

## God's Promises Foretold

### Outline

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### Zechariah 9:1-17

#### 1. The **Plan** - The Lord will **Judge**

1 The **burden(tribute, publication)** of the word of the LORD in the land of **Hadrach(believed to be a Syrian god)**, and **Damascus(a city of Syria)** shall be the rest thereof: **when the eyes of man, as of all the tribes of Israel, shall be toward the LORD.**

### The Pathway of Alexander the Great

- Alexander III "the Great" was born in 356 B.C.
- died at the young age of 33, in 323 B.C.,
- he became one greatest military commanders in all of history.
- Alexander conquered the vast Persian Empire which had swallowed up the territories of earlier empires: the Egyptian, Assyrian, and Babylonian.
- He ruled from Greece to India, and suddenly died in Babylon.
- He had no heir and so His kingdom was divided **among four of his generals**
  - Syria went to Seleucus,
  - Egypt to Ptolemy.
  - Greece to Cassander,
  - Thrace to Lysimachus.

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- **Acts 9:3** And as he journeyed, he came near **Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:**
- **Probable reference to Apostle Paul**

2 And **Hamath(a walled place in Syria)** also shall border thereby;

- **Numbers 13:21** So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to **Hamath**.
- **Isaiah 10:9** *Is not Calno as Carchemish? is not Hamath as Arpad? is not Samaria as Damascus?*
- **Amos 6:2** Pass ye unto Calneh, and see; and from thence go ye to **Hamath** the great: then go down to Gath of the Philistines: *be they* better than these kingdoms? or their border greater than your border?
- **According to Targum of Jonathan ben Uzziel on Num 13:21**, renders **Hamath** by **Antioch**:
- **Acts 11:26** And when he had found him, he brought him unto **Antioch**. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. **And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.**

2b **Tyrus, and Zidon**, though it be very wise.

- **Foretold of the church's part there**
- **Psalms 45:12** And the daughter of **Tyre** *shall be there* with a gift; *even* the rich among the people **shall intreat thy favour**.
- **Matthew 15:21** Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of **Tyre and Sidon**.
- **Acts 21:3** Now when we had discovered Cyprus, we left it on the left hand, and sailed into Syria, and landed at **Tyre**: for there the ship was to unlade her burden.

3 And **Tyrus** did build herself a **strong hold**, and **heaped up silver as the dust**, and **fine gold as the mire of the streets**.

4 Behold, the **Lord will cast her out**, and he will smite her power in the sea; and she shall be devoured with fire.

5 **Ashkelon** shall see it, and fear; **Gaza** also shall see it, and be very sorrowful, and **Ekron**; for her expectation shall be ashamed; and the king shall perish from Gaza, and Ashkelon shall not be inhabited.

6 And a **bastard shall dwell in Ashdod**, and I will cut off **the pride of the Philistines**.

7 And I will take away **his blood out of his mouth**, and his **abominations** from between his **teeth**: but he that remaineth, even he, shall be for our God, and he shall be as a governor in Judah, and **Ekron as a Jebusite**.

## 2. The **Protection** - I will Protect what's **mine**

8 And I will encamp about mine house because of the army, because of him that passeth by, and because of him that returneth: and no oppressor shall pass through them any more: for **now have I seen with mine eyes**.

**God protected His nation and His men**

- The amazing fulfillment of this prophecy is described in detail by the Jewish historian Josephus (*Antiquities* XI, VIII). We might remark that while the narrative of Josephus is marred by some discrepancies, the basic account is as follows.
- While Alexander had the city of Tyre under siege, he sent a requisition for supplies to several places, including Judea.
- When that message was received by the chief magistrate at Jerusalem, a high priest named Jaddus, it was refused since the Jews professed allegiance only to Persia. Alexander was angered at the rebuff and determined, after he had taken Tyre, to destroy Jerusalem.
- Knowing of the terror of this Greek, the Jews at Jerusalem began to tremble at the prospect of his wrath. According to Josephus, Jaddus caused sacrifices to be offered to God and prayer to be made for the protection of the holy city.
- It is recorded that the Lord spoke to the high priest in a dream and told him to have no fear for Jerusalem would not be captured. In fact, the Jews were instructed to throw open the gates of the city and to go forth in a splendid procession to meet the approaching conqueror “without the dread of any ill consequences, which the providence of God would prevent.”
- The priests, dressed in their ceremonial robes, led the citizens forth to greet Alexander. When the Greek general approached this devout multitude, rather than exhibiting his anger, he saluted the high priest and seemed to pay him religious homage.
- When questioned regarding his strange conduct, he gave this explanation.
- Alexander declared that before he had departed from Macedonia, he had experienced a dream in which this very high priest had appeared to him. In the dream, the king was told that his army would proceed under “Divine conduct,” and that through him, the Persians would be defeated.
- Subsequently, Alexander entered the city of Jerusalem and joined with the priests in offering sacrifices in the temple.
- It is said that the Jews showed him a copy of the scroll containing the writings of the prophet Daniel wherein it was “declared that one of the Greeks should destroy the empire of the Persians” (cf. Dan. 7:6; 8:3-8, 20-22; 11:3.)
- Alexander was deeply impressed and concluded that he was the one of whom the prophet wrote.
- Accordingly, he treated the Jews with considerable kindness. Not only did he not assault the city, but he also allowed them to practice the laws of their forefathers. He also exempted them from tribute in the seventh year.
- Many of the Hebrews joined Alexander’s army and accompanied him in his mission of conquest in the antique world.
- Whether the account given by Josephus regarding this matter is accurate, we cannot know for certain. In writing the history of his people he was known on occasion to exaggerate and to embellish his record. His testimony, therefore, is not always received with implicit confidence.

### 3. The **Prophet** - **Messiah** Is coming

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; **shout, O daughter of Jerusalem**: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and **upon a colt the foal of an ass**.

**Matthew 21:1-9**

1 And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples,

2 Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me.

3 And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.

4 All this was done, **that it might be fulfilled** which was **spoken by the prophet**, saying,

5 **Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.**

6 And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them,

7 **And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes**, and they set him thereon.

8 And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way.

9 And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

10 And **I will cut off the chariot** from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the **battle bow** shall be cut off: and he shall **speak peace unto the heathen**: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

11 As for thee also, by **the blood of thy covenant** I have sent forth **thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water**.

12 Turn you to the **strong hold**, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will **render double** unto thee;

13 When **I have bent Judah for me**, filled the bow with Ephraim, and raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece, and made thee as **the sword of a mighty man**.

14 And **the LORD shall be seen over them**, and **his arrow** shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall **blow the trumpet**, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south.

15 The LORD of hosts shall **defend** them; and they shall **devour, and subdue** with sling stones; and they shall drink, and make a noise as through wine; and they shall be filled like bowls, and as the corners of the altar.

16 And **the LORD their God shall save them in that day** as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an **ensign** upon his land.

17 **For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty!** corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids.