

Zechariah 9:1-11:17

The Good Shepherd comes and is rejected

The **second half** of the **book** is broken into **two sections** or "**burdens**" as the prophet calls them. Chapters 9-11 make up the **first burden** and it features the **Rejection of the Messiah**. Chapters 12-14 make up the **second burden** and it features the **Reign of the Messiah**. This section of the book is like a **grand climax** of the Old Testament prophets and these oracles describe the future messianic **salvation** and rule of the **Messiah**. They start with some rather **intense apocalyptic language** and weave various Messianic prophecies into the text, eventually bursting forth with **final victory** over God's enemies and restoration for God's people. As earlier in the book the **nations** are both **defeated in battle**, but also have a **remnant saved** from among them that become **worshippers of Yahweh**. This half of the book is very **warlike**, and Christ is pictured as **King** who comes to **conquer** and brings **final victory**. But the victory strangely comes as the Messiah is also pictured as the **Good Shepherd** who is **betrayed** to the potter for **30 pieces of silver** in (11:12-13), **rejected** by His own people as the **shepherd** who is **struck** and the sheep scattered (13:7), when His very own people "**pierced Him**" (12:10). He appears in **9:9** as a humble **King** riding on a **donkey** into Jerusalem to bring **peace** to the nations, yet this peace comes through decisive victory in battle in (9:11-10:12).

A **brief list** of prophecies in the Bible which speak of the **glorious day** when Christ is **ruling King over the nations** of the **earth** who are also gathering to **worship Him**; Psalm 2:6-

12, Psalm 22:27-28, Psalm 72:8-11, Psalm 86:9-10, Psalm 102:15-22, Isaiah 2:2-4, Ezekiel 37:21-22, Daniel 7:13-14.

Ezekiel 34:23-31 - 23 "Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd. 24 "And I, the Lord, will be their God, and My servant David will be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken. 25 "And I will make a covenant of peace with them and eliminate harmful beasts from the land, so that they may live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. 26 "And I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will cause showers to come down in their season; they will be showers of blessing. 27 "Also the tree of the field will yield its fruit, and the earth will yield its increase, and they will be secure on their land. Then they will know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bars of their yoke and have delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them. 28 "And they will no longer be a prey to the nations, and the beasts of the earth will not devour them; but they will live securely, and no one will make them afraid. 29 "And I will establish for them a renowned planting place, and they will not again be victims of famine in the land, and they will not endure the insults of the nations anymore. 30 "Then they will know that I, the Lord their God, am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are My people," declares the Lord God. 31 "As for you, My sheep, the sheep of My pasture, you are men, and I am your God," declares the Lord God. NASB

Ezekiel 39:25-29 - 25 Therefore thus says the Lord God, "Now I shall restore the fortunes of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I shall be jealous for My

holy name. 26 "And they shall forget their disgrace and all their treachery which they perpetrated against Me, when they live securely on their own land with no one to make them afraid. 27 "When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them from the lands of their enemies, then I shall be sanctified through them in the sight of the many nations. 28 "Then they will know that I am the Lord their God because I made them go into exile among the nations, and then gathered them again to their own land; and I will leave none of them there any longer. 29 "And I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel," declares the Lord God.

At this point we should explain that Christ's salvation has come for both **Jew and Gentile**. In the first century many thousands of Gentiles and Jews were **saved by grace through faith in Christ**, and many thousands of Jews have been saved in history since that time. Of course the Gospel has gone out into all the world and many **millions of Gentiles** have been saved in the centuries of history since then, and even now there is a great **harvest of souls** taking place in every **generation** of humanity. During this time of Gentile salvation, very few ethnic Jews are being saved, as they have been **blinded and hardened by God**, broken off from the olive tree of true worship, until such time that **God restores ethnic Israel** and they are once again, **grafted** back into the tree. This of course is the subject of Paul's discourse in **Romans chapter 11**. So as we look at **Messianic salvation for Israel** in the prophets, we must understand that **Gentile salvation** is largely a **mystery** in the Old Testament, as Paul describes in Romans 11:25-26, Ephesians 3:9, Colossians 1:26-27.

Now we come to **chapter 11** where we see the **sad tale** of **Israel's rejection** of their own **Messiah**. This is an astounding chapter that appears after chapters 9-10 which have **promised** great **blessings**, restoration and prosperity to God's people, who will in the course of history, come to **reject the humble King** who was promised to come and **save them**. This section of text is **Apocalyptic** and much like a **riddle** in many ways, for it portrays a **drama played out** between God and His people. Its imagery is shrouded in **mystery** and yet when much of it comes to fruition in the first century, it becomes crystal clear how these **ancient pictures** are pregnant with **meaning**. Many elements of this **drama** are fulfilled in the **coming and crucifixion of Jesus**, which in God's wise plan for the redemption of Israel meet with their greatest failure as a people to **ever occur in history**. Yet even at this **ultimate insult** that **Israel** could portray against their Shepherd in His first Coming, He will yet redeem them and bring them to glory at His Second Coming. The **First Burden** of Zechariah ends in this **horrific tragedy** and failure for the nation, and yet the **Second Burden** will finally have them living in the **blessing and eternal prosperity** of their Shepherd's blessed care.

Israel-Judah History Timeline

