

"Zechariah's First Burden"

Part 8

Zechariah 9-11

Introduction: The last time we were together in Zechariah we looked at the first two verses in Zechariah 10.

Notice Zechariah 10:1-2

The idols here were teraphim which were household idols that were often associated with necromancy which is the practice of attempting to contact the dead. We see in verse 2 that they had received answers but their answers did not come from the dead but they came from demons. Necromancy is still practiced today but no one is hearing from the dead. If they are getting any messages today it is from demons. Let me explain something that will expose much of what is happening with this practice today. People will go to someone who claims to have the ability to contact the dead. This person then begins to reveal certain things about their lives that are accurate. How can this be? Keep in mind that these demons have existed since they were created. Demons never die. Therefore, if they watched the person who died while they were alive, they can know many things about that person's life. So, they then begin to reveal things that the family would know to be true and therefore it appears as though the Psychic is actually talking to the dead.

Notice Zechariah 10:2 again.

I want you to notice that they were "troubled" and they were troubled because the false prophet's messages were not coming to pass. Therefore, they were like sheep with no shepherd. They had turned away from the Lord and Satan was more than happy to provide "leaders" who would lead them down a path of destruction.

I. The True Shepherd

Notice Zechariah 10:3

God would punish the false shepherds. Ezekiel tells us how God views those who mislead His people.

Ezekiel 34:2-10

² Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

³ *Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock.*

⁴ *The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.*

⁵ *And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered.*

⁶ *My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.*

⁷ *Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;*

⁸ *As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;*

⁹ *Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;*

¹⁰ *Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.*

The Jews faced many false teachers because Satan desired to destroy the nation but God would never allow that to happen because He has covenants that need to be fulfilled. The end of Zechariah 10:3 is looking ahead to the 2nd Coming of the Lord. In contrast to the false shepherds there is the True Shepherd. As we look at verses 4-7, we see a description of Israel's King.

Notice Zechariah 10:4

This verse contains a great deal of information about the King of the Kingdom. What is listed here is what the Lord desired and offered to the Jews the first time He came to earth but they rejected Him so what we read here will take place at the end of the Great Tribulation when the Kingdom comes.

1. He is the Corner Stone.

Jesus was offered to the Jews as their Corner Stone. Let us notice what is recorded in Isaiah to better understand what this would mean.

Isaiah 28:7-16

⁷ But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.

⁸ For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.

⁹ Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

¹⁰ For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

¹¹ For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

¹² To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear.

¹³ But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

¹⁴ Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem.

*¹⁵ Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: **for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:***

*¹⁶ Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, **I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation:** he that believeth shall not make haste.*

In Isaiah's day the prophets and the priests were deep into iniquity and were and for this reason their messages were not from the Lord. They were giving the people false hope that would never come about because of sin. They were involved with false gods and therefore their messages were coming from the demonic world. It was very much the same in Zechariah's day. In verse 15 we get a glimpse of the false hope. So, the bottom line was

these people had no foundation for life. That is where verse 16 comes in. God offered them the Corner Stone who would be Jesus Christ and He would provide the foundation they needed.

Now let us get back to Zechariah again.

Notice Zechariah 10:4 again.

Out of Judah would come forth the Corner Stone. To the first century Jews God would offer the Corner Stone which would provide a sure foundation for life. But the problem was they rejected Him. This was foretold in Psalm 122.

Psalm 122:22

²² The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

Luke 20:17-18

¹⁷ And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?

¹⁸ Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

The first century Jews rejected Him and their lives were built on shifting sands. The storms came and they had no foundation.

Application:

What is your life built on? People build their lives upon many different things. Some on wealth, some on health, some on pleasure, some on worldly wisdom and the list continues. If your life is not built upon Jesus Christ, you are greatly deceived because there will come a day when the storms of life will strike and without Him you have no foundation.

Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

²⁵ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

²⁶ And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

²⁷ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

2. He is the Nail.

Notice Zechariah 10:4 again.

The idea here is that Jesus is the Tent Peg. A tent peg was used to hold the tent in place and make it stable. Jesus will be the One who holds the Kingdom in place. He will give stability to the Kingdom and the ways in which it functions. He will be the One who holds it altogether.

Application:

When our lives are built upon the Solid Rock and our lives are anchored with the Nail, we can be sure that when the storms of life come, we may be battered but we shall not be moved.

1 Chronicles 16:25-30

²⁵ For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised: he also is to be feared above all gods.

²⁶ For all the gods of the people are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

²⁷ Glory and honour are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place.

²⁸ Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength.

²⁹ Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

*³⁰ Fear before him, all the earth: the world also **shall be stable**, that it be not moved.*

If ever there was a time when we needed stability for our families it is today with all the worldly wisdom and advice that is demonic and is designed to lead every single person into a life of rebellion against the Lord, especially believers.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that **in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;***

² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

2 Timothy 3:12-13

¹² *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

¹³ **But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.**

There is yet one more point to consider about the King.

3. He is the Battle Bow.

Notice Zechariah 10:4 again.

He is the Battle Bow which means He is the One who can defeat the enemies. This again was the offer to the first century Jews. Had they accepted their King He would have destroyed all the enemies of the Jews as He brought to them the Kingdom.

Application:

He does not offer us the Kingdom today but if we know Him as Lord and Savior, we can rest assured that He fights our battles.

1 Samuel 17:45-49

⁴⁵ *Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.*

⁴⁶ *This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.*

⁴⁷ *And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: **for the battle is the LORD's**, and he will give you into our hands.*

⁴⁸ *And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came, and drew nigh to meet David, that David hastened, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.*

⁴⁹ *And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.*

Conclusion:

Our Lord has defeated the most feared enemy of man.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lord has conquered death and now we do not need to fear death. It is but the passageway to heaven for the believer.

If you are not saved you have no:

1. Solid Foundation
2. Stability
3. Spiritual Protection