

ZECHARIAH

Chapter Ten

Introduction

An event that occurred about two hundred years prior to Zechariah chapter ten puts it into perspective. It is found in Second Samuel chapter seven. Listen as I read it to you.

2 Samuel 7:1 Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around,

2 Samuel 7:2 that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains."

2 Samuel 7:3 Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that *is* in your heart, for the LORD *is* with you."

2 Samuel 7:4 But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying,

2 Samuel 7:5 "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in?"

2 Samuel 7:6 For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle.

2 Samuel 7:7 Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'"

2 Samuel 7:8 Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.

2 Samuel 7:9 And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who *are* on the earth.

2 Samuel 7:10 Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously,

2 Samuel 7:11 since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.

2 Samuel 7:12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

2 Samuel 7:13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

2 Samuel 7:14 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son...

2 Samuel 7:16 And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

God had spoken to David about building a house; about being a shepherd over Israel; and about establishing a kingdom on earth forever. Fast-forward to the sixth century BC and Zechariah chapter ten. *He spoke to the Jews Zechariah was writing to about these same subjects!* The Jews could not help but reflect upon this passage in Second Samuel. With the Lord's help they were building

the Lord's house, but their hope was in the Lord's coming to shepherd them as King over the kingdom of heaven on the earth.

We'll keep this in mind as we organize our thoughts around these two points: #1 Look To Jesus For Help In Building Your House, and #2 Look For Jesus In Hope Of Building His House.

#1 Look To Jesus For Help
In Building Your House
(v2)

We looked at verse one in context with chapter nine, so we begin with verse two.

Zechariah 10:2 For the idols speak delusion; the diviners envision lies, and tell false dreams; they comfort in vain. Therefore *the people* wend their way like sheep; they are in trouble because *there is* no shepherd.

Verse two is a simplified summary of the years between King David and the Jews who were currently rebuilding the Temple. God's idea of a king for His people on earth was someone who would lead them as a shepherd leads a flock. Thus God's choice for their first king was David, the shepherd-boy who would become their shepherd-king. After David died, as the Jews turned away from God and went after various idols, they became like sheep without a shepherd. Sheep without a shepherd can only be described as being "in trouble." The nation of Israel had fallen into various types of idolatry. It had split into two separate kingdoms – Israel to the north and Judah to the south. Israel had been overrun by the Assyrian Empire. Judah had been overrun by the Babylonian Empire.

Now under Persian rule, the Jews had been allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild their Temple. They had no king over them. The sixth century Jews were to reflect upon and reject the idolatry of their ancestors and look forward to the coming of the future Shepherd-King from the line of David through the tribe of Judah.

The particular word for "idols" in verse two is *teraphim*. Teraphim were small figurines in human-like form. They are sometimes called "household idols" because of their widespread popularity in Hebrew households. They were associated with the other occult practices

listed in verse two: “speak[ing] delusion,” “divin[ation],” and “tell[ing] false dreams.”

1. "Speaking delusion" might refer to the practices of channeling or conversing with the dead.
2. "Divination" involves *dividing*, such as dividing the arrangement of animal parts or cards or dice or some other such objects and, by their positioning, divining a message. It also involves dividing the starry heavens through astrology.
3. "Telling false dreams" would be the interpretation of dreams. The Magi of Babylon were famous for their libraries of dream interpretation.

The simple point here is that the Jews should continue to look to the Lord and His Word for wisdom and *not* consult the teraphim of their ancestors through various occult devices and strategies.

So should we! Psychics and soothsayers come right into your living room today via television. There are at least a couple of weekly TV shows involving talking to the dead, not to mention the many psychic “friends” you can call. Astrology is a more accepted form of the occult. I would add to this list a large segment of psychotherapy that seeks to interpret human behavior according to non-biblical models of human nature; or that employs very obvious occult techniques, such as hypnosis, visualization, regression, or the like.

Why do people consult the occult? They are looking for help with life. *Look to the Lord for help with your life!* He is the creator and giver of life; He says of Himself “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” **Any** and **every** help you need has been provided by God in His Word. You do not need to consult the occult.

Your life is the house you are building. Jesus provides you with ample building *materials*, and with amazing building *methods*. He is your help in building your house in every sense of the word.

