

Turn Again

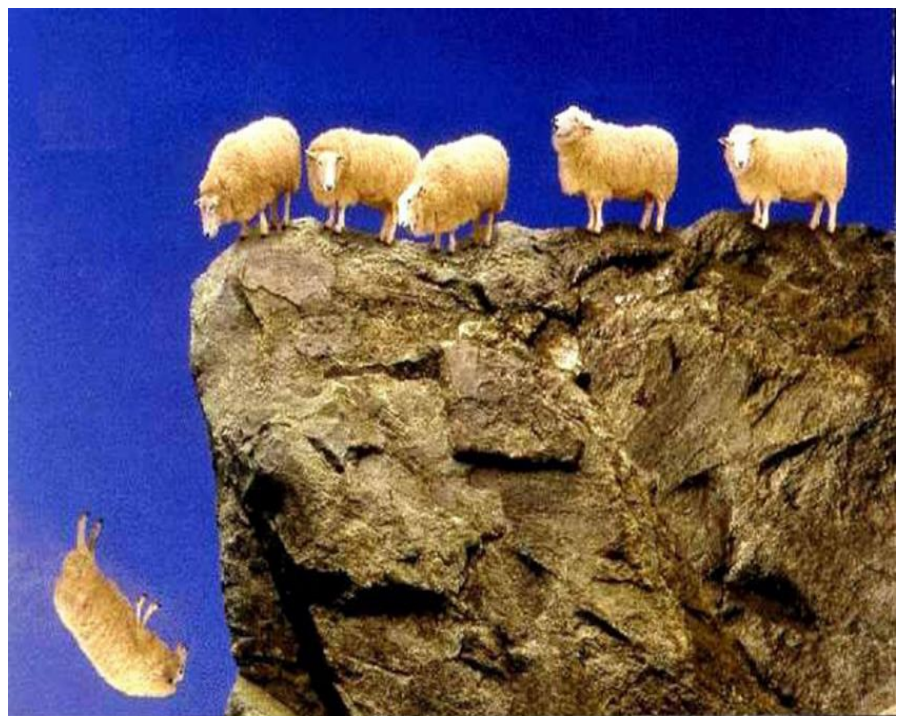
Zechariah 10:1 Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

This chapter commences with an exhortation to ask God for His kindness to deliver them from drought. *Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.* But these words uttered by the prophet are designed to have a spiritual thrust behind them, and we can note that similar language is employed by Hosea referring to the salvation and redemption of Israel as the latter and former rain, in 6:1-3, and Joel also refers to the blessing of the former and latter rain, the early and latter spring rains so important for providing the barley and wheat harvests, but in the context of the restoration of the nation and a spiritual blessing in 2:23,28. The Apostle Peter refers to this at the time of Pentecost, Acts 2:16, when the Holy Spirit gifts were given to the Apostles, and he said *this is that spoken of by the prophet Joel...all this leads us to conclude that Zechariah is also referring to the same, that the nation should ask, for spiritual enlightenment, and their thirst quenched by the water of the word, as referred to in the law: Deuteronomy 32:2: My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:*

The reason for this warning is now given:

2 For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain: therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because there was no shepherd. The word for idols here is actually *teraphim*, which were household gods often referred to in the Bible – see Judges chapters 17, 18 and Hosea 3:4. As can be seen here even amongst those who had faithfully returned from the exile, these little household gods had crept back in. Israel always found these lucky charms and amulets attractive. We recall Rachel stole the ones belonging to her father, and sat on them on the camel seat. Later Jacob commanded his family to bury them all under an oak - Genesis 35:4. Now the nation 1000 years later were still at it. Clearly, they found it as hard to kick bad habits as we do! But by leaning on superstition such as the diviners, modern day speculators, politicians even, it was and still is so easy to become deluded by wrong ideas.

Note they went their way as a flock, so easily an ecclesia, without leadership, or courage to stand against a wrong path will all go through the same hole in the hedge, as history has shown, because there was no shepherd.



It was true we recall how Jesus looked at the crowds and had compassion upon them because there was no shepherd. The leaders were only in it for themselves. Jesus accused them of sitting in Moses seat, that is they gave out laws and orders but gave no direction or guidance, so the

following verse 3:

Mine anger was kindled against the shepherds, and I punished the goats: for the Lord of hosts hath visited his flock the house of Judah, Again the leader class of the Jews in the time of Christ were particularly

punished, as the upper classes were effectively wiped out when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem.

Again Zechariah is repeating what earlier prophets had denounced: Jeremiah 50:6: *My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place.*

Ezekiel 34:2 *Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? But Zechariah had more to say...in this third verse, ...and hath made them as his goodly horse in the battle.*

Although the spiritual leaders and false teachers would be punished, the nation as a whole would not be forgotten, but reformed and

BEWARE OF FALSE ANGELS OF LIGHT

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

Oh yes, brethren. The Bible was good for a time, but today we've got the spirit. Oh yes, brethren. We've got the spirit; and the Lawd is a givin' us NEW revelashuns!



