There will be a day when the God of Israel will surely bring it to pass - a day when the Lord will save Israel, and there will be a comeliness and beauty about them. In that day, the Lord will defend His people (Zechariah 9:15-17).

But before "that day," what will happen? How will God draw man's attention upward? What will it take to break down the pride of man and humble him before an almighty God?

Study well! The answers are in God's Word, and we are surrounded by people who need to hear and understand His message. "How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" (Isaiah 52:7).

DAY ONE

1. The key to accurate interpretation is thorough observation, so let's dig into Zechariah 9. Remember to begin your time of study with prayer!

   a. You are going to be looking at Zechariah chapters 9-11 this week. In the next lesson, you will be studying chapters 12-14. These are two separate sections, indicated by the way each section begins. Read Zechariah 9:1 and compare it by Zechariah 12:1. How do these chapters begin?

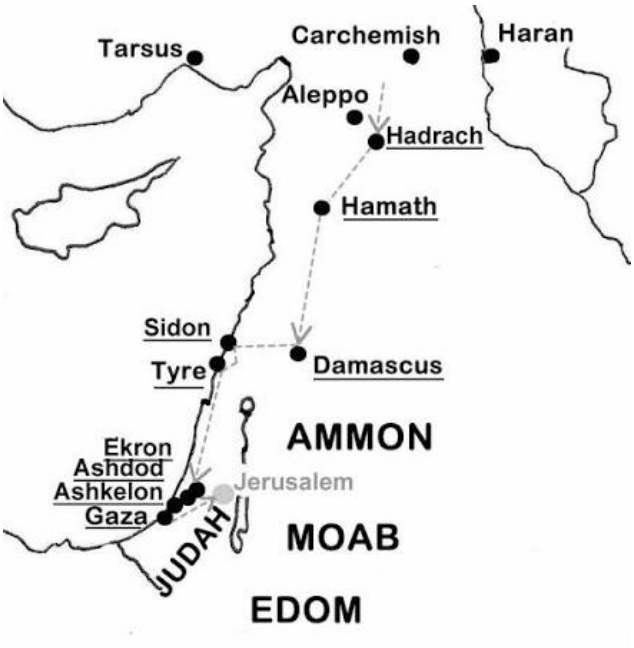
   b. Look up the word *"burden"* and see what you learn.

   c. Who are these burdens about?

2. Now read Zechariah 9:1-8. As you read, mark the locations in a distinct way. I use a simple compass in green. You can use the map to the right to see how these locations relate to each other.

3. Read through this passage again and mark any time references as you have in the past. Watch for words like *then* or *anymore*.

4. Read through Zechariah 9:1-8 one more time. This time, mark the references to the *Lord,* including pronouns that refer to Him, then list everything you learn from marking this below.



5. Let's move on to Zechariah 9:9-10. As you observe these verses, mark the following words and then record what you learn from each marking.
   a. *Lord*
   b. *king*
   c. *daughter of Zion* and *daughter of Jerusalem* and synonyms
   d. *nations*

6. Read Zechariah 9:11-17, observing and marking the key words as you have been doing throughout this chapter, making sure to mark *Greece* as a location. As you read, remember that Ephraim is another name for Israel (the northern kingdom).

7. What do you learn about the Lord and Zion/Jerusalem?

8. Check your "Zechariah at a Glance" chart to determine if you want to adjust your theme for this chapter.

9. One thing to remember as you leave your study for today: this chapter began with the phrase "The burden of the word of the Lord . . ." If this is the word of the Lord, it will come to pass exactly as it has been told to us. As you read and study, your job is to look for any indication of whether it is something that has already happened or will happen in the future. Take a moment or two and slowly, prayerfully, thoughtfully read through this chapter one more time.