#2 Look For Jesus In Hope
Of Building His House
(v3-12)

The remaining verses look forward to the return of the Lord as the Shepherd-King Who will rule over the kingdom of heaven on the earth. This future kingdom is sometimes called the Millennium because it lasts for one-thousand years, and “millennium” means *one thousand*.

The Millennium will be the fulfillment of God’s unconditional promises to David in Second Samuel chapter seven. Jesus is the “seed... who will come from [David’s] body” to “build a house” and a “kingdom” on the earth that will “be established forever.” At His Second Coming God “will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously...”

Thus, as the Jews worked on the Lord’s house, they hoped for the Lord to come and build His house in fulfillment of His promises to David.

The coming Shepherd-King is Jesus Christ, Whom the Jews would reject in His first coming. We know it’s Jesus because He is called the “cornerstone” in verse four – a title Jesus used of Himself and that the apostles Paul and Peter also used to identify Jesus.

I want to give you an overview of these verses, then return to the description of Jesus in verse four.

In verses three and five you see the Coming of the Shepherd-King:

Zechariah 10:3 “My anger is kindled against the shepherds, and I will punish the goatherds. For the LORD of hosts will visit His flock, the house of Judah, and will make them as His royal horse in the battle.

Zechariah 10:5 They shall be like mighty men, who tread down *their enemies* in the mire of the streets in the battle. They shall fight because the LORD is with them, and the riders on horses shall be put to shame.

We would identify this as the Battle of Armageddon, which occurs at the end of the seven-year Tribulation, at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to the earth.

The “shepherds” of verse three include any and all false rulers at the time of the Second Coming of Jesus. “Goatherds” are any and all

unbelievers alive at that time. God is promising Israel, here called “the house of Judah,” that they will triumph at the coming of their Shepherd-King. He will make them “as His royal horses... like mighty men.” In other words, they will seem weak and indefensible until He comes; then they will be strong and undefeatable! In verses six, seven, and eight you see the Calling of the Shepherd-King:

Zechariah 10:6 “I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back, because I have mercy on them. They shall be as though I had not cast them aside; for I *am* the LORD their God, and I will hear them.

Zechariah 10:7 *Those of Ephraim* shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as if with wine. Yes, their children shall see *it* and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD.

Zechariah 10:8 I will whistle for them and gather them, for I will redeem them; and they shall increase as they once increased.

Jesus is the Son of David that is promised in Second Samuel seven and elsewhere. The future seven-year Tribulation period of which so much is described in Scripture is essentially a time during which God is preparing the hearts of Jews on earth to receive Jesus as their Shepherd-King. Because of His “mercy” God will “save” the Jews. Later in Zechariah you're told that the Jews will look upon the One that their ancestors “pierced” and receive Him (12:10).

He mentions “The house of Judah... Joseph... and Ephraim.” Judah reminds you again that the Shepherd-King will be a descendant of David. Joseph and Ephraim are two of tribes and they represent all of the tribes, all of Israel.

When God says “I will whistle for them,” He is referring to the call of a shepherd for his sheep. Sheep only respond to the call of their own shepherd. At His Second Coming, the nation of Israel will respond to the call of their Shepherd-King and be saved to enter the kingdom on earth.

In verse nine, ten, and eleven you see the Covenant of the Shepherd-King:

Zechariah 10:9 “I will sow them among the peoples, and they shall remember Me in far countries; they shall live, together with their children, and they shall return.

Zechariah 10:10 I will also bring them back from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon, until no *more room* is found for them.

Zechariah 10:11 He shall pass through the sea with affliction, and strike the waves of the sea: all the depths of the River shall dry up. Then the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the scepter of Egypt shall depart.

Prior to the Second Coming of Jesus, Jews will be “sow[n]” “among the peoples” of the earth, the Gentiles. *That has certainly been true!*

At His Second Coming Jesus will regather them into the land He has unconditionally promised them. “Egypt” and “Assyria” are used to represent all the nations which have enslaved or persecuted the Jews throughout the centuries. “Gilead” and “Lebanon” represent the entire Promised Land. As the Jews are regathered, God will punish her enemies – as He did the Egyptian and Assyrian armies.

