

Zechariah 10

Jesus

- **Chapter 9:** God's Goodness/God's Beauty/God's Promise to Restore Israel
- **Objective:** Rock-Solid Love for Truth/Loathing of Deception

God's lost sheep of Israel have been wandering aimlessly for over 2000 years.
The Good Shepherd is about to call them home and back to Himself...

I. God's Whistles for His People Time to Come Home

1 Ask 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 in the field for everyone.

- **Latter Rain in the Kingdom**
 1. **Physical Rain:** Spring Rain. Israel bloom Garden of Eden
 2. **Spiritual Rain:** God's Holy Spirit poured out His people

Israel was to ask of God...He will answer!

- **Pray Boldly:** Not just for rain but **showers for all...**

Ephesians 3:14 [Paul's prayer for us]... I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be **filled with all the fullness of God**. 20 Now to Him who is able to do **exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- **Pray in Jesus Name**

John 14:13 ...whatever you ask **in My name**, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything **in My name**, I will do it.

Not a tag at the end but ... In accord w/His Will/His Character/Priorities/Time[which is never ours]
Pray as you read the Word/Claim His promises along the way

- **Pray Continually**

Matthew 7:7 ... Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. [lit. ask and keep asking/seek keep seeking/knock keep knocking]

- **Pray in Faith** [Expecting]

Mark 11:24 ... whatever things you ask when you pray, **believe that you receive them, and you will have them.**

James 1:6 ...ask in faith, **with no doubting**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord...

- **Pray while Obedient**

1 John 3:22 ...whatever we ask we receive from Him, **because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.**

- **IOW Repent then Ask**

v1 **Ask Me and I will Answer. I AM the Living God...**

2 For the idols speak delusion; The diviners envision lies, And tell false dreams; They comfort in vain.

- **Living God vs Dead Idols**

Jeremiah 14:22 Are there any among the idols of the nations that can **cause rain?**

Idols here are literally Teraphim or Household idols. This is what Rachel stole from her father Laban when she left with her husband Jacob. The stolen Teraphim represented Laban's leadership role in the family and the reason why he became so infuriated and pursued after Jacob. **Diviners** are those who imitate God's prophets/prophecies by making up dreams/visions/other spiritual encounters they **never personally experienced.** [NJC]

- **Idols Delude** Promise luck/good fortune but fail...lead to trouble, wickedness, sorrow
- **Fakers Deceive** Arrogantly/Persuasively talk about the never experienced

Self-Appointed and Unanointed. Satan's Substitutes
False Prophets w/Dreams of Grandeur giving false hope

Jude 8 ...these **dreamers defile** the flesh, **reject** authority, and **speak evil** of dignitaries...**12b...** They are **clouds without water**, carried about by the winds; late autumn **trees without fruit 13b..** for whom is **reserved the blackness of darkness forever.**

Colossians 2:18 [Fakers] ...taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things **which he has not seen**, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind ...**23** These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of **no value against the indulgence** of the flesh.

- Idols/Fakers giving false hope/vain comfort

2b... Therefore *the people* [go] their way like sheep; They are in trouble because **there is no** [true] **shepherd.**

God's people are in trouble due to the lack of true Godly shepherds
Filling the void are False Shepherds/Self-Appointed/Unanointed

3 "My **anger is kindled** against [these false] shepherds, And **I will punish the goatherds** [leaders of goats].

God's anger burns against wolves in sheep's clothing...
Hirelings of Satan not Servants of God

Proverbs 6:19 [God hates] A false witness who speaks lies...

2 Corinthians 11:13 For such are **false apostles**, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself **transforms himself into an angel of light**. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if **his ministers also transform themselves** into ministers of righteousness, whose **end will be according to their works**.

- **True Shepherds?** Those who point to the Good Shepherd

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 **But a hireling**, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and **leaves the sheep and flees**; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling/**does not care about the sheep**.

God promises Judgment on Self-Appointed/Unanointed Fakers...

Jeremiah 25:34 [Jeremiah's day] "Wail, shepherds, and cry! Roll about in the ashes, You leaders of the flock! For the days of your slaughter and your dispersions are fulfilled; You shall **fall like a precious vessel**. 35 And the shepherds will have no way to flee, Nor the leaders of the flock to escape. 36 A voice of the cry of the shepherds, And a wailing of the leaders to the flock will be heard. For the Lord has plundered their pasture [540 BC Temple destruction]

Ezekiel 34:2b...[Hypocrites] "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who **feed themselves!** Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? **...5** So they were scattered because **there was no shepherd**; **...6** My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, **My flock was scattered** over the whole face of the earth, and **no one was seeking or searching for them**. 7 'Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: 8 "As I live," says the Lord God, "surely because **My flock became a prey**, and My flock became food for every beast of the field, because **there was no shepherd**, nor did My shepherds search for My flock, but the shepherds **fed themselves** and did not feed My flock. **9 therefore, O shepherds, hear the word of the Lord!** 10 Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, **I am against the shepherds**, and I will require My flock at their hand; I will cause them to cease feeding the sheep, and the shepherds shall feed themselves no more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouths, that they may **no longer be food for them**."

