



Regathering

We are now in the final unit of the book (chapters 9-14), which divides into two smaller units or “burdens” the prophet received from God (9-11 and 12-14). In chapter 10 that we will consider today, the centerpiece is the concept of a future regathering of Jewish people to the Promise Land. This real estate is not to be understood as only the land of Israel as it exists today, but as the larger region God originally promised that was never fully obtained by His people. Most Christians spiritualize away this most central of Messianic blessings so that it will not in any real sense ever occur. This begs the question of what more Zechariah could have said to make it plain that a true regathering will happen. It also begs the question of how Zechariah’s original audience could understand the passage in anything but a literal fashion. For our purposes, we need to understand that this future exodus of a faithful remnant of the Jews from the nations and into Israel will be every bit as real and literal as their exodus from Egypt so long ago. With God anything is possible.

1. **Kingdom Blessings (10:1):** What is said in 10:1 builds on the material from chapter 9 that pictured the coming King and the defeat of Israel’s enemies. When these things happen, they merely need to pray for blessings and it shall be received. The particular blessing in view is the “latter rain” that comes at the end of Israel’s rainy season and brings the crops to maturity for harvest. That they will pray this way indicates a turning back to God in faith.

2. **Worthless Idols (10:2):** The blessings God will provide are to be contrasted with the powerless idols the people worshipped when they had no shepherd (leader). The word here for idols is *seraphim* and according to the notes in the NET translation “refers to small images used as a means of divination and other occult practices.” These idols were kept in the family home. On their having no shepherd see Matt. 9:36.

3. **Good Shepherd (10:3-4):** God will punish the wicked shepherds / leaders and He will shepherd the flock, transforming the flock “like” His own majestic battle horse.

— MESSIANIC PROPHECY: Verse 4 is all about Jesus as the good shepherd; He is the cornerstone or foundation for the coming kingdom (cf. Isaiah 28:16), the peg (on which hangs the honor and glory of God, Isaiah 22:15-25), and the battle bow (pictures him as a warrior).

4. **United Israel Made Strong (10:5-7):** God will learn and empower an army to fight and prevail over the enemies. In this turn of fortunes the infantry defeat the cavalry (10:5). This pictures not just physical strength but a spiritual renewal as God now answers their prayers (10:6).

5. **(Re)Gathering the Flock (10:8):** God gathers (whistles for) those He redeemed to come home.

6. **New Exodus (10:9-12):** Here, it is not that God “scattered” His people, but that He “sowed” them abroad like seeds, just as He did in Egypt in the book of Genesis. This will all serve a purpose before God brings them into the Promise Land. And just like the first exodus, God will again prepare they way home so that, metaphorically speaking, they may walk on dry land.

— The new exodus occurs when “they will remember Me in the distant lands” (10:9)

— This speaks of a future revival, which will be a prominent theme in chapters 12-13