

Zechariah 9-11 The Great, The Greatest, The Worst (The Minor Prophets)

In 1958 Thomas Watson was the president of IBM corporation.

A)He did not see the future of computers – He was quoted as saying: **“I think there will be a world market for about 5 computers.”**

B)Where I Found that quote? on the internet.

C)Sometimes people just can't see what is ahead in the future.

1)The future can seem shrouded in MYSTERY.

Zechariah writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit had keen insight into the future.

A)He saw the rebuilding of the temple in his present time – all the way to the **first coming of Christ and his crucifixion** –

B)Then even further into the future to the coming of the Antichrist – the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ

1)The battle of Armageddon

2)The Millennial reign of the Messiah.

C)The book of Zechariah ends with 2 oracles – 2 messages – that are divided equally into 6 chapters each – 9-11 and 12-14

1)SIX chapters that are full of amazing prophecies

D)We are going to look at the first oracle tonight chapters 9-11

1)and we will look at the 2nd oracle when we get back from Israel in 2 weeks

Chapter 9 begins with a prophecy concerning the coming of Alexander the Great!

A)Title: **The Great** {Alexander} **The Greatest** {Jesus} **The worst** {Antichrist} – all three are depicted in these 3 chapters

B)The Preparation for the King (**Zech. 9:1-8**).

1)The Coming of the Great:

Now you might read that and think, so what, sounds like a list of cities and it is just that.

A)But understand what we just read historically describes what happened 200 years after this book was written.

B)The Persian Empire who was in power at the time of this writing was defeated by the Greeks and Alexander the Great.

C)The Prophet Daniel wrote in Ch 7:6 of a coming world empire – a leader he compared him to a **winged leopard** –

1)Swiftness with which he would conquer

D)Zechariah is describing the same thing in amazing detail

E)As he reveals **the exact path of cities mentioned in these 8 verses** as he came through the middle East

Alexander defeated the Persians in 333 B.C. at the Battle of Issus and then turned to conquer the leading cities in Phoenicia.

A)Now, because of their naval power, the Phoenicians became an extremely wealthy people.

B)Zechariah describes it here, V.3 **"They heaped up silver as the dust, and fine gold like mud in the streets."**

C)When Alexander came through the area – He demanded that the great Phoenician city of Tyre capitulate.

D)They refused to do it, and so Alexander began a seven-month battle against the city of Tyre,

1)after seven months he finally took it.

And just as Zechariah predicted in v.4 Alexander burned the city of Tyre to the ground after he conquered it, **because of the fact that they dared to defy him.**

A)And after he took the city of Tyre, the Philistines in Ashkelon were so frightened Zech - V.5

B)History tells us they reasoned: **"If that powerful city fell to this man, surely we cannot stand."**

1)Most of them just sort of surrendered to Alexander. **So Alexander the Great, conquered all of the cities of the southern coastal plains of Israel.**

A)After a two-month siege of Gaza, Alexander took the city and then went to Jerusalem.

Aa)He was unhappy with the Jews because they had refused to pay him the annual tribute that they usually gave to the Persians.

B) The high priest in Jerusalem called for the people to fast and pray, and he presented sacrifices to the Lord to seek His special protection.

C) According to the Jewish Historian Josephus –

The night before Alexander and his army were to arrive at Jerusalem, the high priest had a dream in which God told him to adorn the city,

tell the people to dress in white garments, and open the gates to their visitor.

The high priest and the other priests would head the procession dressed in their holy robes.

D) This they did, and Alexander was so impressed that he welcomed them in peace.

1) The high priest told Alexander about Daniel's prophecies concerning him, and **Alexander even offered sacrifices to Jehovah in the temple.**

E) Thus, the city and the people were spared- just as Zechariah prophesied in V.8

“I will camp around My house because of the army, because of him who passes by and him who returns”

Now How did the coming of Alexander play into the Preparation for the coming of Christ?