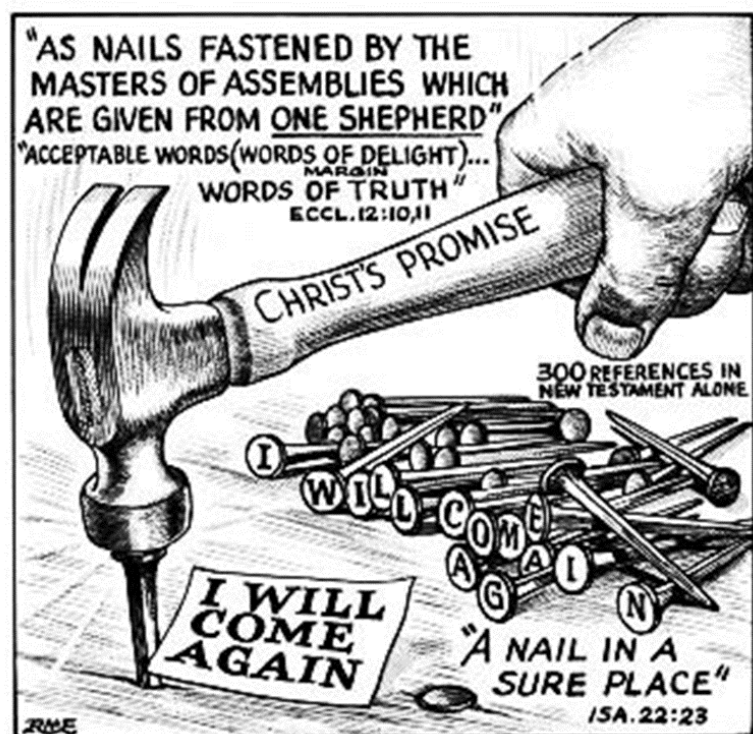
2 Tim. 3:13

used by God, - Jeremiah 51:20 *Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms*; what a turnaround, from a lost helpless vulnerable flock of scattered sheep, to a powerful instrument of vengeance in the hand of God. This is the purpose of God, where He uses the base things of the world to confound the mighty. See 1 Corinthians 1:27.

Verse 4 describes the new leader that the Lord would bring forth for this revived house of

Judah: *Out of him came forth the corner,*

Referring to Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; Ephesians 2:20... *out of him the nail*, referring to the son of David Isaiah 22:23: *And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house.*



... *out of him the battle bow, out of him every oppressor together.*

But more than this, this verse is not only talking about the Leader of the great War Horse of Judah, but that that rejuvenated nation will be a nation of reliable dependable leaders. Corners – without the corner stones, the walls would soon totter and fall over, nail or wall pegs, without which nothing can be supported.

...*Out of him the battle bow*, without which arrows designed to execute recompense, would still stay in their quiver. In chapter 9:13, the prophet uses this term to describe Judah, and Ephraim as the arrows against Greece. *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. This prophecy was fulfilled when the Maccabees defeated the Seleucid Greeks and Antiochus IV, some 250 years after Zechariah's prophecy. It was Judah which was the main driving force- the battle bow, with remnants of the remaining tribes assisting – as the arrows. This will be the scenario in the latter days as well.

...and every oppressor, or better translated as every ruler. They will become a nation of rulers, examples to all the world - the head and no longer the tail.

Verse 5 *And they shall be as mighty men, which tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the Lord is with them, and the riders on horses shall be confounded.* Of course they will! The nations, those who despise the Jews, and oppressed them for centuries, antisemitism will be turned on its head, and there will be astonishment when every eye will see the Messiah issuing the ultimatum to the world from the mount of Olives, and when Judah will be used to chase the Gentiles from the land, under the leadership of the Saints. They shall be as mighty men, and rightly God proclaims verse 6: *...I am the Lord their God, and will hear them.* Yahweh Elohim we recall means **I will be mighty ones**. He most surely will be.

Zechariah reminds his people of how they will be brought into the Promised Land, just as they were at the time of the Exodus from Egypt, but this time from all over the world, so much so that the land will not be large enough to contain them – see verse 10... *and place shall not be found for them.* Indeed, as Ezekiel 48 describes, the border of Israel will be much larger than it is today, and will be to the extent promised to Abraham Isaac and Jacob, from the desert to the Sea, and from the Nile to the Euphrates, see the reference in this verse 10 to Gilead and Lebanon, *I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring*

them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and place shall not be found for them. Lebanon, and Gilead are not within the current borders of Israel, showing how the country will be greatly enlarged.

The land will be completely restored as well as enlarged, becoming more verdant and lush and green with the abundance of water that will be upon it, thus able to support vastly more people. It will become the metropolis of the world.

One might think where will all the Jews come from if two thirds are to be cut off? (Zechariah 13:8) It is useful to remember that that in the prophetic language, Judah refers to those in the land at the Time of the End, and Ephraim refers to those still scattered around the world. This is referred to Ezekiel 37:16, where the stick of Ephraim is joined to the stick of Judah, showing how all those which are scattered will return to be the arrows to the Judean battle-bow.

In verse 11, the prophet continues to compare the great return of God's people to the Exodus at the time of Moses, but on an even greater scale. The borders of the land will be as mentioned, those promised to Abraham Isaac and Jacob, Genesis 15:18 *Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:* But in this verse 11, Zechariah seems to be drawing a parallel with the waters of those nations and the drying up of their power - describing the drying up of both the Euphrates (the symbol of the pride of Assyria) – *the deeps of the river*, as well as the sea of Egypt – *shall smite the waves in the sea.*

...and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart away. Thus as the waters of Yam Suph the Red or Reed Sea were parted to allow the nation of Israel into the Promised land, and the great empire of Egypt was broken in the process, so shall the great southern confederacy "Egypt" and the great Northern alliance "Assyria" be likewise broken to allow the Rebirth of Israel.

Brother Terry