

The passage preceding today's passage told of the coming of the Messiah king humbling entering Jerusalem on a donkey. This is the great king that the patriarchs and prophets foresaw (1Peter 1:10-12ⁱ). He is said to bring a new blood covenant that will raise us from death (9:11ⁱⁱ). He will rule from sea to sea (9:10ⁱⁱⁱ). Then I understand the prophecy to move backward in time to an upcoming battle with the Seleucids, a portion of the former Greek empire. The remaining portion of chapter nine seems to jump forward again in time.

¹⁴ Then the LORD will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; the Lord GOD will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south.

¹⁵ The LORD of hosts will protect them, and they shall devour, and tread down the sling stones, and they shall drink and roar as if drunk with wine, and be full like a bowl, drenched like the corners of the altar.

Zechariah 9:14-15 While verse 9 spoke of the Triumphal Entry in peace, verse 14 speaks of the triumphal entry over the world. The prediction of victory over Seleucids is followed in this passage by the final victory over all the enemies of Israel. Later passages expand on God using Judah in those final days which I believe will precede Armageddon. The remnant of Jews who have survived an awful conflict, in which the majority will have perished, will turn to the LORD and He will come and empower them and defend them (13:8^{iv}). The tide of battle will turn, and they will burst out against those who surround them in a great slaughter. The corners of the altar of sacrifice were covered in the blood of the sacrifices. It is a graphic way of saying this remnant will be covered in the blood of their enemies.

It is not unusual for future predictions to jump from one time period to another. When we look at the predictions of the Messiah, we often see the humble first coming in grace and light to the world immediately followed by the second with judgment upon the wicked. Yet, these different events are thousands of years apart. The prophets were seeing distant events in the same way mountain peaks which are far apart can appear to be close together. They are looking into the timelessness of the spiritual realm. Though the predictions are of actual events, the language often applies to circumstances long before the final fulfillment. God uses patterns that repeat to help us understand what He is doing and His design. For example, look at the women in the Bible who played major roles and yet were barren until they supernaturally conceived, Sarah (Genesis 17:17^v), Rebekah (Genesis 25:21^{vi}), Rachel (Genesis 29:31^{vii}), Zechariah's wife (Luke 1:18^{viii}), all of which only foreshadowed the supernatural conception in Mary (Luke 1:34-35^x), and the miracle of being born from above as being a work of God and not man's effort (Titus 3:5^x). DNA is the pattern and language of life but look at the variety. And yet there are sections in each species that are unique, just as fulfillment of prophecies have repeated patterns but one unique application.

¹⁶ On that day the LORD their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. ¹⁷ For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty! Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women. Zechariah 9:16-17 "On that day" is the Day of the Lord. Chapter twelve

makes that very clear. Like many prophecies of the coming of the Messiah, the first and second coming are back to back in this chapter. Though it is "they" who devour and roar, it is the LORD their God who saves them. He is described as a shepherd protecting His flock. The LORD is my shepherd (Psalm 23:1^{xi}). Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11^{xii}) This good and bad shepherd theme will carry over into the next two chapters.

God compares the remnant that He saves to jewels of a crown. Both Isaiah and Malachi use the same language (Isaiah 62:3^{xiii}; Malachi 3:17^{xiv}). The people who had hypocritically fasted and failed so many times in their history would in that day shine with the beauty of the LORD. How great is His goodness that He would have such mercy and grace for us that He would cause His beauty to be seen in us? The New Testament writers say that we are being changed from glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3:18^{xv}). The finished work is Christ likeness (1 John 3:2^{xvi}). We see it to a minor extent now as we manifest the fruits of the Spirit. But in that day, Isaiah declares we will be a crown of beauty in the LORD'S hand. How great is His beauty that He would be so gracious to them and to us! **The more we fix our eyes on the goodness and beauty of the Lord, the less we will be attracted to the world (Psalm 27:4^{xvii}).**

The last lines promising grain to cause young men to flourish and new wine the young women tell us that will be a day of no more want. This is also a common theme of the result of the kingdom arriving. The prophecy of Israel to Judah was that he would tie his colt to the choicest vine (Genesis 49:10-11^{xviii}). In other words, there will be such abundance that that which is precious now will be common in that day.