A) Alexander the Great's conquests helped to prepare the world for the coming of Jesus Christ by

- ❖ building Greek cities,
- ❖ spreading Greek culture
- ❖ and the Greek language, - NT written in Greek.

B) Alexander unified the region and when the Romans took over, they found an empire all prepared for them.

C) And the combination of Greek culture, **Roman government, roads, and laws**, was just what the early church needed for the spread of the Gospel.

D) So v.1-8 coming of Alexander the great prepared the way for the first Coming of Jesus!

**The Presentation of the King (v. 9)
The greatest shows up!**

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!

**Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation,
Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.**

This prophecy was fulfilled when Christ rode into Jerusalem on what we traditionally call “Palm Sunday,

A) AN event recorded in all four Gospels

B) This is the only public demonstration Jesus allowed during His ministry- anytime they tried to make him King – NOT TIME...GLORIFIED.

1) But He actually orchestrated this event to fulfill Scripture.

Zechariah tells us HOW HE WOULD ARRIVE and by putting this prophecy about Jesus right after his prophecy concerning Alexander the Greatest

A) He was obviously inviting his readers to contrast the two conquerors.

B) Alexander came on a Stallion like most generals and his arrival brought fear to people,

1) Jesus came lowly in humility riding on a donkey – the people rejoiced at His coming!

2) HOSANNA – **SAVE NOW..... Blessed is he who comes.....**

C) The whole story was amazing – Jesus telling His disciple, **hey go into the city, you will see a donkey that has never been ridden tied up,**

1) Tell the man who owns it, the master had need of it, and he will let you have it

D) **Someone walks up to me and starts climbing into my car – what are you doing –**

E) The master has need – tell the master to get his own car

1) But here the OWNER SAYS OK - This was a miracle

But more than a miracle,

A) it was prophecy fulfilled – as Jesus entered Jerusalem, lowly, humble – the very day Daniel had prophesied He would come

Daniel ch.9:25 Daniel gives an amazing prophecy that from the going forth of the command..... rebuilt the city and walls..... Messiah comes

A) King Artaxerxes – Nehemiah 445 BC – Daniel said – using a lunar calendar

B) Count 173,880 days – takes you to April 6th AD 32 – triumphal entry

C) Zechariah and Daniel depict the incredible accuracy of Bible prophecy

AS we come to v.10 Zechariah starts talking about the 2nd coming of Christ

A) In these two verses 9,10 we have prophecy concerning the 1st and 2nd coming of Christ.

B) Often times when the prophets were seeing these future prophetic events they would see them as someone looking at **a MT range from a distance**

1) From a distance it looks like ONE GIANT PEAK

C) But as you get closer you see there are two peaks with a valley in between

1) That is what Zechariah sees here:

From a distance He sees the peak of the first coming of Christ – pressed right up against the peak of his 2nd coming

A) What He doesn't see is the valley in between – a period known as the church age – a 2,000 year gap

B) During which time the Church would be birthed and the New Covenant established

1) Paul referred to this as the Mystery – it was hidden in the OT – revealed in the NT.

C) There was a reason Jesus came in humility at His triumphal entry:

1) He was coming as a lamb – not a lion –

D) Coming to offer Himself up as a Sacrifice for Sin – Offer salvation to man – see the Church Birthed

But there is coming a day coming in the future: Sooner than later

A) Jesus will come again: **This time riding on a White horse:** Coming to Conqueror – Comes as a King – The greatest King

B) That is what Zechariah sees in V.10

READ V.10-15

At the beginning of World War I, British author

H.G. Wells published a book “The War That Will End War.”

A) On November 11, 1918, at the end of the Great War, Prime Minister David Lloyd George said to the British Parliament,

“At eleven o'clock this morning came to an end the cruelest and most terrible war that has ever scourged mankind. I hope we may say that thus, this fateful morning, came to an end all wars.”

B) But Wells' title proved wrong and Lloyd George's wish was never fulfilled, for war is still with us.

