

MY FATHER HAS IT | ZECHARIAH 10:1-2

INTRO:

We live in a world full of voices.

- Your phone has a voice.
- Social media has a voice.
- Your friends have a voice.
- Your coworkers have a voice.
- The news has a voice.
- Advertisers have a voice.
- Culture has a voice.
- Your own emotions have a voice.

And all of them are telling you something about how you should live, what you should want, where you should find happiness, and what you should trust.

The question isn't whether you're listening to voices.

The question is: Which voice are you listening to?

- Because some voices speak truth.
- And some voices speak lies that sound an awful lot like truth.

That's where we find ourselves in [Zechariah 10](#).

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

Zechariah 10:1-2 NIV

¹ Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. ² The idols speak deceitfully, diviners see visions that lie; they tell dreams that are false, they give comfort in vain. Therefore the people wander like sheep oppressed for lack of a shepherd.

1: THE IDOLS SPEAK DECEITFULLY

[Zechariah 10:2](#) “The idols speak deceitfully, diviners see visions that lie; they tell dreams that are false, they give comfort in vain. Therefore the people wander like sheep oppressed for lack of a shepherd.”

A: HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- The people of Israel had returned from exile in the lands of Babylon and Persia.

- Zechariah's ministry was to encourage the returned exiles to remain faithful to the Lord as they rebuilt the temple and community, while assuring them that God had not abandoned His covenant promises. His message called them to trust God's purposes in the present and look forward to the coming restoration of His people and kingdom.
- But historically interesting (and relevant to our text) is that when Israel returned from exile, they didn't largely struggle with idolatry in the same way that their fathers did.
 - Their fathers served the Baals and Asherahs and other Canaanite gods.
 - What's rendered here as 'idols' in the NIV is the Hebrew word 'teraphim' (or household gods)
 - Vine's dictionary (for what its worth) notes that the root of the word is 'spirit' or 'demon.' (There's a clue to the source/nature of it!)

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words **Idol**

terapim (8655, תִּרְפִּים), "idol; household idol; cultic mask; divine symbol." This word is a loanword from Hittite-Hurrian (tarpish) which in West Semitic assumes the basic form tarpi. Its basic meaning is "spirit" or "demon."

- In practice, they could be worshiped as household gods, used in/associated with ancestor worship, or as tools of divination/sorcery.
- Teraphim show up in a number of places in Scripture
 - They are the idols/gods that Rachel stole from her father Laban in [Genesis 31](#)
 - In [1 Samuel 19](#), Michal, David's wife and Saul's daughter, kept a teraphim in her home. When she needed to help David escape from Saul's men, she placed it in his bed and covered it to look like he was sleeping there. This means her teraphim was large enough to pass for a human body. ([1 Samuel 19:13, 16](#))
 - In [Judges 18:14](#) we read about a man named Micah and his household gods (lit. Teraphim) that the tribe of Dan stole along with the priest who oversaw the shrine.
 - [Ezekiel 21:21](#) describes the king of Babylon's divination and sorcery using them — context wise this might be the most important clue for the sake of our passage.
- V2 IDOLS = Teraphim = most likely for divination and sorcery.
 - The rest of the verse makes this clear - 'the *diviners* see visions that lie; they tell dreams that are false'
 - So Israel had, for the most part, left behind the overt Canaanite idolatry that had characterized their ancestors. But the deeper temptation remained: looking to other sources for revelation, guidance, security, and provision — things specifically condemned by the Lord ([Deuteronomy 18:10-12](#), [Leviticus 19:26, 31](#)).

B: VAIN COMFORT

- Vain | hebel: 'the quality of having no value or significance; as a result of being futile or insubstantial or absurd or incomprehensible' (Lexham Analytical Lexicon)
 - It's the same word Solomon uses over and over in Ecclesiastes: "Everything is meaningless"
 - It's also closely connected scripturally to idols. (Idols are hebel—meaningless, futile, etc)
 - Therefore the comfort they offer is meaningless because their source is meaningless.

- This speaks to the nature and effect of the lies, falsities, and deceit that the idols and diviners speak
 - They're simply not true
 - They're worthless
 - And whatever comfort they give will soon be fraudulent, insubstantial, and worthless too.
 - If one is comforted by the substance/promise of the lie... what happens when the lie is exposed? Comfort fails.
 - And following a lie can be convenient right up until the moment you need it to be true.

C: CONSEQUENCES OF HAVING NO SHEPHERD

- In seeking supernatural guidance through divination they were rejecting their shepherd.
- In rejecting their shepherd, (ironically) they will wander in oppression.
- People seek freedom from the Lord only to find themselves bound and oppressed to something/someone else.
 - You can serve God, your Father
 - You can serve your flesh, sinful appetites, and the spiritual forces who seek dominion over you
 - You choose your master, your source, your provision. But it will have dominion over you.
 - One is false, the other is good and true.

