

Zechariah 9

Chapter 1-8 – Primarily about the present (The rebuilding of the temple)

-Very optimistic and cheerful

Chapter 9-14 – Two prophecies about the future, especially the coming of the Messiah – There is some gloom in these chapters because of the destruction of some places that is foretold

Zechariah 9.1-8

V1 – Apparently the temple has been built and is finished, but now the Israelites were being threatened by some of their neighbors (Syria and Tyre on the north, and Ashkelon, Gaza, and Ekron on the South)

-How do we know that Zechariah is going to have a “negative” type prophecy at this time?

See *v 1* – “Burden of the Lord” - He didn’t use that phrase in *chapters 1-8*

-And because the word “against”

-Hadrach has not been located today, but apparently it was a town in Damascus

-What compliment is paid to the Israelites here? Their eyes were towards the Lord

V2 – **Who else would be condemned by the Lord?** Tyre and Sidon

-In what sense were Tyre and Sidon “wise”? In a worldly sense (and in their own eyes)

V3 – **What did Zechariah say about Tyre?** They thought they were well fortified and very rich (silver like dust; gold like mud on the street)

V4 – **What would happen to Tyre?** They would be defeated in battle, and their wealth would be pushed into the sea and burned with fire

-What great general of the ancient world did this? Alexander the Great in 332 BC

V5 – **What would happen to Ashkelon and Gaza?** They would live in terror because of the fall of Tyre

-Ekron would be confused

-Fate for Gaza? King would be killed

-Ashkelon? Would not be inhabited again

V6 – **Fate for Ashdod?** A mongrel race would live there

-The pride of the Philistines would be cut off

V7 – **Why would the Philistines have blood in their mouths?** They ate blood because of their pagan worship

-This was absolutely forbidden under the Old Testament and New Testament

-Old Testament: **Read Leviticus 17.10-14**

-New Testament: **Read Acts 15.29**

V7-6 – Philistines would be absorbed into the Jewish nation (according to Josephus, this did happen)

-It is interesting that today we don’t have any Philistines left in the world

V8 – A reference to Alexander the Great

- Alexander the Great would pass through the area before the coming of the Messiah
- What purpose would Alexander the Great serve in preparing the way for the Messiah?** The Greek Language (language of the New Testament and also the Septuagint)

Zechariah 9.9-10

- V 9** – Characteristics of the king of the Jews (when He came); he would be just and would have salvation, and he would come riding on a donkey - **Read Luke 19.37-40**
- So when Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey, he was declaring that he was Zechariah's Messiah

- V 10** – **What would be the characteristic of his reign as king?** Peace
- What would be the dimensions of his reign?** Sea to sea

Zechariah 9.11-17

- V 11** – God was going to be with the Jews – just as you would put prisoners in a “waterless pit” (a horrible death)

- V 12** – God was giving hope to Israel once again

- V 13** – **What enemy would God help the Jews defeat?** The Greeks
- This was fulfilled by the Maccabean rebellion (details: *Beacon Bible Commentary*, Vol. 5, p. 386)

- V 14** – **Other symbols of God's victory?** Arrows like lightning, the Lord's trumpet will blow

- V 15** – The Jews would defeat their enemies

- V 16** –**How are the Israelites describe in v 16?** The people of God (stones in his crown)

- V 17** – This is how the land will be: the young men will have enough grain to eat and the virgin girls would be happy
- God was going to take care of the Israelites – their coming battles, even Alexander the Great would not be able to conquer them.

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