Matthew 23:15 [Jesus Day] "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him **twice as much a son of hell as yourselves**. [Pharisees/Sadducees no more after 70ad Titus the Roman]

Today we continue to see the Self-Appointed/Unanointed propping themselves up
False-teachers/Priests/Female "pastors"/Cult Leaders/So-called apostles...

1 Timothy 1:5 [Paul's Day] Now the purpose of the commandment [teaching] is **love** from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere [lit. unhypocritical] faith, 6 from which some, having strayed, have **turned aside to idle talk, 7 desiring to be teachers** of the law, **understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm**.

- Numerous as roaches...and just as arrogant

1 John 4:1 ... do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits**, whether they are of God; because **many false prophets** have gone out into the world.

- **Q.** How do I spot a false teacher?
- **A1.** Know the Truth. **A2.** They will be drawing people to themselves not Jesus

False Shepherds led Israel before Jesus first coming

False shepherds are rising up now...before His second coming

- **SDA/LDS/Watchtower/Hebrew Roots**
- **God's anger is kindled...my anger is kindled**

I loathe to hear our true Lord praised by false lips. They deny the doctrines which he taught, and yet prate about believing Him. It is a shallow trick, but yet it deceives shallow souls. [Spurgeon]

- **Judas Goats:** Goat w/bell on neck sheep follow up to slaughter he steps aside [JVM]
- Dangerous to presume to be a teacher...

James 3:1 ... let not many of you become teachers knowing we shall receive **stricter judgment.**

- **Context Zechariah's Day:**

1. **Forsaken old Idols** Wood, stone, statues
2. **Embracing new Idol** Self-Righteous religion rising up in 2 groups...

Self-Appointed/Unanointed **Sadducees/Pharisees**
Satan had his shepherds waiting when Jesus arrived the first time...

3b... For the LORD of hosts will visit His flock...

Matthew 9:36 ...when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and **scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.**

**Jesus did visit His people Israel...but they did not receive Him
They will receive the Anti-Christ**

John 5:43 I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.

The Lord will once again visit His people Israel/They will receive Him

3c... 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**. ⁵They 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. ⁶"I will strengthen the house of Judah, And I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back, Because I have mercy on them. They shall be as though I had not cast them aside; For I *am* the LORD their God, And I will hear them. ⁷*Those of Ephraim* shall be like a mighty man, And their heart shall **rejoice** as if with wine. Yes, their children shall see *it* and **be glad**; Their heart shall **rejoice in the LORD.**

Romans 8:31b... If God is for us, who can be against us?

- **Jesus Lion of Judah likened to...**

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Cornerstone | We are Straight/True set next to Him |
| 2. Tent Peg | We are Secure in Him |
| 3. Battle Bow | We are Protected by Him |
| 4. Ruler of rulers | We are Victorious through Him |

... because the Lord is with us

Psalms 18:29 ...by You I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over a wall.

Q. When will Israel fully enjoy these benefits of God?

When they are both in the land **and** embracing their Savior

Zechariah 8:8 I will bring them back, And they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My people And **I will be their God, In truth and righteousness.**

Children will be glad/Hearts will rejoice
God whistles for His people to come home

8 I will **whistle for them** and gather them, For **I will redeem them**; And they shall **increase as they once increased.**

- **Whistle heard throughout the earth:** Time to come home...and they will be ready

Isaiah 5:26 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.

He will Scatter them/He will Call them
 He will Redeem them/He will Increase them

9 "I 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.**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.**

- They will return **to the land**/They will return **to their God. And...**

When God calls His people Israel from Nations...

Nations follow His people to Jerusalem and Worship Jesus together!

11 He [Israel] 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. **12** "So I will strengthen them in the LORD, And they shall walk up and down in His name," Says the LORD.

When God gathers Israel and defeats their enemies they shall walk in freedom and liberty again. It will be like a new exodus from Egypt, complete with exodus-like miracles. [Guzik]

Jeremiah 23:7 ... the days are coming," says the Lord, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' 8 but, '**As the**

Lord lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from...all the countries where I had driven them.' **And they shall dwell in their own land."**

SUMMARY: Self-Appointed/Unanointed religious leaders in Zechariah's time will eventually lead Israel to reject Jesus at His first coming. First they will murder Zechariah, then the Son of God. **Yet God will keep His unilateral promise to Abraham and His people...**

God's lost sheep of Israel have been wandering for over 2000 years.
The Good Sheperd is about to call them back to Himself...

**... and He will whistle for His people to come home
We are waiting Trumpet**