

# The Strength of Israel

## Zechariah 10:1-12

6 And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I am the Lord their God, and will hear them.

7 And they of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see it, and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the Lord.

8 I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them: and they shall increase as they have increased.

9 And I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and turn again.

10 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.

11 And he shall pass through the sea with affliction, and shall smite the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the river shall dry up: and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart away.

12 And I will strengthen them in the Lord; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the Lord.

Zechariah's ministry was to a tired and discouraged Israel. Even though they were back in the promised land after a 70 year exile, and even though they were building the Temple once again; they still needed the encouragement to continue. In this chapter God reminds Israel of a coming victorious era when they will be the crown and pride of the Lord. Israel will be gathered in the promised land of blessing once again.

**THE BIG IDEA**

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?

### **Part 1—The Blessing of Rain**

Read Zechariah 9:16-10:1; Deuteronomy 28:1, 11-12, 15, 22-24

- 1) According to Zechariah 9 and 10 why will God give Israel rain?
- 2) In Deuteronomy 28 what makes the difference between rain and *no-rain* for Israel?
- 3) How should these passages affect how you ask God for blessings in your life?

### **Part 2—Misleading Shepherds**

Read Zechariah 10:2-3; Ezekiel 34:7-11

- 1) Why did the people not discern the lies and vanities of the idols and diviners?
- 2) According to Ezekiel 34 what is the danger for the flock without a shepherd?
- 3) The term “pastor” means “shepherd.” How can these passages speak to the pastor/congregation relationship?

### **Part 3—Victorious and Successful**

Read Zechariah 10:3-7; Zechariah 9:13-15

- 1) According to this passage for what reasons will Israel (Judah, Ephraim, Joseph) be victorious in battle?
- 2) Though the nation of Israel is displaying great military might and victory in battle in current events today, why can we be confident that these victories do not fulfill this passage?
- 3) Based on these passages what should you do if you desire victory and success?

### **Part 4—Regathered and Strengthened**

Read Zechariah 10:8-12; 1 Thessalonians 2:12

- 1) According to verse 8 why will God gather and increase Israel once again?
- 2) According to verse 12 what will enable Israel to walk in the name of the LORD?
- 3) According to 1 Thessalonians what enables you to walk right?