

# **“The Exciting Future Of The Jews”**

## **Zechariah 10:1-12**

Message by Michael J. Barnard

May 18, 2025

**Teaching Aim:** To examine the future restoration and regeneration of the nation of Israel just prior to the millennium. To realize the essential role Jesus will play as the Jewish Messiah in restoring God’s chosen people Israel. To recognize the beauty of the New Covenant in comparison to that of the Old Covenant. To understand only God can find His people the Jews after over 2,000+ years of dispersion and interbreeding to bring them back tribally to the Promised Land.

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)**

#### **Part I: Stop praying to false gods; repent and start praying to the God of the Bible for His blessings (Zech. 10:1-2)**

1. As we come to **Zechariah chapter 10**, we catch a glimpse of the exciting future of the Jewish people, however first some changes must take place. Sometimes it takes a catastrophic event to happen before we repent from our sin and turn back to the God of the Bible. Can you think of any examples in your own lifetime where a horrible event happened, and people began turning back to God?
2. Many within the Jewish nation had turned their backs on God and relied upon the pagan god Baal (the god of the storm) to bring them rain, this didn’t turn out so well for them. What did the prophet Zechariah encourage the Jewish people to do in **verse 1a**? Why was it important for the people to pray to the LORD and not Baal? Note: Part of the reason the Jews went into the Babylonian captivity was because of Baal worship. An idol is anything in your life that you place in priority above your relationship with God. What are some idols or false gods that have worked their way into modern society, even with some Christians?
3. The Jews had sinned and were forced to pay a costly price for it. Why do we so often use prayer as our last resort instead of our first? What did Zechariah say would happen if the Jews would sincerely turn to the LORD and ask Him for rain (**vs. 1b**)? Some believe the showers are a picture of spiritual blessing flowing down from heaven, but others believe Zechariah was speaking of literal rain. Which of the two do you think Zechariah was referring to? Why? Is literal rain a blessing from God? (See **Deut. 28:12**)

4. What can we learn about these false gods from **verse 2**? What does the LORD say will happen to those who listen to soothsayers and diviners? (See **Deut. 18:10-15**) What was the Old Testament penalty for being a soothsayer or diviner? (See **Lev 19:26, 31; 20:6, 27**) Have you ever fell into the trap of looking at your horoscope to get an idea of how your day might go? Do you still read your horoscope now that you are a Christian? Should we?
  
5. According to **verse 2b**, why were the Jewish people wandering? Will God hold the false shepherds accountable who led His people astray (**vs. 3a**)? (See **Ezek. 34:6-13**) What did God promise to do in **verse 3b**? The imagery here is that of wandering sheep. How will the LORD turn His wandering sheep into a mighty army? (See **Deut. 18:15**) Note: "The Prophet" of **Deut. 18** is another name for "*The Messiah*."

## **Part II: God's anger towards the false shepherds and His solution for the Jewish problem (Zech. 10:3-7)**

1. **Verse 4** says, "*From him comes the cornerstone, from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow, from him every ruler together.*" Using your Bible commentaries, what is meant in each case?
  1. The cornerstone:
  2. The tent peg:
  3. The battle bow:
  4. From him every ruler together:
  
2. The wandering sheep of Israel will change and become like Messiah's royal horse in battle (**vs. 3b**), they will be, "*like mighty men who tread down their enemies in battle*" (**vs. 5**)? Who is the Good Shepherd who will turn God's wandering sheep into a mighty army? What will the result be when Messiah does? Are we getting a glimpse of what that might ultimately look like through modern Israel? What is missing? What can we learn from **Rom. 8:31**?
  
3. What unexpected promise was given by the LORD in **verse 6**? What challenges would make this promise so difficult to fulfill? (See Commentaries) According to **Ezekiel 37:15-17**, when will the fulfillment of this promise most-likely take place? Does it appear that we are getting close to that time now?

4. Ephraim, in this case, is used symbolically to represent the dispersed ten northern tribes of Israel (**vs. 7**). What will happen to these refugees when the Messiah returns? What will their response be? How can modern Jews today tell what tribe they are from?

### **Part III: God's restoration of the Jewish people to the Promised Land (Zech. 10:8-12)**

1. What will God do when the timing is right to call His people home (**vs. 8**)? Why is it important for God to redeem His people first? Once the people are back in the Promised Land, what will happen to the population of the nation? Since May 14, 1948, Israel's population has grown exponentially. What is the country of Israel's current population? (Hint: Search online)
2. What did God promise the people of Israel under the New Covenant? (See **Jer. 31:33-34**) Has Israel reached the fullness of this promise yet? When will **Jer. 31:33-34** accurately describe the nation of Israel?
3. What exciting news did God have for the Jews in **verse 9**? What makes this news so exciting? What three major dispersions have the Jewish people gone through historically? What was the cause of each? For how long did the Roman diaspora last? What sin had the Jewish people committed that caused this dispersion to last so long? (See **Matthew 24:34; 27:22-23**)
4. What four geographical areas does the LORD refer to in **verse 10**? What is the significance of mentioning Egypt and Assyria? What is the significance of using Gilead and Lebanon? (See Commentaries) What will happen as more and more of God's people return to Israel from all over the world (**vs. 10b**)?

5. According to **verse 11a**, what will the Jewish people returning to Israel have to go through? What other sea did the Hebrew people miraculously pass through in history? (See **Exod. 14:1-31**) What River did the Hebrew people cross over on dry ground? (See **Josh. 3:14-17**) How does the crossing of the Red Sea and the crossing of the Jordan River on dry ground relate to the Jewish people returning to the Promised Land both now and in the future?
6. According to Webster's Dictionary, the word "*affliction*" means, "*A state of pain, distress, or grief; misery.*" What major historical event preceded the Jews coming home to the Promised Land in 1948? How did Adolph Hitler play a role in this. Did Adolph Hitler bring "*A state of pain, distress, grief, and misery*" to the Jewish people? If so, how?
7. **Verse 11** ends, "*The pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the scepter of Egypt shall depart.*" How do we see a fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant in this Scripture? (See **Gen. 12:2-3**) Is there a warning in the Abrahamic Covenant to all who would turn on the nation of Israel? Is this a warning for the United States as well today? The United States is not mentioned in the Bible specifically, but is it possible that we are part of the Babylonian world system? (See **Rev. 18:1-24**)
8. What does God promise to do to the Jewish people in **verse 12**? Once He does, what will the Jewish people do in return? When will this happen? The prophet **Ezekiel** also shares the New Covenant in **chapter 36** of his book. What can we learn about the future of the Jewish people from **Ezek. 36:24-29**? How are these Scriptures a picture of our regeneration as Christians today?
9. Have you received the Messiah Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so right now in prayer?

### **MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- Praying to the God of the Bible should be the first thing we do, not the last.
- As Christians, we must remove any idols that we have allowed into our lives.
- God will hold false shepherds accountable for leading His flock astray.
- God's wayward flock will be brought back and become a mighty army under the Messiah.
- The house of Judah and the ten northern tribes will be reunited in the last days under the leadership of the Messiah.
- The Holy Land will be filled with joy as Jewish refugees come in from all over the world during the last days.
- Since 1948 we may be witnessing the beginning of this return to the Promised Land.
- God keeps His promises, even when we do not.