

ZECHARIAH - Jehovah Remembers
"Deliverance for the People of God"
Zechariah 9:11-17

INTRODUCTION:

1. Review Zechariah 9:1-10

2. From the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation, Scripture clearly reveals the work of God in both the past and the future.

a) But what about the present?

b) *Psalm 13:1*

3. **Zechariah 9:11-17**, through the mouth of Zechariah, the Lord assured His people, He had not forgotten them.

a) In these verses we see God's covenant promises to Abraham and his descendants.

b) **Genesis 12:2-3** (Sevenfold Promises of Abrahamic Covenant)

a) *"I will make of you a great nation"*

b) *"I will bless you"*

c) *"I will...make your name great"*

d) *"you will be a blessing"*

e) *"I will bless those who bless you"*

f) *"and him who dishonors you I will curse"*

g) *"and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed"*

c) God's loyal love for them was rooted in His covenant pledge to Abraham and his descendants.

4. Zechariah 9:2

I. DELIVERANCE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

A. REDEMPTION THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT

1. God moves from military conquests of Alexander the Great.

a) **Zechariah 9:1-8**

1) These conquests were prophesied 200 hundred years before Alexander the Great marched through Israel.

b) **Zechariah 9:9-10**

2. Vs 11a

a) *"As for you also, because of the blood of the covenant"*

1) Now addressing the people of Israel.

3. QUESTION: Why is Israel to be so blessed?

a) Not because of her faithfulness through the centuries, BUT because of God's unfailing devotion to His covenant of blood made with Abaham.

1) *Genesis 15:1-10*

b) **VERY IMPORTANT:** *That covenant is a guarantee as long as God LIVES!!!*

c) *1 Peter 1:18-19*

B. RELEASE FROM THE DESPAIR OF PRISON

1. Vs 11b

a) *"I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit"*

2. That rang a bell with the exiles.

a) *Genesis 37:28*

3. Prisoners in ancient times were often kept in dry wells or pits, like Joseph.

a) The exiles of Israel, although the 70 years of captivity was over; the Israelites of Zechariah's day were still subject to Gentile domination.

C. RE-ESTABLISHED HOPE IN GOD'S SECURITY

1. Vs 12a

a) *"Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope"*

2. Luke 21:24

a) Times of the Gentiles refers to Gentile world domination.

3. Nebuchadnezzar's Great Image

D. RESTORING ABUNDANTLY MORE

1. Vs 12b

a) *"today I declare that I will restore you double"*

1) Refers to God's overwhelming Grace.

2) **HOWEVER**, restoration follows repentance.

2. Israel has not yet returned to their Messiah.

a) But one day they will return and when they do, God will give them a DOUBLE PORTION of His BLESSINGS.

II. FORMATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

(Delivered to be used as instruments to serve God's purposes)

A. THE BOW

1. Vs 13a

a) *"For I have bent Judah as my bow"*

1) The bow was one of the most intimidating and effective instruments of war.

b) *"I will fill the bow with Ephraim"*

1) Ephraim was from the North (Israel), and Judah, from the south, bringing all of Israel together.

B. THE SWORD

1. Vs 13b

a) *"And I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece"*

1) In 167 BC, Judas Maccabeus and his brothers rebelled against Israel's Greek oppressors.

2) @ that time evil Antiochus Epiphanes oppressed Israel greatly.

a) Antiochus desecrated the temple by sacrificing a pig on the altar in the temple.

b) In response God raised up warriors from Israel to fight against their Greek adversaries.

2. Vs 13 c

a) *"And wield you like a warrior's sword."*

1) The word "warrior" refers to a special fighting unit.

2) Like David's Mighty Men - 2 Samuel 23:8-39

3) These elite soldiers were experts in combat, rendering them extremely lethal.

b) Today - Israel possesses one of the world's elite Special Operations Communities, the IDF Special Forces.

1) Renowned for counter terrorism, hostage rescue, and intelligence.

- c) The sword of these warriors was like a weapon that pierced its target with deadly precision.
- 1) Empowered by God for such a fight, all of Israel would become like a deadly weapon in the hands of an elite warrior.
- d) This prophecy was fulfilled about 350 years after it was given by Zechariah, when the people of Israel shattered Greek opposition during the Maccabean revolt.
- e) TODAY Israel celebrates that Victory annually in the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah.

C. THE ARROW

1. Vs 14a

a) *"Then the LORD will appear over them"*

b) *"and his arrow will go forth like lightning"*

2. *The final complete fulfillment will occur during Christ's second advent.*

D. THE MILITARY PROCESSION

1. Vs 14b

a) *"the Lord God will sound the trumpet"*

b) *"and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south."*

III. DEFENSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

1. Vs 15a

a) *"The LORD of hosts will protect them"*

IV. DESTRUCTION OF GOD'S ENEMIES

1. Vs 15b

a) *"and they shall devour, and tread down the sling stones,"*

1) *This no doubt has something to do with modern warfare*

b) *"and they shall drink and roar as if drunk with wine,"*

c) *"and be full like a bow"*

d) *"drenched like the corners of the altar"*

2. *Revelation 16:12-16, 19:11-16*

V. ON THAT DAY GOD'S PEOPLE WILL BE DELIGHTED

A. GOD'S FLOCK

1. Vs 16a

a) *"On that day the LORD their God will save them,"*

b) *"as the flock of his people;"*

B. LIKE JEWELS OF A CROWN

1. Vs 16b

a) *"for like the jewels of a crown"*

b) *"they shall shine on his land"*

C. BEAUTIFUL DESCRIPTION

1. Vs 17a

a) *"For how great is his goodness"*

b) *"and how great is his beauty!"*

D. BOUNTIFUL FEASTING

1. Vs 17b

a) *"Grain shall make the young men flourish"*

b) *"and new wine the young women"*

CONCLUSION:

1. Abundant prosperity, such as the world has never seen, results in the excessive rejoicing and praise from God saving His people - Israel.