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**Zechariah’s Joy
Trusting God in Days of Pain # 11, “Praying His Promises”**

**May 21st, 2017**

**Text: Zech. 10:1-12**

Keith M. Doyle, Lead Pastor – Winnetka Bible Church

**I. Intro:**

**1. Context:** **How are we to read the promises given to Israel? (4 ways)**

 --They are for national Israel (c/f Zech.8:13)

 --There is still a future for repentant ‘Israel’ (c/f Rom.11)

 --Through Christ Gentiles become partners in the promises

 (c/f Eph.2:12; Gal.3:29)

 -- **Many of these promises are ‘layered’…partly fulfilled in**

 **Zechariah’s time**

**2.Setting**

* Zechariah = ***‘one whom the Lord remembers’***
* **Two main sections:**
* Chap.1-8 – **God will intervene! Trust His Promises!**
* Chap. 9-14 – **Messiah (Jesus) is the center of God’s**

 **intervention plan!**

* 8 ‘Night Visions’…The ‘Branch’ and 500 years later!
* **Illus.** Prayer and oranges; Promises and the reality gap…self-reliance…

 ***Q. What role does prayer play in the fulfillment of God’s promises?***

**II. Pondering the Promises (10:3-12 *‘…for the Lord of Hosts cares for His***

 ***flock…’* 3)**

1. **Cultural Context**
* Chapters 9,10; Only ‘summons’ in the text, ***‘Ask rain…’*** (1)
* To be taken literally and spiritually (like most of Zechariah)
* Scattered across the empire – ***‘I will’, ‘they will/shall’***
1. **The Promise to Save (2-5)**
* **The Adversaries (2,3)**
* **False gods and false prophets are a threat to God’s people (2)**
	+ ***‘…they give empty consolation…therefore the people wander like sheep’*** (2)
	+ Why Israel went into idolatry, ***‘household gods’*** (2)
	+ ‘Preying’ on God’s people when they are suffering
	+ **Apply:** Whenever we ‘wait’ for God we are susceptible to error
* **Selfish and domineering leaders are a threat to God’s people (3)**
	+ ***‘My anger is hot against the shepherds…’*** (3)

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* + ***‘Male goats’*** (3) – cruel, selfish, dominating (c/f Ezek.34;1 Pet.5:2,3)
	+ **Apply:**Wanting vengeance against bad leadership? ***‘I will punish the leaders’*** (3)
* **The Deliverance (3-5, ‘…*house of Judah…majestic steed*…’ 4)**
* What will Messiah do? (4)
	+ Christ is the ***‘Cornerstone’; ‘tent peg’;*** ‘***battle bow’; ‘ruler of all’***
* The point: Christ is sufficient
1. **The Promise to Restore (6-12)**
* **Christ is sufficient for every enemy/battle**
	+ J. MacArthur, ***‘It is dangerous for a Christian to believe that any problem is beyond the scope of Scripture or unmet in Christ’***
	+ Laying hold of Christ
* **Christ’s sufficiency does not imply passivity**
	+ 10:5 says, ***‘They shall fight for the Lord is with them…’***
	+ Surrendering and serving
* **God Will Strengthen and Deliver**
	+ ***‘I will…strengthen, save and bring back…answer them’*** (6)
	+ Sometimes God ‘scatters’ His people…to save them (‘***When I scatter them…’*** 9,10)
		- FB Meyer, ‘God’s Sowing’ (c/f Jn.12:24)
		- Paul’s despairing (c/f 2 Cor.1:8,9)
	+ Sometimes God’s power is best seen in weakness
		- Hudson Taylor, ***‘All God’s giants have been weak men…’***
		- The ‘means’ of laying ahold of His promises…prayer…

**III. Praying the Promises (*‘Ask rain from the Lord…’* 1)**

1. **We are Compelled to Pray…Dependence**
* A time of poor harvests (C/f Hag.1:6) – rain: they could not produce it!
* God is the source of all things…***’from the Lord…’*** (1)
* The activity of a God-dependent people – faith and prayer
* ***‘Your Father knows what you have need of before you ask Him’*** (c/f Matt.6:8)
1. **We are Commanded to Pray…Decree** (1)
* God calls them to pray…in Spring…when it rains?

***‘Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven’***

(c/f Matt.6:10)

* The ‘means’ for fulfilling His promises…**Illus.** A walking lesson in anatomy

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