

Zechariah 9-11 – 13 August 2026

“The Shepherd King Cometh”

Introduction

*Zechariah is the 2nd of 3 post-exilic prophets, prophesying at the same time as Haggai

*Zec 1-6 begins with a call for the people to *return to Him* & accept *the unstoppable nature of God's plan*

*He's described to them in 8 visions the details of His unfolding, unstoppable plan to redeem humanity

*Then in Zec 7-8, God continues His call to them by showing them just *how to return to Him*

*Chap 9-14 are undated and launch into a new subject

*We now explore the events that will culminate all things for Israel leading to the Kingdom Age

*Today we look at the 1st Coming & rejecting of Jesus
God intentionally prepares to save & bless His people

We'll see 4 steps of preparing Israel's sheepfold

#1 – Subduing the enemies for the Shepherd King’s arrival (Chap 9)

Read 9:1

1. Damascus is called ‘the Gateway to the East’
2. Here we have the subduing of the Middle East by the western power of Alexander the Great
 - a. Next verses line up w/ Alex’s conquest
 - b. They’re a prototype of God laying flat His enemies before the unveiling of His coming
3. ‘Eyes of men are toward Yahweh’ means we’re about to read of God’s coming activity among men

Read 9:2-4

1. Alex came from Turkey down thru Tyre
 - a. Tyre was very wealthy for their sea trade
 - b. Babylon tried conquering Tyre, but Tyre retreated to their island fortress
 - c. Alex built pathway to island & destroyed it
2. Isa, Jer & Ezekiel had large prophecies dedicated to speaking of Israel’s enemy’s demise

Read 9:5-7

1. Alex came down the coast of Israel and finished off the remnant of the Philistines
2. As the nation of Philistia is being extinguished, some of the people turn to the God of Israel

Read 9:8

1. In the midst of Alex's conquest, coming thru Jerusalem was different
 - a. God protected Israel by giving wisdom to the High Priest and discretion to Alexander
2. Josephus records (Ant. 11.8.4-5) Alex met H. Priest Jaddua who told him of Daniel 8 prophecy
 - a. Hearing the Jews prophesied his victory, he allows them to observe the Mosaic Law & not pay tribute on Sabbath years
3. In the midst of world-moving events, God has control over it all to protect those that are His

Read 9:9

1. The humble king came to save at His 1st coming
2. Quoted by both Matt (21:4-5) & John (12:15)

3. Zec is here painting the picture of God's salvation coming to Israel in the form of their king

Read 9:10

1. We broaden out to the 2nd coming of Jesus in which He'll receive world-wide reign again
2. Israel won't rely on military but on the Lord
3. Notice this reign of Messiah King Jesus include the Gentiles coming into peace with Him
 - a. It's always been offered to the whole world

Read 9:11-17

1. Events of chap 9 are leading to Jesus' 1st coming (vs 9), but we now back up to speak of Israel reestablished liberty in intertestamental time
2. This initially speaks of God saving the Jews from Antiochus Epiphanes w/ Maccabean Revolt
 - a. Ultimately this is fulfilled in the Kingdom
3. God brings Israel into strength and prospers them

#2 – Gathering the sheep flock for salvation & blessing (Chap 10)

Read 10:1

1. God is wanting to do great things for Israel
 - a. He comes telling them to ask Him for it
2. God plans abundance in Israel's future

Read 10:2-5

1. The Lord will transform Israel from being sheep with bad shepherds to a herd of war horses
 - a. God's anger is against these bad leaders
2. How God empowers Israel? Thru Jesus (vs 5)
 - a. Jesus is the cornerstone (Eph 2:20)
 - b. Jesus is the tent peg holding all things together (Col 1:17)
 - c. Jesus is mighty in battle (Ps 24:8)
 - d. Jesus is a good master (His burden is light)

Read 10:6-8

1. This is clearly speaking of yet future
 - a. "They will rejoice in Yahweh"

b. “They’ll be numerous as before” –
occurring now

2. Jews have been growing since 1950s

Read 10:9-12

1. They 1st grow numerous while living around the world, *then* they return to fill nation
2. When we visited Israel, we visited w/ hundreds of Ethiopian Jews making Aliyah (immigrating)
 - a. They’re still coming by the droves

