

The King Rejected: Messiah's First Coming

Zechariah 9-11

The temple was finished in 515 BC. Thirty-five years later, Zechariah received revelations from God with details of future events. It is not a pretty picture, but it is a 'burden' the prophet must bear.

The Coming King (9)

- God directs the fate of nations and guards Israel (1-8)
- The King arrives with promise of peace and plenty (9-17)

God's Dedication to His People (10)

- Evil leaders leave Israel like 'sheep without a shepherd' (1-3a)
- God desires to empower and restore His people (3b-12)

The Fate of the Good Shepherd (11)

- A sound of wailing, and a flock doomed to slaughter (1-6)
- The Good Shepherd rejected; a foolish shepherd rules (7-17)

Why does God reveal the rejection of Messiah Jesus?

- Knowing sin's results cause us to turn from it.
- We can see God's heart is always for our good.
- In darkest times, hope is not lost.



1. To grasp the overall significance of Zechariah 9-11, grab a cup of coffee or a glass of water, get comfortable, and read these chapters. It takes less than 15 minutes. The English heading is "An Oracle" or "A Burden," which translates the Hebrew word *maśśā*. In prophetic literature it describes a message from God which the prophet carries like a burden, a message of judgment he would not have chosen to give, but as a prophet of God, he must speak. After reading the chapters, why is this message a 'burden' to Zechariah?
2. The first half of chapter 9 is confusing: God's sovereign guiding of nations is on display. World powers rise and fall, but His 'eye' is on Israel. What does v9 point to? Who is the king? The remainder of chapter 9 describes a time of world peace and plenty. When will this king rule over such a kingdom?
3. In 10.1-3a, God's anger is aroused toward Israel's spiritual leaders, who lead them astray. These false shepherds left Israel floundering spiritually. See Matt. 9.36 and Mk. 6.34 for a fulfillment of this.
4. The rest of chapter 10 continues the description of a time of peace and plenty that Israel will one day experience. What prophecies in these verses may reflect events in recent years?
5. Zech. 11.1-3 is a somber poetic prelude to what is coming. What is the 'theme' of this poem? Notice the stark contrast between what it depicts, and the wonderful expectation of the previous chapters!
6. God now reveals what is coming through an allegory of shepherds. Suddenly, the stupendous visions of peace are shattered. Zechariah first 'plays the role' of a good shepherd (cf. John 10.11, 14) who is rejected. The 'staffs' with which the good shepherd would lead his flock are shattered. What event in Christ's life does Zech. 11.12-13 allude to (see Matt. 26.14-16; 27.3-10)? With Israel doomed to yet another time of judgment, Zechariah's 'oracle' depicts a foolish or worthless shepherd (11.15-17). What pain and misery mankind has endured because of rejecting the Good Shepherd!