

January 16, 2011
"The Path of Our King"
Zechariah 9:1-17

I. Prophecy about the path Alexander the Great –
Zechariah 9:1-8

The burden of the word of the LORD Against the land of Hadrach, And Damascus its resting place (For the eyes of men And all the tribes of Israel Are on the LORD);² Also *against* Hamath, *which* borders on it, And *against* Tyre and Sidon, though they are very wise.³ For Tyre built herself a tower, Heaped up silver like the dust, And gold like the mire of the streets.⁴ Behold, the Lord will cast her out; He will destroy her power in the sea, And she will be devoured by fire.⁵ Ashkelon shall see *it* and fear; Gaza also shall be very sorrowful; And Ekron, for He dried up her expectation. The king shall perish from Gaza, And Ashkelon shall not be inhabited.⁶ "A mixed race shall settle in Ashdod, And I will cut off the pride of the Philistines.⁷ I will take away the blood from his mouth, And the abominations from between his teeth. But he who remains, even he *shall be* for our God, And shall be like a leader in Judah, And Ekron like a Jebusite. (Zechariah 9:1-7 NKJ)

1. These verses speak of "Hadrach" Persia. :1 The term means hard / soft. It was a Jewish nickname for Persia because Persia was hard (or solid) militarily and economically but soft (or weak) morally.
2. These verses also give us a list of cities (in order) which were conquered by Alexander the Great (150 years before Alexander conquered them)
 - A. Damascus - :1
 - B. Hamath
 - C. Tyre
 - D. Sidon
 - E. Ashkelon
 - F. Gaza
3. Commentary on God's judgment of these cities (most of which oppressed God's People) tells us many things:
 - A. About Tyre and Sidon:2-5 Worldly wisdom, fortification; great riches were not enough to save them from God's fiery wrath!

B. Other cities are punished for pride or blood drinking idolatry – 6-7

4. God used Alexander like a weapon to punish His and His People's enemies!
5. Yet, when Alexander reaches Judah (God's People) God stops him!

I will camp around My house Because of the army, Because of him who passes by and him who returns. No more shall an oppressor pass through them, For now I have seen with My eyes. (Zechariah 9:8 NKJ)

According to Josephus:

- Alexander went to Jerusalem after conquering Gaza
- Jaddua, the high priest was instructed by God in a dream to meet Alexander clothed in his priestly garments
- Alexander had a corresponding dream about the high priest
- Alexander not only did not attack the Jewish people but favored them in many ways ---

6. Yes, the Book of Daniel also mentions Alexander (even about 250 years before) –

⁶ "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it. (Dan 7:6 NKJ)

¹⁷ "Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. (Dan 7:17 NKJ)

I do not have time to go into all the prophecies about Alexander the Great in Daniel but the verses mentioned above speak of the fierceness and speed of his attacks!

II. How different is the path of Jesus Christ –

- Both Paths are prophesied
- Both head to Jerusalem

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He *is* just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion *shall be* from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹ "As for you also, Because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹² Return to the stronghold, You prisoners of hope. Even today I declare *That* I will restore double to you. (Zechariah 9:9-12 NKJ)

Christ comes in a different and ultimately more glorious way than any other King!

1. *He is coming righteously, He is JUST, He brings salvation - :9
This is reason to rejoice / salvation from sin!*

Behold, your King is coming to you; He *is* just and having salvation

2. *He comes humbly (Lowly) in PEACE - :9*

Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

3. *His KINGDOM is advanced without military weapons - :10
Especially without dependence upon them!*

¹⁰ **I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations;**

4. *His dominion is said to reach "to the ends of the earth" and it does*

His dominion *shall be* from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.

³⁴ **And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. (Dan 4:34 NKJ)**

5. *Reference here to "the blood of Your covenant" is a reference to the blood of Christ Who would die for our sins –*

²³ **Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave *it* to them, and they all drank from it.**

²⁴ **And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many. (Mar 14:23-24 NKJ)**

6. *By His blood Christ saves us from the waterless pit (a hopeless situation caused by our sin)*

7. *Therefore we are called to our true Stronghold –*

<To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the sons of Korah. A Song for Alamothe.> **God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; ³ Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah ⁴ There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. ⁵ God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. ⁶ The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah ⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has made desolations in the earth. ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire. ¹⁰ Be still, and know that I *am* God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! ¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah (Psalm 46:1-11 NKJ)**

8. *:13 seems to speak to downfall of Antiochus IV*

:15 literally could mean EAT sling- stones

:16-17 God is our SALVATION giving both victory and provision!

Application:

1. *We see from this passage that God's ways are not our ways and the WAYS of Christ's Kingdom are different from the ways of the kingdoms of this world.*

A. *This should give us confidence even when our ministries and efforts are not applauded by the world*

B. *This should keep us from the temptation of trying to advance God's kingdom using the methods, machinery or weapons of this world!*

2. *We see specifically Christ's Ways are different from the ways of this world --- instead of killing to conquer people, He dies to conquer sin! His path is a path of obedience, peace and salvation!*