

RESTORING THE BROKEN

A Study of Ezra and Nehemiah

Zechariah 9–14

FAIR WARNING - We're dealing with six dense chapters this week, so give yourself plenty of time to read the passage and complete this lesson.

Chapters 9–14 of Zechariah were written decades after chapters 1-8. These later chapters are concerned with the future of Israel, now that the remnant tribes have returned to Jerusalem from exile and the temple has been rebuilt.

These chapters are composed of two oracles or prophecies. The prophecies are full of imagery and allusions, many of which refer to other scriptures, past biblical events, and locations. These references, which would have been familiar to the original readers, give greater depth to the understanding of what is in store for Jerusalem in the future, and in some cases, the far distant future. The theme of these oracles “centers around the judgment and blessing that accompany the appearance of the messianic King.”¹

Read Zechariah 9–11. This first oracle is “the judgment through which Gentile world-power over Israel is finally destroyed and Israel is endowed with strength to overcome their [sic] enemies.”²

1. What kind of plans does the Lord have for the tribes and cities of Israel’s enemies? (9:1-6)

2. We often think of Israel as being made up of the descendants of Abraham only. What hopeful future lies in store for a remnant of the former enemies of God? (9:7b)

In Zechariah 9:7 we see a hint of one of the grand themes of Scripture: God bringing the nations to himself. (See Gen. 12:2-3; Is. 19:23-25; Rev. 21:23-26.)

3. After the Israelites’ enemies are brought low, a king will come to Israel.
 - a. This king comes “righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey” (9:9). What will his kingdom and rule be like? (9:10b)

 - b. Since the fall of man, what has always been the foundation of God’s relationship with his people? (9:11a;  * Heb. 9:11-15)

 - c. What will he do for his people? (9:16-17)

d. Who is the fulfillment of the prophecy in Zechariah 9? (Mt. 21:1-11)

4. What motivates the Lord to care for his people? (10:2, 6; Mt. 9:35-36)

5. While Zechariah is prophesying only a small remnant has returned to the land of Israel, made up mostly of the descendants of the tribes of the southern kingdom of Judah. In Zechariah 10:6 “Judah and Joseph stand for the southern and northern kingdoms as a whole.”³ What are the Lord’s plans for Judah and Joseph (including the tribe of Ephraim, specifically mentioned in 10:7)? (10:6-12;  Ezek. 37:15-23)

Chapter 11 shows us a contrast between two shepherds - who stand for leaders - and a continuation of the prophecy of chapters 9 and 10.

6. In this passage Zechariah acts like a shepherd, foreshadowing the Messiah to come. This first shepherd steps in to care for the flock for their good (11:7), but they detest him (11:8b). Use the chart to describe what happens as a result of their rejection of him.

| | NAME | WHAT IT REPRESENTS | WHAT HAPPENS TO IT |
|---------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| First staff | 11:7b, 10a | 11:10b | 11:10a, 11 |
| Second staff | 11:7b, 14 | 11:14b | 11:14a |

7. The people pay this good shepherd thirty pieces of silver as his severance (11:12).
 a. What does the Lord instruct Zechariah to do with the shepherd’s payment? (11:13)

b. In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus is given over by his disciple, Judas, to the chief priest for thirty pieces of silver (Matt. 26:14-16). What is done with this payment? (Mt. 27:1-10)

8. Now Zechariah gives us a picture of a second, foolish shepherd. In contrast to the way this shepherd acts in verse 11:16, what will a good shepherd be like? (Jn. 10:7-18)

13. Chapter 14 describes confusing and terrible events. “It is helpful to remember that Zechariah 14 is not the only passage in the Bible to predict a great final battle in the last days. Ezekiel describes it in chapters 38 and 39.... There is another description in Daniel 11. In these passages the kings of earth unite against God’s people.”⁶
- a. What will change the course of events? (14:3, 5c)
 - b. In the midst of such chaos, what does Zechariah make very clear about who is in control and who will win the day? (14:9)
 - c. Our focus this year has been God’s restoration of Jerusalem, but in this passage Zechariah takes us far into the future. What vision are we given of the city? (14:11, 16; Compare Zech. 2:5, 10-11; Rev. 21:22-26.)
14. “*Holy to the Lord* was engraved on the plate of gold worn on the turban of the high priest (Ex. 28:36) as an expression and reminder of his consecration, but it was meant to be true of all Israel.”⁷ Verses 14:20-21 show that “on that day” even mundane objects like horse bells and cooking pots will be consecrated and holy in their service to the Lord.
- Our cooking pots are not holy and consecrated in this age on earth, but we are made holy. How does this happen? (Eph. 5:25b-27; Heb. 10:10, 14)

The beauty of these chapters is that Zechariah is constantly pointing forward to Christ, who redeems us, who makes us holy, and who will reign over the earth forever.

This study has been adapted and expanded with permission from a study of the same name by Bridge Community Church, Phila., PA.

 * For Further Study

¹ Kenneth L. Barker, “Zechariah,” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary with the New International Version: Daniel and the Minor Prophets*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelin, vol. 7 (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985), 656.

² David Baron quoted in James Montgomery Boice, *The Minor Prophets: an Expositional Commentary, Micah – Malachi*, vol. 2 (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003), 527.

³ Joyce G. Baldwin, *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi: An Introduction and Commentary*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, ed. D. J. Wiseman (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1972), 175.

⁴ David Baron quoted in Boice, 527.

⁵ Baldwin, 187.

⁶ Boice, 564.

⁷ Baldwin, *Zechariah*, p. 207 quoted in Barker, 697.