Zechariah is pointing the people to a future hope to encourage their present labor. In the same way we should be encouraged about what is coming, whether in our lifetime or in a generation yet to come, for we will be a part of that great day. That is why we labor on. That is why we continue to build one another up and share the gospel. Evil will be vanquished once and for all. We will be with our LORD, shining like jewels in a crown, every tear wiped away, and continually filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory (1Peter 1:8^{xix})! To some degree we taste it now as we grow in Christ. The finest of wheat is the bread that came down from heaven, Jesus (John 6:33^{xx}). The new wine is the Holy Spirit who fills our hearts with joy (Galatians 5:22^{xxi}).

¹ Ask rain from the LORD in the season of the spring rain, from the LORD who makes the storm clouds, and he will give them showers of rain, to everyone the vegetation in the field. Zechariah 10:1 Why would Zechariah have to ask the people to ask the LORD for rain? Wouldn't they already be doing that? The previous verse points to a coming day of abundance when the LORD rules over the nations of the earth. That time had not yet come, but every spring rain reminded them the day was coming. This request became part of the Feast of Tabernacles ceremony. When they asked for the much-needed rains, they were also looking forward to that future day in the coming kingdom when the Spirit would be poured out, the refreshing rain of the Spirit, that would be poured out at the spring feast of Pentecost.

In a similar way, we look to the LORD for our needs, we can be looking forward to a day when we stand transformed and transfixed in the presence of the LORD with great joy. Looking forward to blessings that are to come is one way we deal with this present fallen world. That is what Jesus told us in John 14:1-3^{xxii}. Don't let your hearts be troubled for He has gone to prepare a place for us.

² For the household gods utter nonsense, and the diviners see lies; they tell false dreams and give empty consolation. Therefore the people wander like sheep; they are afflicted for lack of a shepherd. Zechariah 10:2 In the period after the return, the Jews did not have a problem with idols. The captivity had broken them of that horrible dependency, so what is Zechariah pointing to? The leaders between the return and the destruction of the temple were for the most part evil and selfish. There were a few rare exceptions. The bad leaders/shepherds had become the new diviners and idols. Their promises were lies and full of empty consolation. They oppressed the poor and did not care for the people. Greed was these shepherds' form of idolatry. That is why the people were to ask for the coming of God's kingdom in asking for rain.

With leaders like these, who needed outside enemies? What will happen to all the promises of the previous chapters if this kind of leaders rule? That is answered in the coming passages which predict the difficult times to come and the rejection of the Messiah.

³ "My anger is hot against the shepherds, and I will punish the leaders; for the LORD of hosts cares for his flock, the house of Judah, and will make them like his majestic steed in battle. Zechariah 10:3 God places leaders in their roles for His purposes, but He holds them accountable for how they govern. If they use the people for their own gain instead of serving them, then God will punish them accordingly (James 3:1^{xxiii}). God used Babylon to punish Judah but then punished Babylon for the excessive severity with which they dealt out that punishment. But He also rewards those who are *servant* leaders and honors them (1Peter 5:4^{xxiv}). Servant leaders have little desire to lead for they know what it will cost them. Wordly leaders crave leadership for personal gain.

God is the good shepherd. His intention is to exalt the house of Judah. Making them a majestic battle steed may have an intermediate fulfillment in the Maccabean revolt but has its ultimate fulfillment when Jesus returns to save Jerusalem. We'll see the details of that in a later chapter. It is an end time prediction that is rarely mentioned.

