

EXILE AND RETURN Lesson 21

FIRST DAY

Read Lesson 20 Notes

SECOND DAY:

Read Zechariah 9

Judgment on Israel's Enemies

An Oracle

[9:1] The word of the LORD is against the land of Hadrach and will rest upon Damascus—for the eyes of men and all the tribes of Israel are on the LORD—

[2] and upon Hamath too, which borders on it, and upon Tyre and Sidon, though they are very skillful.

[3] Tyre has built herself a stronghold; she has heaped up silver like dust, and gold like the dirt of the streets.

[4] But the Lord will take away her possessions and destroy her power on the sea, and she will be consumed by fire.

[5] Ashkelon will see it and fear; Gaza will writhe in agony, and Ekron too, for her hope will wither.

Gaza will lose her king and Ashkelon will be deserted.

[6] Foreigners will occupy Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines.

[7] I will take the blood from their mouths, the forbidden food from between their teeth.

Those who are left will belong to our God and become leaders in Judah, and Ekron will be like the Jebusites.

[8] But I will defend my house against marauding forces.

Never again will an oppressor overrun my people, for now I am keeping watch.

The Coming of Zion's King

[9] Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

[10] I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken.

He will proclaim peace to the nations.

His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

[11] As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.

[12] Return to your fortress, O prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.

[13] I will bend Judah as I bend my bow and fill it with Ephraim.

I will rouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and make you like a warrior's sword.

The LORD Will Appear

[14] Then the LORD will appear over them; his arrow will flash like lightning.

The Sovereign LORD will sound the trumpet; he will march in the storms of the south,

[15] and the LORD Almighty will shield them.

They will destroy and overcome with slingstones.

They will drink and roar as with wine;

they will be full like a bowl

used for sprinkling the corners of the altar.

[16] The LORD their God will save them on that day as the flock of his people.

They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown.

[17] How attractive and beautiful they will be!

Grain will make the young men thrive, and new wine the young women.

Question 3c

Psalm 91; [91:1] He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

[2] I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,

my God, in whom I trust."

[3] Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

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[4] He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
[5] You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
[6] nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.
[7] A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
[8] You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.
[9] If you make the Most High your dwelling—
even the LORD, who is my refuge—
[10] then no harm will befall you,
no disaster will come near your tent.
[11] For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
[12] they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
[13] You will tread upon the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.
[14] “Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will
rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
[15] He will call upon me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.
[16] With long life will I satisfy him
and show him my salvation.”

THIRD Day:

Read Zechariah 10

The LORD Will Care for Judah

[10:1] Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime;
it is the LORD who makes the storm clouds.
He gives showers of rain to men,
and plants of the field to everyone.
[2] The idols speak deceit,
diviners see visions that lie;
they tell dreams that are false,
they give comfort in vain.
Therefore the people wander like sheep
oppressed for lack of a shepherd.
[3] “My anger burns against the shepherds,
and I will punish the leaders;
for the LORD Almighty will care

for his flock, the house of Judah,
and make them like a proud horse in battle.
[4] From Judah will come the cornerstone,
from him the tent peg,
from him the battle bow,
from him every ruler.
[5] Together they will be like mighty men
trampling the muddy streets in battle.
Because the LORD is with them,
they will fight and overthrow the horsemen.
[6] “I will strengthen the house of Judah
and save the house of Joseph.
I will restore them
because I have compassion on them.
They will be as though
I had not rejected them,
for I am the LORD their God
and I will answer them.
[7] The Ephraimites will become like mighty men,
and their hearts will be glad as with wine.
Their children will see it and be joyful;
their hearts will rejoice in the LORD.
[8] I will signal for them
and gather them in.
Surely I will redeem them;
they will be as numerous as before.
[9] Though I scatter them among the peoples,
yet in distant lands they will remember me.
They and their children will survive,
and they will return.
[10] I will bring them back from Egypt
and gather them from Assyria.
I will bring them to Gilead and Lebanon,
and there will not be room enough for them.
[11] They will pass through the sea of trouble;
the surging sea will be subdued
and all the depths of the Nile will dry up.
Assyria's pride will be brought down
and Egypt's scepter will pass away.
[12] I will strengthen them in the LORD
and in his name they will walk,”
declares the LORD.

Question 7a

Isaiah 22:23-24; [23] I will drive him like a
peg into a firm place; he will be a seat of honor for
the house of his father. [24] All the glory of his
family will hang on him: its offspring and
offshoots—all its lesser vessels, from the bowls to all
the jars.

Daniel 2:34; [34] While you were watching, a
rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck

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the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.

Romans 13:1; Submission to the Authorities

[13:1] Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

FOURTH and FIFTH DAY

Read Zechariah 11

Open your doors, O Lebanon,
so that fire may devour your cedars!
[2] Wail, O pine tree, for the cedar has fallen;
the stately trees are ruined!
Wail, oaks of Bashan;
the dense forest has been cut down!
[3] Listen to the wail of the shepherds;
their rich pastures are destroyed!
Listen to the roar of the lions;
the lush thicket of the Jordan is ruined!

Two Shepherds

[4] This is what the LORD my God says: "Pasture the flock marked for slaughter. [5] Their buyers slaughter them and go unpunished. Those who sell them say, 'Praise the LORD, I am rich!' Their own shepherds do not spare them. [6] For I will no longer have pity on the people of the land," declares the LORD. "I will hand everyone over to his neighbor and his king. They will oppress the land, and I will not rescue them from their hands."

[7] So I pastured the flock marked for slaughter, particularly the oppressed of the flock. Then I took two staffs and called one Favor and the other Union, and I pastured the flock. [8] In one month I got rid of the three shepherds.

The flock detested me, and I grew weary of them [9] and said, "I will not be your shepherd. Let the dying die, and the perishing perish. Let those who are left eat one another's flesh."

[10] Then I took my staff called Favor and broke it, revoking the covenant I had made with all the nations. [11] It was revoked on that day, and so the afflicted of the flock who were watching me knew it was the word of the LORD.

[12] I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.

[13] And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD to the potter.

[14] Then I broke my second staff called Union, breaking the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

[15] Then the LORD said to me, "Take again the equipment of a foolish shepherd. [16] For I am going to raise up a shepherd over the land who will not care for the lost, or seek the young, or heal the injured, or feed the healthy, but will eat the meat of the choice sheep, tearing off their hoofs.

[17] "Woe to the worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock!
May the sword strike his arm and his right eye!
May his arm be completely withered,
his right eye totally blinded!"

Question 11b

Jeremiah 2:13; [13] "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

Zechariah 11:8; [8] In one month I got rid of the three shepherds. The flock detested me, and I grew weary of them

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Matthew 16:21; Jesus Predicts His Death

[21] From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

John 10:1-19; The Shepherd and His Flock

[10:1] “I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. [2] The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. [3] The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. [4] When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. [5] But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.” [6] Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

[7] Therefore Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. [8] All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. [9] I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. [10] The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

[11] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. [12] The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. [13] The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

[14] “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— [15] just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. [16] I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. [17] The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. [18] No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority

to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

[19] At these words the Jews were again divided.

Question 14a

Exodus 21:32; [32] If the bull gores a male or female slave, the owner must pay thirty shekels of silver to the master of the slave, and the bull must be stoned.

Matthew 26:14-16; Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

[14] Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests [15] and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. [16] From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

SIXTH DAY:

Review Zechariah 9-11

Zechariah 9

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