

**God Remembered**  
**Zechariah 10**  
**Chapter 16**  
**“The Days of Latter Rain”**

*The Lord Restores His People*

*Ask the Lord for rain in the season of spring rain. The Lord makes the rain clouds, and he will give them showers of rain and crops in the field for everyone.*

*For the idols speak falsehood, and the diviners see illusions; they relate empty dreams and offer empty comfort. Therefore the people wander like sheep; they suffer affliction because there is no shepherd.*

*My anger burns against the shepherds, so I will punish the leaders. For the Lord of Armies has tended His flock, the house of Judah; He will make them like His majestic steed in battle.*

*The cornerstone, the tent peg, the battle bow, and every ruler — all will go out from Him together.*

*They will be like warriors in battle trampling down the mud of the streets. They will fight because the Lord is with them, and they will put horsemen to shame.*

*I will strengthen the house of Judah and deliver the house of Joseph. I will restore them because I have compassion on them, and they will be as though I had never rejected them. For I am the Lord their God, and I will answer them.*

*Ephraim will be like a warrior, and their hearts will be glad as if with wine. Their children will see it and be glad; their hearts will rejoice in the Lord.*

*I will whistle and gather them because I have redeemed them; they will be as numerous as they once were.*

*Though I sow them among the nations, they will remember me in the distant lands; they and their children will live and return.*

*I will bring them back from the land of Egypt and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon, but it will not be enough for them.*

*The Lord will pass through the sea of distress and strike the waves of the sea; all the depths of the Nile will dry up. The pride of Assyria will be brought down, and the scepter of Egypt will come to an end.*

*I will strengthen them in the Lord, and they will march in His name — this is the Lord's declaration.*

The tenth chapter of *Zechariah* is tied closely with the ninth. They both speak of a time when Israel is restored to her former glory and the land is healed. The best time period in Israel's history occurred during the reigns of David and Solomon. These kings presided over the tiny nation when it was its most prosperous and secure. In a metaphorical way of speaking, it was a time of "spring rain" when all that was good and plentiful lay before them. Israel's subsequent sin and idolatry had indeed brought them low and in grave danger. God had always warned them that if they forsook His guidance and commandments then they would suffer the consequences.

**For I am commanding you today to love The LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, statutes, and ordinances, so that you may live and multiply, and the LORD your God may bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not listen and you are led astray to bow in worship to other gods and serve them, I tell you today that you will certainly perish and will not prolong your days in the land you are entering to possess across the Jordan. I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, love The LORD your God, obey Him, and remain faithful to Him. For He is your life, and He will prolong your days as long as you live in the land The LORD swore to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.**  
**Deuteronomy 30:16-20**

But Israel's kings, and other leaders, had violated The LORD's covenants and had led the people astray. The people began to wander into sin and idolatry as they followed these "false shepherds" and The LORD was not pleased with them (**vs. 2-3**). This wandering away from God had brought the nation into a "dry season" of rebellion, bitterness, and ultimately enslavement to foreign powers such as Assyria and Babylon. A remnant of God's people had returned from their Babylonian captivity, but a great many had been scattered and assimilated by the Assyrians. The Northern Kingdom of Israel had been decimated, and the Southern Kingdom of Judah was but a shadow of its former glory when King David had reigned upon the throne.

God, however, remembers His promises and is faithful even when His people are not. And He has promised a time of "latter rain" when Israel, not just Judah but all of Israel, will be reassembled, revived and restored. And this will happen in the last days, when The Messiah comes to reign in peace and prosperity. The first time He came, even His own did not recognize Him for He came as a humble suffering servant, riding upon the foal of a donkey (**Zechariah 9:9**). But when He returns even those who despise Him will recognize Him as The King of kings and LORD of lords (**Revelation 19:16**).

The false shepherds had led Israel astray, but the True Shepherd will not! Zechariah describes The LORD Jesus as *The Cornerstone*, *The Tent Peg*, and *The Battle Bow* (**vs 4**). With each of these titles having extraordinary significance. First, Christ was, in fact, "The Stone the builders rejected, which has become the chief cornerstone" (**Psalms 118:22**). This simply means that although Christ was rejected by the religious "false shepherds" in Jerusalem, He, and He alone, is the foundation for the spiritual house that God is building. To reject Christ is to build your house upon the sand, as it were, and it shall not endure (**Matthew 7:26**).

The identification of The Messiah as a "Tent Peg" or "Nail" carries with it the meaning of something being firmly established. You will find an example of this figure of speech in *Isaiah 22*, when the prophet describes a treasurer of God's own choosing (namely *Eliakim*) being driven like a peg into a firm place (**Isaiah 22:22**). Christ Jesus has been established by God into a firm footing. And He has provided salvation to His people by being nailed to the cross. His Word is law and He is from everlasting to everlasting (**Psalms 90:2**).