D: MODERN APPLICATIONS

- In order to rightly apply this, it'd be helpful to note: WHAT ARE THEY LIKELY SEEKING GUIDANCE THROUGH DIVINATION FOR?
 - If verse 1 has any light to shed on it we'll notice:
 - RAIN → CROPS → PROVISION → LIFE/SECURITY
 - All the same stuff people seek and desire for today.
 - They were just going to the wrong sources for direction.
 - Which is why in v1, the Lord is telling the people to ask of him, NOT the teraphim.
 - The reality here is that they were not necessarily seeking the demons because they loved worshipping demons (if they even understood that fully), its that (like today) they were seeking something they desperately wanted.
 - They wanted rain
 - They wanted crops
 - They wanted provision
 - They wanted security
 - They wanted to know what was coming
 - And they had found alternative sources promising to give them what they wanted.
- Today there may not be teraphim or household gods that people setup in their homes to consult... But we're still asking the same fundamental questions.
 - Will I be okay? *security*
 - Will I have enough? *provision*
 - Will I be happy? *satisfaction*

- Will my future work out? *security/peace*
- What should I do? Where should I go? *guidance*
- Where should I find security?
- And instead of ‘teraphim’ giving the answers, our culture steps in with their ‘answers’
 - Want happiness? *buy more stuff (the next thing, the bigger and better thing)*
 - Want fulfillment? *follow your feelings*
 - Want security? *put your career first*
 - Need direction? *follow the money*
 - Want identity? *look inside yourself*
 - Want freedom? *reject anyone or anything who tells you how to live*
 - Want relational security? *Don’t commit yet—try it out first.*
- Further (and closer to the teraphim idea), we see people seek guidance, peace, joy, and fulfillment in the occultic/New Age practices of the day. These blatantly practice divination.
 - “These cards can guide you”
 - “Your future can be determined in the stars”
 - “Manifest what you want — speak it into existence”
 - “These crystals can give you the good energy you need”
 - Etc.

And the whole time the truth is staring you square in the face: YOUR FATHER HAS EVERYTHING YOU NEED.

- The questions about security, provision, guidance, purpose aren’t bad questions. It’s human nature to ask them.
- But where you seek the answers matter greatly.
- ‘For the idols speak deceitfully, the diviners see visions that lie’

2: THE TRUTH IS BETTER

[Zechariah 10:1](#) “Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone.”

A: SPRINGTIME RAIN

- The springtime rain held particular significance because farmers waited patiently for both autumn and spring rains to complete the growing cycle. When rain was withheld even three months before harvest, crops failed catastrophically.
- The spring rains arrived at a critical juncture—after winter planting—to nourish developing grain and ensure the harvest would be abundant rather than meager.
- The implication as alluded to earlier is:
 - RAIN → produces → CROPS → resulting in → PROVISION → evidence of → LIFE/SECURITY
 - In the critical junctures of life

- Who is your source?
- Who is your guidance?
- Who bestows blessings?
- Who sustains you?

B: YOUR FATHER IS THE SOURCE

- This is why I say the “truth is better” — Your heavenly Father — is your source of everything you need!
 - He’s a good God, He’s a good father — He’s got good plans for you
 - The lies often ‘sound good’ but in reality fail to deliver — making them vain, utterly useless, and ultimately destructive (leading to wandering oppression)
 - The truth is good, because the source is good and the delivery of the promise is good.
- Better yet, you don’t have to strive to receive what you need from your father.
 - A good father initiates provision and security.
 - A good father leads and guides, but allows you to take responsibility
- What’s important to note here: You have the free will to turn down his provision and security.
 - People do this all the time when they wander from the Father’s house — out on their own.
 - The blessings, security, and provision come from being IN THE HOUSE, under his roof.
 - As opposed to bringing teraphim (household gods) into your home... the answer is being in HIS HOME!
- POSTEXILE Israel (Zechariah’s generation) had picked up some bad practices in Babylon — practicing divination, consulting Teraphim — for guidance, security, and source of provision.
 - God was calling them to seek him for what they need and what He has for them!

C: HE CALLS ON YOU TO SEEK HIM FOR WHAT YOU NEED

- Ask the Lord for the springtime rain.
 - Ask for the provision, guidance, security that you need.
 - Ask for the Father’s blessings
- **Matthew 6:33** “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”
 - The totality of provision: shelter, clothing, food — everything you need.
- **Matthew 7:7-11** “7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”
 - The nature of your father and his disposition towards you. You don’t have to wonder.
- **James 4:2** “You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.”
 - We often have not because we’re going to the wrong sources AND/OR we’re not asking God.

D: CONSEQUENCES OF HAVING A GOOD SHEPHERD

- [Psalm 23](#) describes the good shepherds care:
 - **[Psalm 23](#) “A psalm of David. 1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”**
 - “I lack nothing” — everything I need is provided for
 - “Green pastures” — plenty of nourishment and provision
 - “Quiet waters” — peace, safety, security, life
 - “Refreshes my soul” — life abundantly, joy
 - “Guides me along the right paths” — Guidance, care, wisdom, purpose
 - “Presence in the valley” — safety, comfort, protection, assurance, discipline
 - “Anoint my head” — blessings in the most unlikely places
 - “Goodness & mercy” — the evidence of God’s care all the days of our life
 - “Dwell in the house of the Lord forever” — the good path leads to his house for all eternity

RESPONSE:

- Q: What do you need today?
 - What are you looking for?
 - Where are you looking for it?
- Q: What voices do you need to silence?
 - What lies, false dreams have you been tempted to believe?
- The truth is better.
 - Ask your father for what you need.
 - Dwell in His house, under his roof.
 - Submit to the good shepherd & TRUST him.
 - Walk with him and in his blessings.
- “The Lord Will Provide” — My Father has it!