C) However, when Jesus Christ comes again, He will “speak peace” (v. 10) which means “proclaim peace,”

1) His words carry authority and things happen unlike our politicians today.

D) Talked before about how the battle of Armageddon.....not much of a battle- He speaks – the enemies are conquered

V.14 His arrow goes forth like Lightning – His Power on display is quick and it is fierce.

A) V.15 the Blood shed is on display like the blood that flows from the altar of sacrifice – visually seen.

B) Revelation 14:20 gives further insight – Blood seen for 200 miles – blood up to the horses bridle – like an ocean of blood.

1) In the Valley of Megiddo

C) Go to Israel see this Valley consider that passage – Ominous

V.16 The LORD their God will save them in that day,

As the flock of His people.

For they shall be like the jewels of a crown, Lifted like a banner over His land—

¹⁷ For how great is its goodness And how great its beauty!

Grain shall make the young men thrive, And new wine the young women.

D) After all that bloodshed comes the Joy of the renovation and restoration of planet earth- the clean up and the reign of Jesus

Ch.10 Continues that thought:

Ask the Lord for rain In the time of the latter rain. The Lord will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, Grass in the field for everyone.

A)The latter rain – that comes in early March – May – was the 2nd outpouring that everyone looked forward to.

B)The latter rain was important for the ripening of the grain for harvest

C)All of this is predictive of how the Kingdom of the Age of Jesus will be prosperous and the physical changes on the earth – dramatic

1)Incredible changes in the atmosphere:

D)Here are some examples of what it will be like

❖ Isaiah 11:6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them.”

PETS

❖ Isaiah 35:1-2 The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing.

E)Health and longevity is promised:

❖ Isaiah 65:20 He who dies at 100 will be considered a youth {SO AND SO DIED – how old? 130, so young

Read Ch.10 V.2-4

Before Israel went into captivity they got into trouble with idolatry because they lacked good leaders – shepherds

A)But when Jesus comes under His leadership His timid flock will resemble a WAR HORSE.

B)IN V.4 The phrase From Him – appears 4 times depicting the leadership of Jesus the messiah

C)From Him – is directly connected to the tribe of Judah in V.3 that is the context – Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah

1)From Him – Judah comes the cornerstone – a title used of Jesus frequently in Scripture – The stone that was rejected..... cornerstone

From him – the tent peg:

A)In Ancient middle eastern culture - There was a central pole that held the tent together

B)On that central pole in the middle of tent was a tent peg

1)all of your valuables were kept on that peg in the center of the tent

C)It was the center of life in the tent and all the valuables were connected to it!

1)Exactly who Jesus wants to be in our lives! – CENTER – FOCUS

From him the battle bow, every ruler together

❖ Everything will rest on him: the Cornerstone

❖ Everything centers around him: he is the tent peg

❖ Everything and everyone is subject to him: the battle bow

❖ All leaders will be loyal to him: every ruler together

READ CH.10 V.5-7

All of Israel gathered together again to the Lord-

A)He hasn't lost any of the tribes – he knows exactly where they are in that day – Millennial reign –

B)They shall be gathered to Him – North and South – Ezekiel 37:22 “I will make them one nation again.”

C)I like V.8 I will whistle for them and gather them, For I will redeem them; And they shall increase as they once increased.

D)I am not a good whistler – Anyone a good whistler:

E)Jesus is going to whistle: Draw his people together – the Jews scattered all over the planet. – Hear his whistle – come to Him

READ CH.10 V.9-12

A)His people have been scattered abroad – but they have been protected and they have prospered – like they did in Egypt – in Babylon

B)But in that day the scattered will be gathered and they will be blessed – when Jesus comes at his 2nd coming and sets up His KINGDOM

C)Now We the Church: We are with Jesus – new bodies – Ruling – Reigning

D)The Jewish people who embrace Him – who are alive on planet earth are going to have a prominent place.