The third identification of The Messiah King, "The Battle Bow" speaks of His return to destroy His enemies with the breath of His mouth (**2 Thessalonians 2:8**). As stated previously, when Christ returns, He will not be the humble servant as He was the first time. He will come as a mighty warrior to deliver His chosen people from their enemies. This will usher in the glory of Israel, the latter rains that bring a time of peace and prosperity, and Christ rules the nations with a rod of iron (**Psalms 2, Revelation 2:27**).

**Coronation of the Son**

**Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?**

**The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers conspire together against the Lord and His Anointed One:**

**“Let’s tear off their chains and throw their ropes off of us.”**

**The one enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord ridicules them.**

**Then He speaks to them in His anger and terrifies them in His wrath:**

**“I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain.”**

**I will declare the Lord’s decree. He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father.**

**Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance and the ends of the earth your possession.**

**You will break them with an iron scepter; you will shatter them like pottery.”**

**So now, kings, be wise; receive instruction, you judges of the earth.**

**Serve the Lord with reverential awe and rejoice with trembling.**

**Pay homage to the Son or He will be angry and you will perish in your rebellion, for His anger may ignite at any moment. All who take refuge in Him are happy.**

**Psalm 2**

In that day, God fully intends to restore all of Israel, not just the tribe of Judah. As we have said earlier, the Jews have scattered throughout the earth, with some tribes having been described as “lost”. But God knows exactly where they are! And He intends to return them to their rightful homeland. That is why Zechariah refers to Israel, not only as Judah, but Ephraim. For Judah represents the “Southern Kingdom of Judah” while Ephraim speaks of the “Northern kingdom of Israel.”

Some have wondered why it is the God refers to the Northern Kingdom as Ephraim. Ephraim was the second son of Joseph. From his deathbed, Joseph’s father Jacob blessed Joseph’s two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh (**Genesis 48**). But rather than giving the oldest, namely Manasseh, the greater portion of the blessing, including the birthright, he gave it to Ephraim. The name Ephraim actually means “doubly blessed”. And for whatever reason (other than the sovereign will of God), more than likely because Jacob was himself the younger of his brothers and still received God’s blessing as opposed to his brother Esau, Jacob chose Ephraim to get the blessing that was rightful to the firstborn.

When Israel split in two after the reign of Solomon, the ten tribes of the Northern kingdom chose Jeroboam, an Ephraimite, as their king. So the Northern Kingdom of Israel became synonymous with that tribe. Needless to say, God, through Zechariah, is promising to reunite all of Israel under the banner of the Messiah King during the days of “the latter rain”.

Just a quick glance of recent history will reveal that God is already at work to bring the Jews back to their homeland. Israel was re-established as a nation in 1948. And the Jews have been returning home ever since. In 1950, Israel’s government passed the law of “Aliyah” which simply means “ascent”. This law granted anyone of Jewish heritage to return to their homeland and reclaim their citizenship standing. Since the law’s passage, millions of Jews have returned to Israel from all across the world.

Today, there are over seven million Jews in Israel. The second largest Jewish population of around 6.9 million live in the U.S. But more and more of them are returning home with each and every passing year. The rise of anti-semitism both in the U.S. and Europe has caused many of Abraham’s

descendants to go back to Israel and reclaim their national heritage. The devil has caused this world to despise God's chosen people, but just as it was in the case of Joseph's brother's cruel treatment of him, *God meant it for good*. And the nation of Israel is being restored right before our very eyes. For we are most certainly living in the last days!

God has promised, through His prophets and here in particular, Zechariah, that the nation of Israel will once more be unified and led by David's own descendant, The Messiah king Who will destroy the enemies of Israel once and for all. Or as the prophet so eloquently recorded in The Word of The LORD:

***I will whistle and gather them, because I have redeemed them; they will be as numerous as they once were. Though I sow them among the nations, they will remember Me in the distant lands; they and their children will live and return. I will bring them back from the land of Egypt and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon, but it will not be enough for them. The LORD will pass through the sea of distress and strike the waves of the sea; all the depths of the Nile will dry up. The pride of Assyria will be brought down, and the scepter of Egypt will come to an end. I will strengthen them in The LORD, and they will march in His Name — This is The LORD'S declaration. Zechariah 10:8-12***

So, just as it was in the days of the Egyptian exodus, God will re-assemble His chosen people and shall lead them to their promised land. For our God... Remember!