

Zechariah 9

1 The Lord defeats our enemies and causes them to submit when our eyes are on the LORD alone OR ("for" = "with the result that") when He defeats our enemies it causes our eyes turn to Him. (Psalm 132:1-2) God is assuring Israel that not only would they be re-established but their boundaries would be greater than the original promise. (not yet unless you see it as spiritual Israel, but certainly it will be true in the Millennial Kingdom)

2-3 While Israel was suffering under poverty and looked forward to future promises, Tyre was obscenely wealthy and evil and awaited future judgment. Tyre was finally crushed by Alexander the Great.

4-6 Begins with the word "Behold!" – Tyre fell in 332 BC. This is Zechariah's first use of Adonai - Lord. The passage lists four of the 5 great cities of Philistia. Gath may have already fallen. Verse 6 Shifts to first person. Alexander conquered these cities in 5 months dragging the king through the streets until dead, executing thousands and selling the rest into slavery.

7 Like the Jebusites, the survivors would become part of Judah. This was a shocking statement to the Jews of that day. How could Philistines become like a clan in Judah? To some extent it has happened as Palestinians accept Jesus of the tribe of Judah as Messiah. Certainly a greater fulfillment is yet to come.

8 "House" is not just the Temple but the land and its people as well. (Hebrews 3:6 Zechariah 2:5; 4:10) See eyes in verse 1. This is yet to be fulfilled. You can't say this about the first return. I'm not sure you can say it about the recent return. But we will say it in the Millennial Kingdom.

9 What a contrast with the King of Tyre (Ezekiel 28:11-19) and Alexander the Great that fulfilled the above passage. Jesus gentleness is His greatness. (Zephaniah 3:14-15)

Righteous! (Isaiah 11:5; 32:1) Having salvation! (Isaiah 53:11) Both fulfilled in the first coming, but the following verse implies the ultimate fulfillment will be bringing peace from war and worldwide rule. (2Samuel 7:16)

gentle/poor/afflicted (Isaiah 53:2-3; Matthew 11:28-30; 21:2, 7)

10-11 Actually begins with the word "also" *gam* - "you" feminine singular-daughter of Zion/Jerusalem –"blood of the covenant" – Mosaic/Siniatic covenant was the one that called them to obedience, the one they forsook in times past. (Exodus 24:8 / Mark 14:24)- "waterless pit" (Genesis 37:24; Jeremiah 38:6) those still in exile, figuratively captives of sin. What a picture!

12 "Return" (Jeremiah 3:12, 14; 4:1-2) reminds them they didn't listen to Jeremiah and suffered the consequences. From pit to fortress! Sometimes the Lord is referred to as a fortress (Psalm 9:9) "double" (Job 42:10) could also mean restore what they had when they went into exile. Martin Luther used this line as inspiration for his song A Mighty Fortress is Our God.

13 Judah in God's hands can defeat her foes. Greece was not a world power until centuries later. Some use this reference to Greece to say this book was written in the 3rd century, but Greece rebelled against Persia just 20 years after Zechariah authored the book. Though Zion did win battles against Hellenists in 165BC, this must have its ultimate fulfillment in establishing the Millennial Kingdom.

14 A theophany appears to route the enemies of Israel (Exodus 19:16-19) reminding them of how God delivered them from Egypt. "the trumpet" -*sophar*- was used at the beginning of rituals like the Sabbath, momentous events, feasts, and to call to war. (Isaiah 27:13)

15 Reminds them of Isaiah 37:35 when God delivered Jerusalem from the Assyrians. The word "destroy" is literally "devour". "bowl" (Leviticus 4:3-7) there is an abundance as opposed to the scarcity in captivity.

16 (Isaiah 62:3) They are saved because they are precious to God. The question is why? Answer: Merely because He set His love upon them. Kind of like us!

17 Grain and new wine were symbols of prosperity. (Genesis 27:28) When the curse is lifted, the earth will produce abundantly (Isaiah 4:2; Amos 9:13) "They" - Jewels? or the Messiah? Some translators make this third person masculine pronoun "it". I would prefer "He" our beautiful Savior!