⁴ From him shall come the cornerstone, from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow, from him every ruler—all of them together. Zechariah 10:4 Here is one of the many passages where the first and second coming intermingle. All three synoptics record Jesus quoting the cornerstone passage in Psalm 118:22^{xxv} as referring to Himself (Matthew 21:42^{xxvi}; Mark 12:10-11^{xxvii}; Luke 20:17^{xxviii}). The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. Those builders were the leaders of the Jewish people. Their teaching and decisions had misled the people. They even rejected the cornerstone that came from the tribe of Judah, Jesus, their long-awaited Messiah.

The tent peg is probably referring to a prophecy regarding Eliakim given by Isaiah in 22:20-25^{xxix}. Eliakim foreshadows the Messiah. There He is called "my servant," a term later in Isaiah applied to the Messiah. Revelation 3:7^{xxx} applies a phrase in that Isaiah passage to Jesus, so we can apply that prophecy to Jesus. The whole honor of His father's house is said to hang on him. But the prophecy ends by saying he will be cut off and all that hung on him (the honor of His father's house, the temple, and all its objects) will fall. This was fulfilled in the crucifixion of Jesus and the destruction of the temple. The battle bow speaks of the Second coming as do the following verses. Every ruler in the Millennial age will come from Him. There will be no more self-seeking rulers.

⁵ They shall be like mighty men in battle, trampling the foe in the mud of the streets; they shall fight because the LORD is with them, and they shall put to shame the riders on horses. ⁶ "I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back because I have compassion on them, and they shall be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the LORD their God and I will answer them. ⁷ Then Ephraim shall become like a mighty warrior, and their hearts shall be glad as with wine. Their children shall see it and be glad; their hearts shall rejoice in the LORD. ⁸ "I will whistle for them and gather them in, for I have redeemed them, and they shall be as many as they were before. Zechariah 10:5-8 Again, we see the intermediate fulfillment in the Maccabean revolt but the final fulfillment on the Day of the Lord. The remnant of Judah will turn to the Lord and be supernaturally empowered. With the Lord leading them, they will defeat the armies that have come to destroy and sack Jerusalem. That is the day when all Israel shall be saved (Romans 11:26-27^{xxxi}). Even now the Lord is bringing the scattered Jewish people back into the land for these last days. Jews are turning to Jesus as the Messiah in increasingly greater numbers.

I wrote this note shortly before we were blessed to have a tiny hand in discipling a Messianic believer before his return to Israel to share Yeshua as the Messiah. But the final fulfillment of this passage will only come after many have perished in that onslaught against Jerusalem. Only then will they truly cry out to God for deliverance and all those who survive will recognize Jesus as Messiah (13:1^{xxxii}).

⁹ Though I scattered them among the nations, yet in far countries they shall remember me, and with their children they shall live and return. ¹⁰ I will bring them home from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria, and I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon, till there is no room for them. Zechariah 10:9-10 The passage again speaks of this great return that we are seeing since 1947 to the present. It is one of the great miracles of our time. A nation that was scattered across the earth two thousand years ago has been reborn. Nothing like that has ever happened in history. Some native Americans have been returned to their ancestral lands after 150 years, but we are speaking of a nation that was spread around the globe return after more than ten times that long. For those with eyes to see, it is a sign of the times (Hosea 3:5^{xxxiii}). So many have returned that there is no room for them. That is why there is a fight over settlements. Jews buy land from Palestinians and build homes that turn into

communities within the borders of the West Bank. The Palestinians don't like losing their land, but they sold it and then want it back.

Notice the prophecy mentions the Lord will give them Gilead and Lebanon. Gilead is the mountainous region northeast of the Jordan known as the Golan Heights. It became part of Israel in the Six Day War just as was predicted here. Lebanon is the nation to the north. Does this predict that it too will become part of Israel?

¹¹ He shall pass through the sea of troubles and strike down the waves of the sea, and all the depths of the Nile shall be dried up. The pride of Assyria shall be laid low, and the scepter of Egypt shall depart. Zechariah 10:11 The sea and its waves are metaphors for people. The picture is of Armageddon when the nations gather to resist the return of Jesus. Assyria and Egypt were the great powers of the past that subjugated the Jews. Just as God laid them low, so He will lay low the scepter or power of those nations that resist Him (Revelation 19:14^{xxxiv}).

