

Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



“There’s No Plan B—And You Don’t Need One”

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Zech. 10:1-12; Zech. 9:9-10, 16-17; Deut. 11:10-17; Ezek. 34:5-6, 11-24; Is. 54:2; Is. 60:17

Introduction

Most of us like having a backup plan. We feel safer knowing that if one thing does not work, something else is waiting in reserve. But when the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt and into the Promised Land, He intentionally brought them into a place where they would have to live differently. Egypt had the Nile. If you worked the land properly, you could channel the water where you needed it. But Israel was different. Moses said, *“The land you are crossing over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, drinking from the rain of the heavens... It is a land that ADONAI your God cares for”* (Deut. 11:11-12). **In the Land, there was no major river – there was no Nile or Tigris or Euphrates to fall back on. They had to look up.**

That is the heart of Zechariah 10. The people had returned from exile, and the Lord was restoring what had been broken and scattered. Zechariah 9 had just announced the coming King—humble, riding on a donkey, bringing salvation and speaking *shalom* to the nations. Now the Lord is teaching His people not to repeat the mistakes of the past. When the rain does not come when you think it should, do not look for another god. When you cannot see the way forward, do not assume you need another plan. **There is no Plan B—and you do not need one.** The rain, the strength, the stability, and the way through all come from Him.

1. DON’T LOOK FOR ANOTHER SOURCE — ASK ADONAI FOR THE RAIN

Zechariah opens with a simple command: *“Ask ADONAI for rain in spring! ADONAI makes the storm clouds and will give rain showers and plants of the field to everyone”* (Zech. 10:1). The late rains were necessary for the crops to mature, and God told His people exactly where to go: **Ask Me.** Do not turn to Baal. Do not look for another source because you are afraid ADONAI may not act quickly enough. The Lord had warned Israel, *“Watch yourselves, so your heart is not deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods”* (Deut. 11:16). The deeper issue was trust.

Verse 2 contrasts ADONAI with the false sources people had been consulting. *“The idols (הַתְּרָפִים, teraphim) utter deceit and diviners see lies. They relate false dreams and comfort in vain”* (Zech. 10:2). People looked to mute idols revelation. The diviners promised answers. The false dreams offered comfort. But all of it was empty, and the result was that the people wandered like sheep without a shepherd. We may not keep household idols today, but we can still run to money, control, personalities, predictions, or our own wisdom when fear takes over. The Lord’s invitation remains the same: **Ask Me for the**

rain. You do not need another source when the One who makes the storm clouds is your God.

2. EVERYTHING YOU NEED COMES FROM HIM

The Lord then confronts the shepherds who failed His people: *“My anger burns against the shepherds and I will punish the leaders. ADONAI-Tzva’ot cares for His flock”* (Zech. 10:3). The same Hebrew word, *paqad*, lies behind both “punish” and “care.” It means to “attend to” someone. When God attends to the abusive shepherd, it means judgment; when He attends to the wounded sheep, it means rescue and restoration. Ezekiel gives the same promise: *“I will seek the lost, bring back the stray, bind up the broken and strengthen the sick”* (Ezek. 34:16). Human shepherds may fail, but the Lord does not abandon His flock.

Then verse 4 gives this powerful repetition: **from Him, from Him, from Him.** *“From Judah will come the cornerstone, from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow”* (Zech. 10:4). From Him comes stability. From Him comes what holds everything securely in place. From Him comes strength for the battle. Verse 5 says, *“They will fight, because ADONAI is with them.”* Then He declares, *“I will strengthen the house of Judah and save the house of Joseph... for I have compassion on them”* (Zech. 10:6). Their confidence is not in having another option ready in case God fails. Their confidence is that **ADONAI is with them.** If everything they need comes from Him, what would Plan B add?

3. WHEN THERE IS NO OTHER WAY, HE MAKES THE WAY

The latter half of the chapter turns toward the scattered house of Joseph. From a human perspective, their restoration seemed nearly impossible. At this point, they had been dispersed among the nations for generations. Yet the Lord says, *“I will signal for them and gather them. Surely I will redeem them”* (Zech. 10:8). He continues, *“Though I scatter them among the peoples, they will remember Me in distant places... and return”* (Zech. 10:9). Their distance did not put them beyond His reach. Egypt and Assyria could represent bondage and captivity, but neither could stop God from bringing His people home.

Then comes one of the strongest images in the chapter: *“He will cross the turbulent sea and calm its raging waves”* (Zech. 10:11). The language echoes the Exodus, but here the emphasis is on the Lord Himself passing through the sea of trouble. He strikes the waves. He removes the barriers. He brings down the pride of Assyria and the scepter of Egypt. When the obstacle is greater than His people, God does not tell them to find another route—**He deals with the obstacle.** The chapter closes, *“So I will strengthen them in ADONAI and they will walk in His Name”* (Zech. 10:12). They come through because He gathers, redeems, strengthens, and leads them.

CONCLUSION

Zechariah 10 begins with a request for rain and ends with a people walking in the Name of ADONAI. Between those two points, God exposes false sources, confronts false shepherds, cares for His flock, gives stability and strength, gathers the scattered, and goes

through the sea of trouble ahead of them. The message keeps coming back to the same truth: **it comes from Him.** The rain is from Him. The cornerstone is from Him. The strength is from Him. The way through is from Him. The temptation is to trust God while still keeping a little Nile nearby—something we can control just in case. But God was teaching Israel to live in a land where they had to look to heaven.

Maybe that is where you are today. You are facing a situation where there does not seem to be another option, another source, or another way through. But the Lord doesn't want you to create your own backup plan. He wants us to look to Him. Bring Him the fear that says, "What if God does not come through?" Ask Him for the rain. Put your weight back on the cornerstone. And when the sea of trouble stands in front of you, remember that He does not leave you to figure it out alone. **He goes through the sea ahead of His people. There is no Plan B—and when ADONAI is your God, you do not need one.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why was Israel's dependence upon rain in the Promised Land spiritually significant compared with life along the Nile in Egypt?
2. According to Zech. 10:1–2, what happened when the people looked to idols, diviners, and false dreams instead of ADONAI?
3. What do the images of the cornerstone, tent peg, and battle bow in Zech. 10:4 teach us about what comes "from Him"?
4. **Personal Reflection:** Where are you most tempted to create a "Plan B" because trusting the Lord alone feels uncertain?
5. **Personal Reflection:** Is there a "sea of trouble" in front of you right now? What would change if you truly believed the Lord goes before you and deals with what stands in the way?

CLOSING PRAYER

ADONAI, teach us to trust You without keeping another source in reserve. Forgive us for the places where fear causes us to look elsewhere for security, answers, provision, or control. When we need rain, teach us to ask You. When we feel unstable, remind us that our foundation and strength come from You. Shepherd us, bind up what is broken, and strengthen what has become weak.

Yeshua, be the cornerstone upon which our lives rest. When a sea of trouble stands before us, help us remember that You go ahead. Remove the barriers, strengthen us in ADONAI, and teach us to walk faithfully in Your Name. Help us live without fear when there is no Plan B, because You are faithful, You are with us, and You are enough.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.