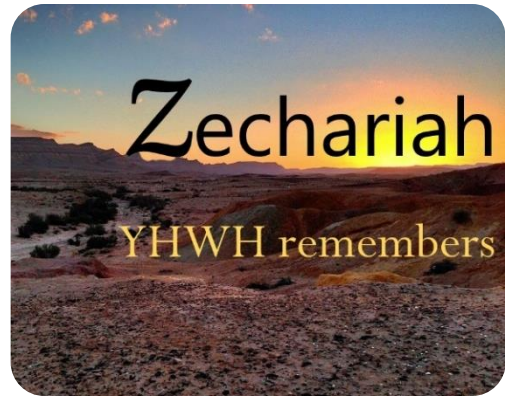


ZECHARIAH 9 vs 1

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Zechariah wrote around 500BC, when roughly 50,000 -- about 1/10th the population of the **House of Judah** in captivity... returned to Jerusalem, to rebuild the desolate region in advance of Messiah's first coming. Most of Judah had grown comfortable in their new home of Babylon... where they lived for the next several centuries, having rejected the Torah of Moses. So, now steeped in their manmade traditions and doctrines of men, found in their Babylonian Talmud -- which most people have the impression are merely quaint sayings... after the manner of Solomon's proverbs; but change your thinking; these once blessed people -- for all their smarts... they lost their first love -- **Revelation 3**.



In chapters 1–6, **Zechariah spells out 9 visions** he was given, leading to the time of the Righteous Branch... when **HE** is crowned and comes in power and great glory, when **HE** builds a household in His kingdom of righteousness, joy and peace. And I bet the Lord of glory knows a few things about creating. One thing we know, He won't need another altar for a bloody sacrifice. When He came the first time, they rejected the Chief cornerstone... missing all the prophets said.

Those who don't care, who don't embrace God's word; who substitute their manmade traditions and goofy hocus pocus... for what God clearly wrote for His people: they are the unenviable, as the prophets said; **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge**, since you forgot the law of your God, I will forget your children.



You know, the **two great conflicting powers** in the Middle East are the orthodox of the **house of Judah** who still zealously love their manmade traditions -- none of which can be found in the writings of any of the prophets; so they still reject the prophets who were sent to them. The other is **the roman church** which includes the Jesuits and their UN, EU, rogue CIA along with their prophet, and all their other global societies smashing and destroying until the whole world is broken -- **Daniel 2**, who also zealously love their manmade traditions and hocus pocus -- who think they have some mandate to rule the world; and to rule from Jerusalem... when all they have is to be a faithless religious whore sitting on many waters.

Between those two groups, the Lord of Glory will allow one of them to ignite the ugly conflict, that will spread and destroy the faithless nations throughout the earth. But that won't happen, until **the faithful remnant** now living among the faithless, among those who lost their first love, and left the Lord standing outside their door. The mother of all conflagrations won't happen, until one day, the Lord comes and removes **the Love of His Life**. -- **1 Thessalonians 4-5**.

That was a very long introduction: And now, as the LORD once again turns His attention to Judah and Jerusalem,

Zechariah writes:

**IT'S TIME TO
WAKE UP**

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¹ The burden of the word of the LORD is **against** the land of Hadrach and Damascus is its resting place: for the eyes of Adam's race, especially **all the tribes of Israel** are on the LORD. / **all those ruled by God**; remember the 10 tribes in the north led by Ephraim were **not Jewish**. Hattarika, north of Hamath, on the Orontes River; this area is very familiar; it's been in the news for several years now as the roman endless war agenda has sought to destabilize the region of the early church,

