



ZECHARIAH

A Glorious Future!

The Glory of God's Compassion!

Zechariah 10:1-12

Message #11 of 15 – S1019

Sermon given on October 23, 2022



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Glory of God's Compassion!

Zechariah 10:1-12

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Zechariah 10**
- Today, we continue a series through the book of **Zechariah: A Glorious Future**
- What causes us to care about the suffering of others?
- Why does it bother someone that other people that they don't know on the other side of the world are suffering?
- What caused us to go out of our way to provide care and support for the babies orphaned at birth at the Soe orphanage in Indonesia?
- Why would we care about babies on the other side of the planet that we may never meet?
- What causes us to care? It is compassion

Compassion: Deep awareness of the suffering of another accompanied by the wish to relieve it. Synonym: pity.

- Because we were made in the image of God, all humanity has the capacity for compassion
- But because all of humanity has been corrupted by sin, compassion is lacking in the world
- And even where there is compassion, it is corrupted by sin
- In our culture today that is manifested in virtue signaling

Virtue signaling: the expression of a moral viewpoint with the intent of communicating good character while neglecting the actions required by that moral viewpoint.

- Acting like they care – changing their profile pic to reflect some cause or issue – but not really interested in doing anything about it
- They are just looking for the social credit
- Compassion is a characteristic of God – He cares
- He especially cares for His people **Psalm 103:13**

As a father pities *his* children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him.

- In today's text we are going to see how much God cares about His people – the Jews
- And then we will look at what that means for those of us who are His people through faith in Christ

- Let's pray and thank God for caring for us - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Glory of God's Compassion!**
- Zechariah starts with a statement that continues the thought at the end of chapter 9 where God was speaking of His people thriving
- **Zechariah 10:1**
- The Lord is calling them to put their trust in Him, and in Him alone.
- They needed rain to flourish – ask God for what you need.
- Even though God knows what you need before you do, He wants you to pray and ask Him for it as an expression of faith, to teach you to trust in Him
- Unfortunately, that was not what Zechariah's readers were doing
- **Zechariah 10:2**
- 'the people wend their way like sheep'
- That means they are wandering around wherever their nose and stomach take them
- In the next verse the Lord is going to rebuke the leaders because they are not leading correctly
- Zechariah introduces the metaphor of the shepherd as a leader.
- In this and the next chapter he will compare good versus bad leaders.
- Because the people have no one shepherding them, leading them in the right way to live, they are turning to worthless pagan ways of determining how to live and what to do
- God created people to flourish under the care of a compassionate shepherd.
- If they reject the shepherd God provides or that shepherd is not compassionate or does not trust in God, the result is that the people wander.
- Wandering sheep cannot flourish. Jesus noticed that this was the state of the people in His time **Matthew 9:36**
But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.
- God cares about His people, and He doesn't like it when those He appoints as leaders don't shepherd His people

- **Zechariah 10:3a**
- This should serve as a warning to anyone who has been put in any place of leadership or authority
- God placed you there to shepherd people toward Him
- That includes marriages, families, communities, workplaces, and church
- While there are some warnings in this chapter, most of it is filled with promises – not just to Israel but also of the Messiah
- **Zechariah 10:3b**
- ‘will visit His flock’ – Israel is God’s flock **Psalm 100:3**
Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
- To ‘visit’ = make His presence known and act on their behalf
- Notice ‘Judah’ is singled out – that is important – tribe of the Messiah
- **Zechariah 10:4**
- The ‘him’ throughout that verse is someone from the tribe of Judah
- The word ‘cornerstone’ gives us a clue as to who this is
- Jesus applied this title to Himself when He quoted Psalm 118:22 in **Matthew 21:42**
Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”
- Jesus is the Messiah – the cornerstone, the tent peg, the battle bow, and the King of kings
- At the time that Zechariah is writing Israel is a divided nation
- **Zechariah 10:5-9**
- Joseph and Ephraim both refer to the ten Northern tribes
- The ten Northern tribes were taken into exile by the Assyrians over 200 years earlier – sometimes referred to as the lost tribes of Israel
- They are not lost; God knows where they are, and He is planning on bringing them back
- Not only is He going to bring them back, He plans on blessing them more than ever before
- This may refer to the time after the Second Coming known as the Millennial Reign of Christ – 1,000 years of perfect peace on earth
- These are promises – They shall remember, live, and return

- God has a glorious plan for the Jews
- The promises continue
- **Zechariah 10:10**
- Egypt and Assyria are used symbolically here
- Egypt is a symbol of the slavery of the Jews – God will deliver them from all their enemies
- Assyria is a symbol of the exile and God’s punishment of His people – they will be God’s people and they will no longer need to be punished
- Gilead is the area known today as the Golan Heights and Lebanon is the country to the north of Israel
- God is going to bless and flourish the Jews so that they need more land to live – And He will give it to them
- Again, pointing to the time after the Second Coming
- Then we are told how God will make this happen

- **Zechariah 10:11**

- Before Jesus comes back in the Second Coming, He will first deal with the wickedness that is prevalent on this earth
- ‘the sea’ is often used symbolically to refer to humanity – as it is here
- ‘affliction’ can also be translated as ‘tribulation’
- That time of tribulation is described in the book of Revelation
- God intends to remove every hindrance to His people returning to Him **Isaiah 11:15-16**

The LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; with His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, and strike it in the seven streams, and make men cross over dryshod. ¹⁶ There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who will be left from Assyria, as it was for Israel in the day that he came up from the land of Egypt.

- It will be hard to live on the earth while God is judging it for all its wickedness, so, God makes another promise
- **Zechariah 10:12**
- God has a glorious plan for the Jews – to cause them to return to Him and ‘walk up and down in His name’
- He will strengthen them to walk with Him in holiness
- Back in verse six we are told why the Lord will do this **Zechariah 10:6b**

I will bring them back, because I have mercy on them.

- The prophet Micah ends his book with these thoughts about God's mercy **Micah 7:18-20**

Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. ¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. ²⁰ You will give truth to Jacob and mercy to Abraham, which You have sworn to our fathers from days of old.

- God looks upon His people with compassion and His response is mercy and amazing promises of His care
- Those promises are for God's people – not anyone else
- As God looks down upon humanity all He can do is pity His helpless creation
- As an expression of His compassion, God made a way for anyone who will believe to become one of His people
- That way is through faith in the sacrifice of His Son Jesus on the cross for our sins
- Romans 11 teaches us that through faith in Christ, we are grafted into the family of God – we are one of His children
- And as one of His children we are now blessed with 'exceedingly great and precious promises'
- As we prepare to conclude our time here this morning, I would like you to think about something
- It was God's compassion that resulted in Him showing us mercy and making a way for us to be a part of His family
- How should we respond to God's compassion?
- As God's children through faith in Christ we ought to be more compassionate
- If we are honest with ourselves, we don't really know how to do that
- That's because it is a work that God must do in your heart
- We can start by praying this verse over ourselves **Ezekiel 36:26**
I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.
- Pray, ask God to make your heart like His
- Ask Him to help you care like He cares
- Let's do that right now! **Pray**