1)They are all going to be **JEWES FOR JESUS**
V.12 They shall walk up and down in His Name!

Now Ch.11 Stands in Contrast to what we just read concerning the Joys and blessings of the Messiah's reign in the Millennial Kingdom

A)Chapter 11 is about the CONSEQUENCES of rejecting Jesus in His first coming.

B)The imagery is that of a forest fire that sweeps across the land –

1) this doesn't fit with the Babylonian invasion of the past

C)But seems to be describing a future invasion – THE INVASION of the Romans in 70 A.D. When the Romans

Open your doors, O Lebanon, That fire may devour your cedars.

2 Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, Because the mighty trees are ruined. Wail, O oaks of Bashan, For the thick forest has come down.

When the Romans invaded Jerusalem in A.D. 70 led by the Roman general Titus – They came from the north through the forest of Lebanon

A)They surrounded Jerusalem –They were fixated upon the gold in the temple. - turning over stones

B)Set the temple on Fire – to get to the gold – burned through the city

C)Devastating Loss!

3 There is the sound of wailing shepherds!
For their glory is in ruins. There is the sound of roaring lions! For the pride of the Jordan is in ruins.
The leaders were devastated

***Pay back for their faulty care of God's flock!**

4 Thus says the Lord my God, "Feed the flock for slaughter, 5 whose owners slaughter them and feel no guilt; those who sell them say, 'Blessed be the Lord, for I am rich'; and their shepherds do not pity them.

When Jesus came on the scene at his first coming – Israel was being led by selfish lousy shepherds

A)The religious leaders were crooked – they had set up a whole racket in the temple courtyard where they took advantage of people

B)Roman coins for temple shekels at a lousy exchange rate

1)Lambs with blemish – the whole thing was a racket

C)They were ripping people off but saying V.5 look how blessed we are – For I am rich –TV evangelist today

D)Jesus twice came into the temple – Beginning of ministry and at the end – **Cleansed it – made a whip – turned over tables – Fathers house den of thieves**

E)Those religious leaders hated him for it

6 For I will no longer pity the inhabitants of the land," says the Lord. "But indeed I will give everyone into his neighbor's hand and into the hand of his king. They shall attack the land, and I will not deliver them from their hand."

Often how God judges – He lifts his hand of protection ‘

7 So I fed the flock for slaughter, in particular the poor of the flock. I took for myself two staves: the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bonds; and I fed the flock. 8 I dismissed the three shepherds in one month. **(Scribes – Pharisees – Sadducees) My soul loathed them, and their soul also abhorred me.**

The religious leaders didn't like Jesus and He didn't like them either – He would drive out the false shepherds

A)Jesus was the true shepherd – represented by these two staves

B)Beauty = Favor or Grace – Bonds = Union

C)The Ancient Shepherds of Israel carried two staves –

1)One long hook – pulling in the sheep – pulling close

D)The other was more of a Rod – fight off Predators

E)David: Psalm 23 – **Your Rod and your staff comfort me**

Jesus came on the scene: Pulling in the weary and down trodden – His heart was to feed the flock

A)And He used the word of God like a Rod to beat off the Predators the religious leaders who only desired to take from God's people

B)To those false shepherds the Lord Says:

9 Then I said, "I will not feed you. Let what is dying die, and what is perishing perish. Let those that are left eat each other's flesh." 10 **And I took my staff, Beauty, and cut it in two,** that I might break the covenant which I had made with all the peoples.

11 So it was broken on that day. Thus the poor of the flock, who were watching me, knew that it was the word of the Lord.

D)V.10 The Staff Beauty is cut or broken in two

This is a reference to the cross of Christ

A)Jesus – God's beauty – His picture of grace and favor was broken at Calvary for you and me.

