WHEN LEADERS FAIL TO DO THEIR JOB

Zechariah 10:1-12
When Leaders Fail To Do Their Job

Commentary

By

Charles Box

Text:

1. Ask the Lord for rain in the season of the late spring rains—the Lord who causes thunderstorms—and he will give everyone showers of rain and green growth in the field.
2. For the household gods have spoken wickedness, the soothsayers have seen a lie, and as for the dreamers, they have disclosed emptiness and give comfort in vain. Therefore the people set out like sheep and become scattered because they have no shepherd.
3. I am enraged at the shepherds and will punish the lead-goats. For the Lord who rules over all has brought blessing to his flock, the house of Judah, and will transform them into his majestic warhorse.
4. From him will come the cornerstone, the wall peg, the battle bow, and every ruler.
5. And they will be like warriors trampling the mud of the streets in battle. They will fight, for the Lord will be with them, and will defeat the enemy cavalry.
6. “I (says the Lord) will strengthen the kingdom of Judah and deliver the people of Joseph and will bring them back because of my compassion for them. They will be as though I had never rejected them, for I am the Lord their God and therefore I will hear them.
7. The Ephraimites will be like warriors and will rejoice as if they had drunk wine. Their children will see it and rejoice; they will celebrate in the things of the Lord.
8. I will signal for them and gather them, for I have already redeemed them; then they will become as numerous as they were before.
9. Though I scatter them among the nations, they will remember in far-off places—they and their children will sprout forth and return.
10. I will bring them back from Egypt and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them to the lands of Gilead and Lebanon, for there will not be enough room for them in their own land.
11. The Lord will cross the sea of storms and will calm its turbulence. The depths of the Nile will dry up, the pride of Assyria will be humbled, and the domination of Egypt will be no more.
12. Thus I will strengthen them by my power, and they will walk about in my name,” says the Lord. (NET)

Introduction:

I. Zechariah pictured what happened when the leaders among God’s people failed to do their job.

A. When those who were supposed to teach and lead the people of God were evil, the people were scattered as sheep without a shepherd. (Zechariah 10:1-2)

1. Zechariah 10:1-2, Ask the LORD for rain in the season of the late spring rains—the LORD who causes thunderstorms—and he will give everyone showers of rain and green growth in the field. For the household gods have spoken wickedness, the soothsayers have seen a lie, and as for the dreamers, they have disclosed emptiness and give comfort in vain. Therefore the people set out like sheep and become scattered because they have no shepherd. (NET)

2. The leaders of Israel would be punished for allowing God’s people to be misled.
B. When Jesus was upon earth, He found the same spiritual condition.

1. “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36)

2. It was prophesied that the true leader of God’s people would come out of Judah.

3. The one that would come from Judah and rule His people was called: (1) the chief corner, (2) the tent peg, (3) the battle bow, and (4) the ruler who is over all.

   a. Jesus is clearly identified as the chief corner stone.

      i. “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.” (Ephesians 2:20)

   b. Jesus is the tent peg or nail that holds everything together.

      i. Paul wrote, “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” (Colossians 1:17)

   c. The Messiah is the battle bow and He will not be defeated by any.

      i. “As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.” (John 17:2)
d. He gives other rulers their power.

i. “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.” (Romans 13:1)

II. God promised to bring home the kingdoms of Judah and Israel.

A. He would answer their prayers and show mercy to them because He is God.

1. God would be so good to them that they would forget they had been in captivity.

2. Ephraim or Israel was again promised God’s favor and blessings.

3. The ten tribes would be part of the group that God redeemed at Jerusalem.

4. Most of the Jews had been in Babylon during the captivity.

5. Some of them were scattered in different countries.

B. During the time of restoration, the Jews would return home from everywhere.

1. The return of the Jews would be so successful that, when the scattered Jews returned, they would not only inhabit Jerusalem, but also places like Gilead and Lebanon.

2. Those that had smitten the Jews during the seventy years of captivity would now face the consequences of their own sins.
3. Any strength that the Jews had upon their return would be strength from the Lord.