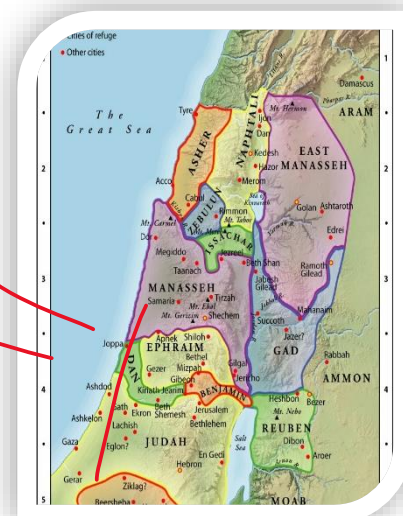
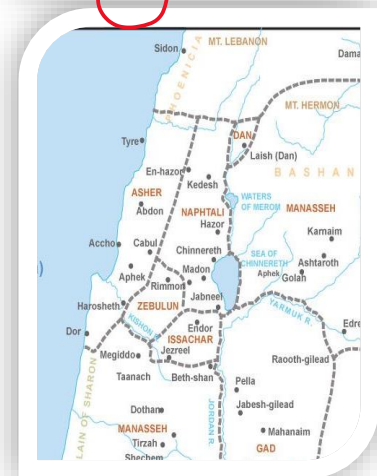
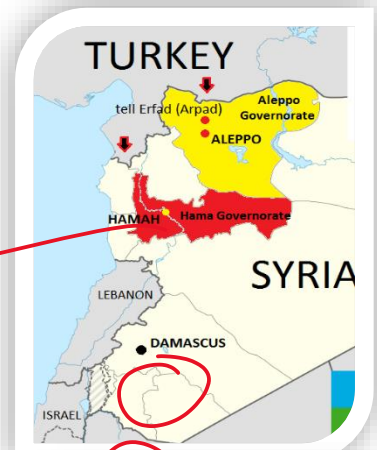
² **Hamath** / modern **Hama** will also border it, Tyre and Sidon though they are very wise, / on the Nahr el-Asi; from ancient times, a city state, located along the trade route, midway between Aleppo in the north and Damascus in the south... this identifies and defines the region that the LORD is against; Phoenician coastal cities, modern Lebanon; 2 grand cities of commerce and trade; Sidon to the north, Tyre to the south,

³ **Tyre built herself a strong hold and heaped up silver like dust, and fine gold like mud in the streets** / they were the most advanced, impregnable military fortress of their day, they were also once Beverly Hills successful; the envy of the world,

⁴ **But behold, the LORD will cast her out, and strike down her power on the sea; and she will be devoured by fire** / He will strip her of her possessions; and she will be utterly destroyed, and that's what history tells us happened; but will Lebanon be in the news in the later days, YES; someone clearly didn't learn the lesson 2500 years ago.

⁵ **Ashkelon will see it, and fear** / seeing their friends in ruin, caused fear, they learned about His wrath on cities to the north between Damascus and Aleppo. Ashdod in north Philistia, south of Joppa – modern-day Tel Aviv is not mentioned. Then Ashkelon, midway on the shoreline of Philistia; last, Gaza to the south; knew what was coming;

Gaza also will see and fear... and will writhe in anguish, and Ekron also, because her expectations / don't you wonder why it will writhe? Had I lived in Gaza, I'd move; 19 times Gaza is mentioned in the Bible -- not good; the Lord does not like what goes on there; no wonder fake leaders hide God's judgments from the people; they would soon be out of a job; I'm sure the people there would have loved to move, too; but her hopes are dashed; she thought confidently of herself, while she despised the tribes of Israel... now **she is ashamed**.



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The ruler will perish from Gaza, and Ashkelon will be uninhabited / the city midway will be deserted; which makes you wonder what happened; but Zechariah gives us the answer:

⁶ And a bastard will dwell in Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of Philistia / a mixed up, arrogant, people will live in the northern city, on the shoreline; so the Lord saved the best for the last.

⁷ I will take away its blood from its mouth, and its abominations from between its teeth / the Lord will take away their taste for blood; and the disgusting things that come from their mouth:

it too will be a remnant for our God; it will be like a tribe in Judah / which is hard to imagine; so the Lord knows how to wake up those brothers and sisters in Him; we learn there is a remnant people who are tired of the lies of those who withhold the truth; in this depressing region, thankfully a small group turned to the Lord; He heard their faint call; and promised to be with them in their trouble – Psalm 91,

and Ekron like the Jebusite / so, Ekron is ground zero of Philistia. It's 7 miles inland from Ashdod; 20 miles south of Tel Aviv; 25 miles west of Jerusalem; and they are like the last holdouts during the first conquest of Jerusalem. The battle for their minds and hearts is fierce; we need to pray for these people.

⁸ Then I will encamp at My house like an army, because of him who passes by and because of him who returns: no oppressor will pass through them anymore / His house located in enemy territory; yet He will surround it; since the invader who seeks to conquer and subdue it; no one will be able to trample them again: Why?

for now I see with My own eyes / so Jesus, Yeshua the Messiah is not on His way, He arrived!

