

EXILIC & POST-EXILIC PROPHETS OF THE BIBLE

Senior Adults & Friends Bible Study — Summit View Church of Christ
Spring 2023

PART 7, SECTION 4 — PROPHECIES ABOUT JUDAH AND ITS ENEMIES ZECHARIAH 9-11

Date: late 500s/early 400s BC — The date of these messages is unknown, except that they were probably from later in Zechariah's life than chapters 1-8, which date to 520-518 BC. Sometime in the late 500s or early 400s BC is a fair guess.

Zechariah 9:1-8 — Judgment Against Enemies of Judah

Places named here:

Aramean Cities, north of Israel

9:1 Hadrak another name for Hatarikka
9:1 Damascus longtime capital of Aram (now capital of Syria)
9:2 Hamath modern Hama

- Is God for or against these Aramean cities, according to these verses?

Coastal Merchant Cities, on the Mediterranean coast north of Israel

9:2-4 Tyre & Sidon cities known for their wealthy, seafaring merchants; often described as greedy and materialistic in Scripture (for example, see Isaiah 23)

- What will God do to these cities (especially Tyre)?

Philistine Cities, southwest of Israel

9:5 Ashkelon
9:5 Gaza
9:5, 7 Ekron
9:6 Ashdod These were 4 of the 5 cities of the Philistines (the other was Gath).

- What will happen to Gaza's king? to the Philistines' pride?
- Some Philistines will survive God's judgment. What will happen to them (verse 7; hint: the Jebusites were the original inhabitants of Jerusalem, but were eventually absorbed into Israel)?

Zechariah 9:9-17 — Prophecy of the Messiah's Coming

9:9 — The prophet calls Jerusalem to rejoice because its _____ is coming, riding on a _____ colt.

9:10 — This ruler will bring an end to wars, will proclaim _____ to the nations, and will rule to the ends of the earth.

9:13 — God would rouse the sons of _____ to fight against the sons of _____.

9:14-16 — Then the _____ will appear over them. His arrow will flash like _____ . He will sound the _____ and march in the storms of the south, shielding his people and saving them as a shepherd saves his _____ .

for group discussion...

Notice the echoes of these prophecies in the following passages. How were these prophecies of Zechariah fulfilled? Or are some/all of them yet to be fulfilled?

• Matthew 21:1-9 / John 12:12-16 —

• Matthew 24:23-31 —

Zechariah 10:1 to 11:3 — The Lord Will Shepherd Judah

10:1-2 — How does the Lord compare with the idols? Which of them is more trustworthy?

• Notice the problem of 10:2—“the people wander like sheep oppressed for lack of a shepherd.” Jesus noticed the same problem in his time, some 500 years later. See Matthew 9:36.

10:3-5 — The earlier leaders of Judah/Israel were poor shepherds for God’s people. So now God himself will shepherd his people. From these verses, what will God do for them?

10:6-12 — Notice two references here to the fall of Judah and to the Jewish exile:

- 10:6, “They will be as though I had not rejected them”—referring to God’s rejection of Judah that led to the fall of their nation to the Babylonians in 586 BC.
- 10:9, “Though I scatter them among the peoples...”—referring to the exile of the Jews throughout Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, and other lands when Judah fell.

• What will God, as their shepherd, do for the people he once rejected and scattered? List one or two things God will do for them:

11:1-3 — This message against the great cedar forests of _____, along with junipers, oaks, pastures, and “the lush thicket of the Jordan” foretells that God will upend the powerful (like mighty trees or lush pastures) in order to reverse the fortunes of his people and bless them again.

Zechariah 11:4-17 — Bad Shepherds and an Unfaithful Flock

This prophecy seems to foretell a time of corrupt leadership in Judah/Israel that will bring harm to many people (“sheep”) and will also bring opposition from God. Zechariah’s brief and disappointing work as an actual shepherd prophetically models how the people will reject the shepherd sent by God and so will lose God’s favor. (Think of how Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd [John 10:11-15] and how he was rejected by his own people.)

11:12-13 — Zechariah was paid _____ pieces of silver for his brief work as a shepherd. At the Lord’s command, he threw that money to the _____ at the temple.

• Read Matthew 27:1-10. According to Matthew, how was this prophecy fulfilled?