¹² I will make them strong in the LORD, and they shall walk in his name," declares the LORD. Zechariah 10:12 The remnant that returns to the LORD will no longer waiver but will be strong in the LORD and walk in His name, which is to say His attributes and authority. Notice the wording "I will make them..." It is God who works in us every good thing (Philippians 2:13^{xxxv}). He is the only solution to our fallen condition. This prophecy points forward to help the people have hope and get the vision for the need to endure the present time. It should help us look forward too, for when this comes to pass we will rule and reign with Jesus (2 Timothy 2:11-12^{xxxvi}), basking in His glory and love. So we, too, should get busy building the spiritual temple one living stone at a time. We, too, should look past the unfaithful shepherds to the Great Shepherd and know all is in His hands. He will bring about this glorious conclusion.

Questions:

- 1 Why do prophecies seem to jump around in future time?
- 2 What is "that day" in 9:16?
- 3 How could we be a crown of beauty in the Lord's hand?
- 4 What is the finest of wheat and the new wine to us?
- 5 Why were they to ask the Lord for rain?
- 6 How does looking to the future help us today?
- 7 What is the cornerstone and the tent peg?
- 8 How is verse eight being fulfilled even now?
- 9 Which prophecies in our passage today have already come to pass?
- 9 To what does 10:11 allude?
- 10 Can verse twelve apply to us too?

ⁱ 1 Peter 1:10-12 (ESV)

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

ii **Zechariah 9:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

iii **Zechariah 9:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

iv **Zechariah 13:8 (ESV)**

⁸ In the whole land, declares the LORD, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive.

v **Genesis 17:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

vi **Genesis 25:21 (ESV)**

²¹ And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

vii **Genesis 29:31 (ESV)**

³¹ When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

viii **Luke 1:18 (ESV)**

¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years."

ix **Luke 1:34-35 (ESV)**

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

x **Titus 3:5 (ESV)**

⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

xi **Psalms 23:1 (ESV)**

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

xii **John 10:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

xiii **Isaiah 62:3 (ESV)**

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

xiv **Malachi 3:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ "They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.

xv **2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)**

¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

xvi **1 John 3:2 (ESV)**

² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

xvii **Psalms 27:4 (ESV)**

⁴ One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

xviii **Genesis 49:10-11 (ESV)**

¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. ¹¹ Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes.

xix **1 Peter 1:8 (ESV)**

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

xx **John 6:33 (ESV)**

³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

xxi **Galatians 5:22 (ESV)**

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

xxii John 14:1-3 (ESV)

¹ "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

xxiii James 3:1 (ESV)

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

xxiv 1 Peter 5:4 (ESV)

⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

xxv Psalm 118:22 (ESV)

²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

xxvi Matthew 21:42 (ESV)

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

xxvii Mark 12:10-11 (ESV)

¹⁰ Have you not read this Scripture: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; ¹¹ this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

xxviii Luke 20:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ But he looked directly at them and said, "What then is this that is written: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone?"

xxix Isaiah 22:20-25 (ESV)

²⁰ In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, ²¹ and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. ²² And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. ²³ And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honor to his father's house.

²⁴ And they will hang on him the whole honor of his father's house, the offspring and issue, every small vessel, from the cups to all the flagons.

²⁵ In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, the peg that was fastened in a secure place will give way, and it will be cut down and fall, and the load that was on it will be cut off, for the LORD has spoken."

xxx Revelation 3:7 (ESV)

⁷ "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

xxxi Romans 11:26-27 (ESV)

²⁶ And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob"; ²⁷ "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins."

xxxii Zechariah 13:1 (ESV)

¹ "On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

xxxiii Hosea 3:5 (ESV)

⁵ Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the LORD and to his goodness in the latter days.

xxxiv Revelation 19:14-15 (ESV)

¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

xxxv Philippians 2:13 (ESV)

¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

xxxvi 2 Timothy 2:11-12 (ESV)

¹¹ The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;