DAY TWO

Today is going to be fun! I just love when Bible and history collide. You do know that history is simply His Story. One of the greatest lessons we learn from studying anything prophetic is God's plans come to be exactly as He said, hundreds and sometimes thousands of years before. This is not coincidence; it is God revealing His story to us. He didn't have to do that, but He did it anyway so that we would know that He is God. He is sovereign over all, and the course of this world has already been laid out and planned in complete detail. This is why we can trust Him. He is in control. He will bring it to pass. Our future is etched in stone, and nothing will change that. Don't worry about tomorrow because He knows what tomorrow will bring. Just think about what that means to us as we walk through this life!

Are you ready to be amazed?

1. Start this day's study by reading through Zechariah 9 once again. As you prayerfully read this chapter, pay close attention to verse 13. What does he say about Judah, Ephraim, and Greece. Sketch this out and label it.

2. Wait a minute. Did Zechariah just mention Greece? Had he mentioned that before? I will answer that for you: no, he did not. In fact, there is no other mention of Greece in the Old Testament except in Daniel, which you will look at soon. There is a good reason for that. Zechariah was written around 520 BC. Greece didn't become a force in the ancient world until 336 BC — almost 200 years after Zechariah. It's almost like God knew what was going to happen before it happened. Oh, wait. He did! It was, and always is, His story! Does that help you trust Him with what is going on in your life? Why? Don't skip this question. Answer it thoroughly and thoughtfully. This is where the application of Bible study comes in. Without applying, there is not really a reason to study.

   At the end of this lesson, on page 69, you will find a chart called "Prophetic Overview of Daniel." Take a couple of minutes to look this over. Look at the kingdoms mentioned and the dates that are listed. Above each column there is a number that gives you the corresponding chapter of Daniel if you want to glance at anything briefly, but don't get stuck there, for that is not the purpose of the chart. Using the chart, answer the following questions.

   a. What kingdom is the head of gold?
   b. What kingdom follows it and what year does that begin?
   c. When does Greece come to power?
   d. When does Rome come to power?
   e. Look at the cross. What kingdom is in power at that time?
   f. What does the stone at the bottom represent? We have already discussed that in this study. If you need a reminder, take a look at the verses listed.

   g. What kingdom was ruling in Zechariah's time?
   h. Was Greece a dominant power at that time?
   i. Does that make Zechariah 9:13 historical or prophetic (something that has yet to happen in Zechariah's day)?

j. According to the chart (last column) who is the first king of Greece?

k. When Daniel had the visions in Daniel 7 and 8, Babylon was the world superpower. Read Daniel 8:1-8 and 20-21. What does the single horn in the goat represent?

l. Many believe that Zechariah 9:1-8 describes the conquests of that single horn on the goat, before he dies at the young age of 33.

3. Look again at Zechariah 9:9 and then read Luke 19:29-44. Do you see any similarities? Who was the ruling kingdom over Israel in Luke's time? What kingdom was responsible for not leaving one stone upon another in 70 AD? Make sure to answer all the parts of this question.

4. Now let's look at Zechariah 9:10. This verse uses the pronouns "He" and "His." From the context and from examining the chart, to whom do you think this is referring and when do you think this will happen?

5. Finally, read Zechariah 9:11-17 and note what you learn about the usage of the word "*Zion*" and the "*sons of Zion*." Who is fighting whom, and who wins? Answer the 5 W's and an H.

6. You can't look to the Bible for answers to questions you may have about Greece. References about Antiochus Epiphanes and the Maccabees have to come from historical accounts because they happened during a time period known as the 400 Silent Years. After Malachi penned the words of the last book of the Old Testament, God was silent, no longer speaking through the prophets. The world was waiting for God to speak through His Word, Jesus Christ—the Living Word, God with us, the Blessed Redeemer, Messiah, the promised One.

7. If you want to look at commentaries on Zechariah 9, you can do that at this time. You can also see what you can find about the activities of Greece, Antiochus Epiphanes, and the Maccabees if you have access to historical reference books or the internet. Don't get lost and forget that you still have two more chapters to cover for this week.

