

- D. **They shall fight:** Zechariah developed the theme of the Lord releasing a military anointing on Israel, comparing it to what He did with David (12:8). Jesus ultimately destroys the Antichrist, but Israel has an anointing comparable to David to hold their ground in a miraculous way.
- ⁸***The Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one [soldier] who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David...like the Angel of the LORD before them. (Zech. 12:8)***
- E. **Because the Lord is with them:** The Lord is the source of their strength. This will be the greatest victory in military history. The Lord is pictured as the harvester and Jerusalem as an ox that is threshing the sheaves. He will commission Israel as a threshing ox to arise and thresh the nations (Mic. 4:12; cf. Isa. 41:15). The wicked leaders attacking Jerusalem will not understand God’s plan in gathering them to Jerusalem is to destroy them in their wickedness, not Jerusalem (Mic. 4:11).
- ¹¹***...many nations have gathered against you...¹²They do not know the thoughts of the LORD, nor do they understand His counsel; for He will gather them like sheaves to the threshing floor.***
- ¹³***“Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion; for I will make your horn iron, and I will make your hooves bronze; you shall beat in pieces many peoples [nations]...” (Mic. 4:11-13)***
- F. **Riders on horses shall be put to shame:** The Lord will release confusion and insanity on Gentile armies (12:4; Deut. 28:28). Imagine terrified horses that are struck blind and led by insane soldiers.
- ⁴***“In that day...I will strike every horse with confusion, and its rider with madness; I will...strike every horse of the peoples with blindness.” (Zech. 12:4)***
- G. The “house of Judah” spoke of the southern kingdom of Israel (10:3, 6). The prophets referred to the northern kingdom of Israel as “Ephraim” (10:7) since it was the most important northern tribe. Joseph was the father of Ephraim, so Joseph also speaks of the northern kingdom of Israel (10:6).
- ⁶***I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back, ...and I will hear them...⁷Those of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man... (Zech. 10:6-7)***
1. ***I will bring them back:*** The Lord will gather all the remnant of Israel who were driven out of Israel by judgment or persecution in the end times.
 2. ***I will hear them:*** They will cry for help, seen in Israel’s end-time prayer in Isaiah 63:7-64:12.
- H. Ephraim or the people in the northern kingdom will not be left out—they shall rejoice (10:7).
- ⁷***Those of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice... Yes, their children shall see it and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD. (Zech. 10:7)***
1. ***Their children:*** Their children will also have a dynamic relationship with Jesus (10:7, 9). They shall see the great things that God is doing and will rejoice in the Lord.
 2. We can pray this promise over our messianic friends who live in the land:
“Lord, You said that their children would see the wonderful and miraculous things that You would do in their midst and that they would be glad and rejoice.”

VI. ISRAEL WILL BE REGATHERED— AS SECOND EXODUS (ZECH. 10:8-12)

A. Israel will be regathered from the nations in great numbers (10:8-12; cf. 8:7-8).

⁸***“I will whistle for them and gather them, for I will redeem them; and they shall increase...
⁹I will sow them among the peoples, and they shall remember Me in far countries; they shall live,
together with their children, and they shall return.” (Zech. 10:8-9)***

1. ***I will whistle***: The Lord will summon the people of Israel—He will get their attention in a way that causes them to respond swiftly to Him, even from the far countries (Isa. 5:26).

²⁶***He will lift up a banner to the nations from afar, and will whistle to them from the end of the earth; surely they shall come with speed, swiftly. (Isa. 5:26)***

2. ***I will redeem them***: He will save them both spiritually and from their enemies physically.

3. ***I will sow them***: He will sow Israel into the earth to reap a harvest. The figure of sowing highlights a farmer who intentionally sows a seed so that he would eventually reap a harvest. Sowing people is related to population growth (Jer. 31:27; Ezek. 36:9-10; Hos. 2:23). God will sow Israel in the earth to multiply her in context to her national restoration.