B)The Death of Christ also signaled the breaking or the end of the Old Covenant

C)Jesus at Passover: took the bread and broke – this is my body broken for you

1)Took the cup – the cup of the New Covenant –

See the Old Covenant – the Law – Said Do

A)Keep these commands – you do this and I will do that says the Lord – IF THEN COVENANT

B)AT the death of Jesus – God was putting an end to the old covenant

C)Not because the Old Covenant was not perfect: The law of the Lord is perfect –

1)The Problem was not in the law – the problem was with man

D)Man's inability to keep the law –

1)Paul in Galatians – School Master: Drive us to grace

E)At Calvary Jesus initiated a New Covenant – FINISHED!!!!

1)NOT DO BUT DONE

2)NOT OUR WORKS BUT HIS!!!

That is what Zechariah is depicting here:

12 Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.

13 And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter. 14 Then I cut in two my other staff, Bonds, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

Now once again notice the detail:

A)Here Zechariah predicts what would happen to Jesus – we read in the gospels – **he was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver- {Price of a one eyed slave**

B)Afterwards Judas felt guilty and brought the money back – threw it down in the house of the Lord

C)Blood money – tainted: So they used to it buy a potters field

D)Here we see **Three prophecies concerning Jesus' first coming in these 2 verses.**

E)Zechariah predicts with incredible detail what Judas would do in betraying Jesus

We look and we have great disdain at Judas Iscariot that he would do such a dastardly thing,

A)Selling out his Lord and so cheaply.

B)But yet, there are people, multitudes of people today who are just as guilty as Judas Iscariot.

C)They are selling their relationship with God for the paltry offerings that the enemy offers to them.

1)People are selling their souls for illicit relationships, the indulgence of their flesh.

Jesus asked the question, **"What will a man give in exchange for his soul?"**

D)And I'm amazed at what people will give in exchange for their soul.

1)Trade a relationship with God and heaven for so little. – SO SAD

WRAP THIS UP

Right after talking about the people rejecting the True Shepherd Jesus Christ –

A)Zechariah sees another Shepherd coming on the scene, the false shepherd, the opposite of the true Christ, the Antichrist

Jesus said, **"I came in My Father's name you wouldn't receive Me. Another is going to come in his own name, and him you're going to receive."**

B)Verse 15, Zechariah predicts the coming of the Antichrist,

1))**AND in the initial onset of his reign, the JEWS will acknowledge and worship as their Messiah.**

15 And the Lord said to me, "Next, take for yourself the implements of a foolish shepherd.

16 For indeed I will raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for those who are cut off, nor seek the young, nor heal those that are broken, nor feed those that still stand. But he will eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces

17"Woe to the worthless shepherd,
Who leaves the flock!

A sword shall be against his arm

And against his right eye;

His arm shall completely wither,

And his right eye shall be totally blinded."

This man is coming on the scene I believe very soon – and the nation of Israel is set up for deception –

A)When you go over to Israel now and ask the question how they will know when Messiah comes on the scene and their response is – **He will rebuild the temple**

B)Daniel 9 – 7 year treaty with Israel

1)1st 3 1/2 yrs peace

C)Middle – Abomination of desolation

D)Demonic in his persecution of Israel

E)HE WILL BE THE WORST – Israel has ever seen: 3 1/2 years

V.17 Zechariah adds He is a counterfeit Messiah

A)Right down to the point – He is wounded in his arm and eye but seems to miraculously recover

B)Revelation 13 tells us that this is why some people will even worship him

C)Satan is into Counterfeits

Have you ever watched people at rock concerts after becoming a true worshipper – they have their lighters out, they are crying, they are longing for the experience of worship, but all they have is this cheap counterfeit –

Jesus Promises a Peace that lasts: Satan a temporary or false peace

Jesus promises – Joy

Satan Happiness: Based on Happenings

Some are considered great! – Their fame fades

Jesus the Greatest: Light of the world

A)Coming in glory

B)Reject Him – left with the Worst

C)Antichrist – all about himself – Satan's puppet to bring men to eternal Damnation