Commentary:

Wicked Leaders Among the Jews

Zechariah 10:1-3, Ask the LORD for rain in the season of the late spring rains—the LORD who causes thunderstorms—and he will give everyone showers of rain and green growth in the field. For the household gods have spoken wickedness, the soothsayers have seen a lie, and as for the dreamers, they have disclosed emptiness and give comfort in vain. Therefore the people set out like sheep and become scattered because they have no shepherd. I am enraged at the shepherds and will punish the lead-goats. For the LORD who rules over all has brought blessing to his flock, the house of Judah, and will transform them into his majestic warhorse. (NET)

I. Zechariah addressed the problem of corrupt and evil leadership.

A. There is hope that things could be and should be better following the restoration from exile.

1. The blessings were available to the people if the people would ask God for rain and for His daily blessings.

2. The people should recognize by now that idols can do nothing.

3. God can give the latter rains that produce green grass.

4. Divine blessings are available to those who will surrender to God.
B. In the past, the people had continued in rebellion against God even though He is the one who makes the clouds and the rain.

1. The leaders of God’s people must move the nation in a better direction than did the evil leaders in past generations when the goats lead the sheep to slaughter.

   a. Poor leadership allowed idols and idols comforted in vain.

2. Among those leaders would be good men like Zerubbabel, Joshua, Haggai, Nehemiah and Zechariah himself.

C. Illustrations of both sheep and shepherds are used to describe the Messiah in Scripture.

1. While there had been evil shepherds, one day God would send the Good Shepherd as Redeemer.

2. Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.” (John 10:11)

Judah Needed Righteous Leaders

Zechariah 10:4-7, From him will come the cornerstone, the wall peg, the battle bow, and every ruler. And they will be like warriors trampling the mud of the streets in battle. They will fight, for the LORD will be with them, and will defeat the enemy cavalry. “I (says the LORD) will strengthen the kingdom of Judah and deliver the people of Joseph and will bring them back because of my compassion for them. They will be as though I had never rejected them, for I am the LORD their God and therefore I will hear them. The Ephraimites will be like warriors and will rejoice as if they had drunk wine. Their children will see it and rejoice; they will celebrate in the things of the LORD. (NET)
I. In the first three verses of Zechariah ten, the focus had been on the past actions of God’s people.

A. Now we are allowed to get a future view of good things for the people of God.

B. After their return from Babylon, things did improve for Israel.

II. However, this was a faint look at what awaited with the coming of the Messiah.

A. The house of Judah would become that godly horse that God could ride into battle.

B. This is very similar to when God said, “When I have bent Judah for me, filled the bow with Ephraim, and raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece, and made thee as the sword of a mighty man.” (Zechariah 9:13)

C. One was coming from Judah that would be: . . .

1. the chief corner, . . .

2. the peg or strong hook upon which all the hope of the future was suspended, . . .

3. the battle bow, and . . .

4. the ruler who is over all.

D. God had compassion for the Jews and accepted them again as if they had never been rejected.

1. Judah and Israel came together as God’s flock.

2. It is through this flock of God that the great Shepherd, King would be born into the earth.
3. Without this we could have no salvation.

God Redeeming the People

Zechariah 10:8-10, I will signal for them and gather them, for I have already redeemed them; then they will become as numerous as they were before. Though I scatter them among the nations, they will remember in far-off places—they and their children will sprout forth and return. I will bring them back from Egypt and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them to the lands of Gilead and Lebanon, for there will not be enough room for them in their own land. (NET)

I. God promised to call Israel out of captivity.

A. Many of the Jews were in captivity in Babylon and others were scattered among the nations.

1. The number of people that was brought back would continue to increase.

2. People were brought back out of the land of Egypt and gathered out of Assyria.

B. This is the remnant that escaped and returned to Judah.

1. One way that God blessed Judah was to repopulate the land which had been depleted by captivity.

2. God promised that Assyria would be humbled and Judah would prosper.

3. The regathering process began when God called for His people, whose ears were tuned to Him, to return.
4. This is a beautiful picture of seed Abraham’s responding to the call of God.

5. They had been scattered because of sin.

6. When they heard God call, they gathered back with other Jews now under the care of God.

7. Israel could be made alive as God renewed her hope.

C. Like a seed dying and then coming alive, Israel as a dead nation would be made alive by the power of God.

1. God would bring so many Jews back that there would be an overflow in the land of promise, so much so that many would overflow into Gilead and to Lebanon.