DAY THREE

We only have one day that will be devoted to observing Zechariah 10. As we approach this chapter, don't forget who this oracle or burden is about (Zechariah 9:1). These are the nations—the world powers—who have Israel in their sights: Medo/Persia, Greece, Rome.

1. Observe chapter 10, marking key words and adding *shepherd(s)* and *flock* to your list. Just a note: the reference in verse 3 to "male goats" is referring to leaders, so mark accordingly.

2. What do you learn from marking these references? List your observations.

3. Did you notice how this chapter began? If not, go back and reread the first two verses. What are they to do? Why? When? What does this show? What are the contrasts? What can you learn for your own life?

4. When you made your list on the Lord's flock, the house of Judah, and the house of Jospeh (Ephraim—Israel), you should have seen the promise that He was going to bring them back. He was quite detailed about that event. Zechariah is not the first prophet to talk about this. Look up the following passages and record what you learn.

   a. Deuteronomy 30:1-4

   b. Isaiah 11:11-12

c. Isaiah 60 (if you have time)

d. Ezekiel 11:13-21

e. Matthew 24:29-31

5. Check your "Zechariah at a Glance" chart to be sure you are happy with your theme for this chapter.

6. If you have time, you can see what the commentaries have to say about Zechariah 10.

DAY FOUR

1. We now have two days to look at Zechariah 11. Take time to prayerfully read over this chapter to get a feel for its message.

2. Read through chapter 11 once again, taking care to really look at and think about verses 4 and 7. Write down you impressions of this chapter. Ask the Lord for help and guidance as you walk through the chapter. It can be a tough one. Remember, let the Scripture speak for itself. Be a little child as you come to the Lord, with your mind a clear slate. Allow Him to write His word on your heart.

3. It is a tough chapter, which makes it all the more necessary to thoroughly observe what is there. Take some time to read it a couple of times, marking key words, including *shepherds* (mark pasture the same way - because shepherds pasture their flock), and *flock*. Also, mark references to the *land* (this belongs to the children of Israel) and all references to *Zechariah*.

4. List what you observe (no interpretation—just observation) about the flock and about the one who is to pasture the flock.

5. Check your chapter theme on the "Zechariah at a Glance" chart, and let's call it a day.

DAY FIVE

This is quite a chapter isn't it. Again, it isn't easy to understand, so you need to walk though it carefully. Take time to think through the time period, the events that are happening, and the occasion for Zechariah writing his letter.

We live in a time when the prophecy of the first coming of the Lord has been fulfilled. We look at these passages with very different colored glasses. Peter tells us this:

As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.—I Peter 1:10-12.

What a privilege for us to have "*things into which angels long to look*" exposed to us through the pages of God's Word. We are truly blessed!

1. You are going to spend more time observing Zechariah 11 today and then check out some cross-references. Read through this chapter and review the lists you made yesterday.

2. Now look at the first three verses of the chapter. What do you think the purpose of these three verses is?

3. Let's take a closer look at Zechariah 11:4-17.

    a. Verse 4 begins with "Thus says the Lord my God." To whom is the Lord speaking?

    b. Summarize the main points from Zechariah 11:4-17.

    c. What do you learn about the two staffs?

4. Go back and look at verses 12-13. Does any of that sound vaguely familiar to you? Let's look at two portions of Scripture and record what you learn.

    a. Matthew 27:3-10

    b. Exodus 21:32 (note who the person was and what happened to them that was being paid for)

c. There is a reason that Zechariah 11:12-13, Matthew 27:3-10; and Exodus 21:32 are being put here side by side. Read them and watch the common thread and see if you can determine how they connect. Wrestle with this. Once you see the connection it should be an ah-ha moment! Write down your insights.

5. Is it possible that Zechariah is a "stand-in"—a picture of the Messiah in this chapter? If so (and some believe it is so), does it cause you to rethink your observations from Zechariah 11:4-17? If so, how has it changed your thinking?