God **has not** and **cannot** forget His unconditional covenants to the Jews.

In verse twelve you see the Care of their Shepherd-King:

Zechariah 10:12 “So I will strengthen them in the LORD, and they shall walk up and down in His name,” says the LORD.

The Jews will “walk up and down” to be “strengthened” as if they were sheep out in a rich pasture under the watch of a shepherd. The Lord Jesus Christ will care for Israel as God intended all along.

Now look back to verse four. It stands alone as a four-fold description of the Shepherd-King. He is described as “the cornerstone, the tent peg... the battle bow...” and “every ruler together.”

The “battle bow” and “every ruler together” focus your attention on His *arrival*. The “cornerstone” and the “tent peg” focus your attention on His *accomplishments*.

At His arrival, Jesus will Himself be the “battle bow” and “every ruler together.” The “battle bow” represents all weapons of war. It means that Jesus will Himself and by His own power overcome every weapon that is fashioned against Him at His Second Coming.

Jesus will be “every ruler together.” It’s an odd phrase. The word “ruler” means *oppressor*. It means that Jesus will be the Ruler Who overcomes every oppressor. None can withstand Him – *then or ever again!*

As to His accomplishments, Jesus is the “cornerstone” and “tent peg.” The cornerstone, or capstone, was the principle stone in the foundation of a building. The Jews were promised a Messiah Who would be the chief cornerstone of the spiritual house they were promised (Isaiah 28:16). They were told that their descendants would reject the chief cornerstone (Psalm 118:22, 23). In the New Testament, Jesus would call Himself the chief cornerstone (Matthew 21:42). Paul and Peter both wrote that Jesus was the fulfillment of this figure.

Jesus is the “tent peg.” That won’t mean much until you understand ancient construction. The walls were of materials like brick or clay. Nails or spikes could not be driven into the walls after they were built without damaging them. Yet there was a real need for such nails or spikes to act as pegs to hang utensils and other items upon. So, as houses were built, pegs were built right into the walls. This is the word translated “tent peg.”

These pegs also served to hold the walls together – like rebar in concrete. Jesus is the cornerstone upon which the spiritual house it built, *and* He holds it all together.

Jesus, in His Second Coming, will accomplish all that God promised in Second Samuel seven (and elsewhere).

The Jews had this hope of the coming of their Messiah to build the “house” they had been promised. The house was and is much more than a building; it is a heritage, it is a kingdom – it is the kingdom of heaven on earth ruled by their Shepherd-King Who is Jesus Christ.

You and I hope for Jesus to come; you and I have hope in the building of His house.

Our hope is a little different. It is not in the Second Coming. The hope we have is the coming of Jesus to catch-away His Church prior

to the seven-year Tribulation. This catching-away, or Rapture, is called the blessed hope of the believer (Titus 2:13).

We hope in houses, too. First, we have hope Jesus is building us houses in heaven:

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

In the mean time, we live in the hope that Jesus is building us a *spiritual* house on the earth. The apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 2:19-22,

Ephesians 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Ephesians 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*,

Ephesians 2:21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

Ephesians 2:22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The apostle Peter writes in First Peter 2:6-8,

1 Peter 2:6 MKJV Therefore also it is contained in the Scripture: "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner Stone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him shall never be ashamed."

1 Peter 2:7 MKJV Therefore to you who believe is the honor. But to those who are disobedient, He is the Stone which the builders rejected; this One came to be the Head of the corner,

1 Peter 2:8 MKJV and a Stone-of-stumbling and a Rock-of-offense to those disobeying, who stumble at the Word, to which they also were appointed.

Conclusion

If you are a Christian, Jesus Christ is the foundation you build your life upon. As you build, using biblical materials and methods, Jesus provides all the help you need. He's the "pegs" upon which you may hang all of your hopes, all of your fears, all of your dreams, all of your dilemmas... No matter what you face building your house, the pegs will hold! They cannot pull out from the walls from being over-weighted. There is no burden of yours that Jesus will ever drop.

Not a Christian? Then Jesus is to you a "stone-of-stumbling and a Rock-of-offense." He is in your way along your path and you cannot

avoid Him. You must make a decision about Him. He is coming – as the battle bow, to rule over everything.