#3 – Rejecting the Good Shepherd results in Roman slaughter (Chap 11:1-11)

Read 11:1-3

1. This seems to be referring to the Roman destruction of Jerusalem & the Temple
 - a. Romans came down thru Lebanon
2. Also, this ruin seems to have begun earlier
 - a. Year Jesus died all began to change – on Day of Atonement many abnormalities began

b. Here the full quote from the Talmud:

‘During the last forty years before the destruction of the Temple the lot [‘for the Lord’] did not come up in the right hand; nor did the crimson-colored strap become white; nor did the western-most light shine; and the doors of the Hekel (Temple) would open by themselves’

3. Israel’s leaders & shepherds were helpless b/c they refused to believe in Jesus

Read 11:4-7

1. Favor is *beauty/grace* & Union is *bands/bonds*
2. Zec was acting out the role of a good shepherd, w/ actual sheep to portray how God wants to provide *grace & unity* to Israel in their distress
3. At the time of the Romans & Jesus 1st coming, Israel’s leaders were corrupt just taking for self
 - a. Therefore, not only will the people fall but also the land will fall (vs 6)

Read 11:8-11

1. For centuries 3 shepherds cut off are believed to be the offices of prophet, priest and king
 - a. This is possible but we don’t know

- b. Could be the Revived Roman Empire kings being cut off in last days (Dan 7:8, 24, Rev 17)
- 2. God has Zec act out turning Israel loose into captivity
- 3. Zec broke his stick called Favor meaning grace
 - a. It got so bad during the Roman siege that they were literally turning to cannibalism
- 4. What does it take for all this to happen?
 - a. Only for God to turn them loose w/o help
 - b. Read Jer 31:32 – They’ve already broken covenant & now God is walking away
- 5. This acting by Zec made it clear to the people watching, so they were able to believe him

#4 – Choosing the wrong shepherd (Chap 11:12-17)

Read 11:12-13

- 1. Since Zec was done ‘acting’ for God, He went to the sheep owner for his pay for caring for them
- 2. Not knowing why, Zec is to throw his wages for feeding the sheep “to the potter in the Temple”

3. As recorded in Matt 27, this was just what happened to Jesus
 - a. 30 silver pieces was the price to buy a slave
 - b. 30 silver pieces was paid for removing Jesus from His work
 - c. Then it was thrown back 'in the Temple' & given to buy "a potter's field"
4. A potter's field was of very low value being used for all the broken shards of pottery
 - a. Doesn't that sound exactly like you & me?
 - b. Even in picture, Jesus pays the price to buy us in our brokenness so He can restore us
5. He wants to give you new life & call you His treasure (Read Matt 13:44)

Read 11:14

1. This pictures unbelieving Israel being scattered by the Romans after rejecting Jesus

Read 11:15-16

1. Israel rejected Jesus, the Good Shepherd, but they'll receive a bad one (Read John 5:43)

2. This doesn't have to be Anti-Christ to come, it could just be a bad Prime Minister, but it seems like Anti-Christ b/c of vs 17
 - a. Notice this bad shepherd arises 'in the land'
 - b. It is possible the A/C will not only be of the Roman territory but also Jewish
 - i. He strengthens a 7-yr treaty w/ Israel (Dan 9)
 - ii. He won't regard the god of his fathers not the desire of women (Dan 11:38)

Read 11:17

1. This will ultimately be fulfilled by A/C b/c Rev 13 tells us he'll have "a deadly wound by a sword apparently healed"
 - a. Being the right eye and arm could symbolize intelligence (eye) and strength (arm)
 - b. But it will be a sword that does the deed
2. God desires His shepherd to care deeply for the sheep, not be in it for himself

Conclusion

God has done many things to prepare a wonderful environment for Israel (& for us) – apply this to us for a moment

1. **His Holy Spirit thru believers, subdues our enemies making way for the Shepherd King's entrance into our lives**
2. **Then He gathers us within the sheepfold of the Church for blessing**
3. **Then warns us that rejection will lead to slaughter and destruction – don't fall into sin**
4. **This rejection would lead to receiving bad help and leaders**

II Thes 2:10-11 – Many will reject the love of the truth and receive the lie of the Anti-Christ

If you are in the faithful remnant – then next week is for you as we see King Jesus's return to receive us!