6. Let's look at a couple of possibilities, and then, once you have studied this for yourself, you will be able to go to commentaries and see what others may think about these verses.

   a. Luke 19:11-14, 27 is part of a parable that Jesus tells on His final trip to Jerusalem before his arrest and crucifixion at the time of the Feast of the Passover. He tells it just before He rides into Jerusalem on a donkey as you saw in Zechariah 9:9. What do the citizens (enemies) say about Jesus?

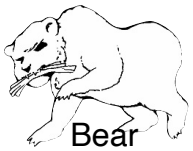
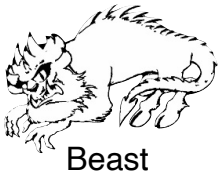
b. Look at what the elders and chief priests said in John 19:15. Where was their allegiance?

c. Some believe that Zechariah 11:6 describes the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, when Titus destroyed the city and the sanctuary. Josephus, a first century Jewish historian, gives an account that the famine was so bad that the people ate human flesh, just as they did when Babylon besieged Jerusalem. Josephus begged the people of the city to surrender, just as Jeremiah did, but they wouldn't listen. The next day when Jesus rides into Jerusalem, He wept and predicted the destruction of Jerusalem as prophesied in Daniel 9:26. Read through Luke 19:41-44.

7. Who is the worthless shepherd? Read Zechariah 11:15-17 and list what you learn about him. Who raises up this shepherd?

8. Now you can look at what you commentaries say about Zechariah 11.

Well done. The icing on the cake comes with next weeks study as we wrap up the amazing book of Zechariah!

<table>
<tr><th colspan="6">Prophetic Overview of Daniel</th></tr>
<tr><th></th><th>Daniel
2</th><th>Daniel
7</th><th>Daniel
8</th><th>Daniel
9</th><th>Daniel
11,12</th></tr>
<tr><td>605 BC
Babylon
GOLD
539 BC</td><td rowspan="3"></td><td>
Lion</td><td></td><td></td><td>626 BC
BABYLON</td></tr>
<tr><td>539 BC
Med/Persia
SILVER
331 BC</td><td>
Bear</td><td>
Ram</td><td>Dan 9:24-27
445 BC DECREE OF ARTAXERXES
7 weeks = 49 years
to 39 BC</td><td>539 BC
MEDO-PERSIA
Dan 11:2
4 Persian Kings</td></tr>
<tr><td>331BC
Greece
BRONZE
168 BC</td><td>
Leopard</td><td>
Goat
1horn, 4 horns,
small horn</td><td>plus 62 weeks = 69 weeks
plus 434 years = 483 years
MESSIAH THE PRINCE ENTERS JERUSALEM ON DONKEY LUKE 19:28-38</td><td>331 BC
GREECE
Daniel 11:3
Alexander the Great
Daniel 11:5-20
Kings of North/South
Daniel 11:21-35
Small Horn
Antiochus Epiphanes</td></tr>
<tr><td>168 BC
Rome
IRON
30 AD (?)
476 AD</td><td>
Beast</td><td></td><td></td><td>63 BC
ROME

AD 476</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="3">GAP OF TIME</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>AD ?
IRON & CLAY</td><td>
10 KINGS</td><td>10 horns
Little horn
Time,times,
half a time
</td><td></td><td>70th seven 9:27
483 yrs + 7 yrs = 490 yrs
3 1/2 years
3 1/2 years
PRINCE MAKES COVENANT</td><td>AD ?
Daniel 11:36-45
The opposing king

Daniel 12:1-11
1290 days</td></tr>
<tr><td>Kingdom
Of
God</td><td>Stone
Daniel 2:44, 45
</td><td>Ancient of Days Comes

Son and saints
rule kingdom
Dan 7:22, 26, 27</td><td></td><td></td><td>KINGDOM
OF GOD

Daniel 12:12-13</td></tr>
</table>