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem: Behold, your King comes: righteous to save / Yasha, a diminutive of Yeshua; it's the source of the name: JESUS; and we know He will save His people; but He will do it creatively, different than expected;

your King comes, in great humility, riding on an ass, on a colt the foal of an ass / from several Jewish teachers, this indicates the attitude of the king coming, not for conquest on a regal horse.

So, Zechariah sees what first happened when Messiah came to substitute His life for His people; when He first entered, He shook Jerusalem, even in His humility it was a seismic event – Matthew 21. Now we learn about Jerusalem when Messiah comes again.

¹⁰ And I will cut off the chariot of Ephraim and the horse of Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be cut off / Ephraim would become a community of nations; and Manasseh would become a great nation – brothers at the center of the earth; and little Judah: all their military might, not needed; done; their military industrial complex finished.



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Why? Because The Prince of peace has arrived:

He will speak peace to the Gentiles: and His dominion will be from sea even to sea, and from the River Euphrates even to the ends of the **earth**.

¹¹ **As for you also, because of the blood of My covenant with you, I have set your prisoners free from the waterless pit** / because of our blood-bond; they are free from a prison that had no water; free from their death camps; the greatest water being the water of His Word.

¹² **Return to the stronghold, O prisoners of hope, today I declare that I will restore to you double** / you who have a reason to get up and keep going, the Lord says, return to Me – He is their mighty fortress:

¹³ **For I have bent Judah as a bow for Me; I have made Ephraim /in the islands and probably Manasseh its missiles. I will stir up your sons, O Zion, and wield you like a mighty warrior's sword against your sons, O Greece** / Zechariah is writing when Greece conquers Persia – the rise of the 3rd of those 4 beast govts Daniel saw that will occupy Jerusalem until the time Messiah comes.

¹⁴ **And the LORD will appear over them and His missiles will go forth like lightning** / the Lord will save His specially chosen people; remember were looking to the time when Messiah comes again in power and great glory... to rule the nations with a rod of iron, / **Ephraim... leading the House of Israel; and because the prophet speaks in short hand, we know Ephraim would become the great community of nations, and his brother Manasseh the great nation in the later days;**

and the LORD God will sound the trumpet; and will go forth in the whirlwinds of the south / sometime during the battle, the alarm will sound; He always sees the big picture; He's got their back; Has Armageddon begun?



What's going on there? Their attention had been on things to the north, was there a sneak attack coming from the other direction? Probably! Notice, the Lord does not tell Zechariah who it was.

¹⁵ **The LORD of hosts will defend them** / notice this verse begins with a promise: **they will be protected by the Lord**; so what can we imagine? The fighting will be fierce; missiles will be flying every direction; when the alarm sounds, the people have 15 seconds to stop what their doing and find shelter; by this time, shelter might be behind the nearest blown out wall; by this time, there probably won't be any more alarms;

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and they will destroy; and subdue the sling stones / all the flying projectiles, be they firebrand teenagers with slingshots, or a massive array of military might never imagined... smashing and destroying until there is no more missile left to launch and cause destruction;

and they will drink, and roar as if drunk with wine / both sides, senselessly drunk, full of hate, and the conflict will be enormous, the shriek of missiles -- both sides; Zechariah sees **blood** flowing; the fight will be to the death of the enemy; **violence** upon **violence** as in the days of Noah, total **hamas**;

and will be full like bowls,

drenched like the corners of the altar; / the slaughter, the massacre, the carnage will shock even the most seasoned soldier; blood... **red blood**... everywhere.

This prophetic chapter of Jerusalem and both houses **Israel** and **Judah** concludes:

16 And in that day the LORD their God will save them as the flock of His people / and one thing we know, when the flock ended up in Jerusalem, all those who gathered from the many nations... they are like sheep brought there... ready for the sacrifice:

for like the shining jewels of a crown lifted up as a flag on His earth.— those of His people who came, they are regal gems,

17 For how great is His goodness, how great is His beauty! Grain will make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.

They will see: the Lord their God will defend them; the Lord their God will save them... His people both men and women... who take refuge in the Lord rather than man; rather than in princes; they will not be discouraged, they will not be ashamed – it will be marvelous in their eyes – **Psalms 118**;

Check out our cousins, great sons of Judah, it's not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord:

BEHOLD ISRAEL | **ONE FOR ISRAEL** | **LEON MAZIN - TIKKUN** | **MESSIAH OF ISRAEL** | **STEVEN BEN NUN**