**God Strengthened His People**

I. God used events of the past where it was obvious that He was blessing the Jews to again say that He would be there to bless them.

   A. God promised that He would be with His people as they go through an ocean of trouble.

   B. He promised that He would overcome the waves and dry up the deepest part of the Nile for their benefit.

   C. Most surprising of all He promised that Assyria’s great pride would be put down, and the power of Egypt would disappear.

   1. God said, “I will strengthen my people because of who I am, and they will follow me. I, the LORD have spoken.”
D. This was an incredible glimpse into the future for Zechariah and for the people of his day.

1. The psalmist wrote, “For God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth.” (Psalms 74:12)

2. The redemption will be complete and God’s people “will walk up and down in His name.”

Conclusion:

I. Let us observe that those who serve God are blessed and those that rebel are punished.

A. Is it your desire to see the will of God done?

B. If so, it is time to become a Christian now!
Questions

On

Zechariah 10:1-12

By

John C. Sewell

(Questions based on NIV Text)

1. In your experience, what happens when leaders fail to do their jobs? 

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. When God’s people ask the Lord for ______________ in the ___________, He makes the ___________ ___________. He gives ___________ of ___________ to ____________, and ___________ of the ___________ to ____________.

3. In contrast with the Lord’s, _______________ _______________ ___________, ____________ see ____________, that __________; they tell ___________ that are ____________, they give ___________ in ____________. Therefore the ___________ ___________ like __________ oppressed for ___________ of a ____________.

4. God’s ____________, therefore ___________ against the ____________. God will ___________ the ___________; for the ____________ ____________ will ____________ for
this _____________, the ______________ of ______________, and make them like a ______________ ______________ in ______________.

5. ______________ had ______________ on the ______________ because they ______________ and were ______________ ______________ as ______________ having ______________ ______________.

6. The true ______________ of God’s ______________ would come out of ______________ and would be called the ______________ ______________, the ______________ ______________, the ______________ ______________ and the ______________ who is over all.

7. ______________ promised to bring home the ______________. He would ______________ their ______________ and show ______________ to them. ______________ or ______________ was again ______________ ______________’s ______________ and ______________.

8. The ______________ ______________ would be part of the ______________ that God _________________. Most of the ______________ had been in ______________ during the ______________. Some of them were scattered in ______________ ______________.

9. During the time of ______________ the ______________ would ______________ from ______________. The return would be so ______________ that when the ______________ ______________, they would not only ______________ ______________ but also places like ______________ and ______________.

10. Those that had ______________ the ______________ during the ______________ ______________ of ______________ would now ______________ the ______________ of their own ______________. Their ______________ would be ______________ from the ______________.
11. Among the good leaders of God’s people were men like __________, __________, __________, __________ and __________.

12. Illustrations of both __________ and __________ are used to describe the __________ in Scripture. One day God would send the __________, __________ as __________.

13. Judah will be like __________ __________ __________ the __________ __________ in __________. Because the __________ is with them, they will __________ and __________ the __________.

14. God will __________ the __________ of __________ and __________ the __________ of __________. God will __________ them because he will have __________ on them. They will be as though God had not __________ them.

15. The __________ will become like __________ __________ __________, and their __________ will be __________ as with __________. Their __________ will see it and be __________; their __________ will __________ in the __________.

16. God will __________ for them and __________ them in. God will __________ them and they will be as __________ as before. In __________ __________ they would __________ God. They will __________ and they will __________. God would bring them back from __________ and gather them from __________. God will bring them to __________ and __________ and there will not be __________ for them.

17. One way __________ __________ __________ was to __________ the __________ which had been __________ by

__________ . __________ would be __________ and __________ would ____________ .

18. Like a __________ _________ and then coming _________ , __________ as a __________ ____________ would bring so many _________ back that there would be an _________ in the _________ of __________ , so much so that _________ would _________ into __________ and to __________ .

19. They will___________ through the sea of _________; the __________ _________ will be __________ and all the _________ of the __________ will __________ up. _________’s _________ will be brought down and _________’s _________ will __________ _________ . God promised to _________ them and that in his _________ they will ____________.

20. God ____________ that he would be with his _________ as they go through an _________ of _________ . Strong enemies such as _________ and _________ would disappear. These blessings resulted because of _________ _________ , is not because of the people’s goodness.