²⁰***“I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness...²³Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth...” (Hos. 2:20-23)***

4. Some of the remnant will serve the Lord outside of the land of Israel in the Millennium (Isa. 54:3; 66:19-20; Hos. 2:20-23; Zech. 10:8-10).

¹⁹***...those among them who escape I will send to the nations...who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. ²⁰Then they shall bring all your brethren...out of all nations...to My holy mountain Jerusalem... (Isa. 66:19-20)***

B. The remnant of Israel will return from Egypt and Assyria as refugees or captives (10:10).

¹⁰***I will also bring them back from the land of Egypt and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon, until no more room is found for them. (Zech. 10:10)***

1. Lord promised to bring the remnant of Israel back from Egypt in the south and the former region of Assyria (parts of Iraq, Syria, and Jordan) in the north where they were refugees or captives (Isa. 11:11, 16; 27:13; Hos. 11:10-11; Mic. 5:6; 7:12-15; Zech. 10:10-11).

¹³***In that day the great trumpet will be blown [at the second coming]; they will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem. (Isa. 27:13)***

¹¹***“They shall come trembling like a bird from Egypt, like a dove from the land of Assyria. And I will let them dwell in their houses,” says the LORD. (Hos. 11:11)***

¹¹***...in that day that the LORD shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria [Jordan, Syria, Iraq, etc.] and Egypt...***

¹²***He will set up a banner...and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth... (Isa. 11:11-12)***

2. ***I will bring them to Gilead and Lebanon:*** A multitude of the remnant of Israel waiting for deliverance in Egypt and Assyria will relocate to Gilead and Lebanon since the land of Israel will be too small to contain the large numbers returning to Israel (Isa. 49:20 54:1-3). There is no evidence that Israel's political authority reached as far north as Lebanon or as far east of the Jordan River as Gilead. There are no descriptions of the geographic territory of the land of Israel that include Gilead or Lebanon (Gen. 15:18-21; Num. 34:2-12; Ezek. 47:15-20).

²⁰***The children...will say..., "The place is too small for me; give me a place where I may dwell."*** (Isa. 49:20)

- C. The Lord will again strike the waves of the Red Sea and will again figuratively "pass through" it in the end times in a way that is parallel to what He did in the days of Moses.

¹¹***He shall pass through the sea with affliction, and strike the waves of the sea: all the depths of the River shall dry up. Then the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the scepter of Egypt shall depart. ¹²I will strengthen them in the Lord, and they shall walk up and down in His name.*** (Zech. 10:11-12)

1. ***He shall strike the sea:*** The dividing of the Red Sea when Israel was released from captivity in Egypt foreshadowed the great miracles that will be seen by the nations in the end times.
2. The "Moses story" will be played out again on a global level by Jesus as the "greater Moses."

¹⁵***"As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders.***

¹⁶***The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might..."*** (Mic. 7:15-16)

3. ***The River shall dry up:*** This speaks of either the Euphrates River or the Nile River. At key times in history, the Lord drew attention to His power by great miracles related to water, such as parting the Red Sea, drying up the Jordan River, and Jesus calming the Sea of Galilee. He will do this again when He dries up the Euphrates River (10:11; Rev. 6:12).

¹²***...poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up.*** (Rev. 16:12)

4. The Red Sea is divided into two gulfs, sometimes referred to the "tongues" of the Red Sea. The gulf here probably refers to Gulf of Suez. The Lord "destroying" the Gulf of Suez or *shaking His fist* at the Euphrates speaks of drying them up by His power so that people can cross them on dry ground. Since the River is undefined, it could refer to the Euphrates (based on a return from Assyria in Isa. 11:16) or the Nile based on the mention of Egypt (Isa. 11:15).

¹⁵***The LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt [Red Sea]; with His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, and strike it in the seven streams, and make men cross over dry-shod.*** (Isa. 11:15)

- D. ***I will strengthen them in the Lord:*** Those returning to Israel from the nations will be strengthened through a vibrant relationship with Him. He will help them return spiritually and physically.

- E. ***They shall walk up and down in His name:*** The children of Israel will obey the Lord (10:12).