

Zechariah 9:1-8 – Terror on Tyre

TSK, Handfuls, INT, HebrewLexicon, Henry, Geneva, Poole, Barnes, JFB, Barnes, Gill, Phillips, Calvin?
Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Considering all the **Lord did for his bride and what he promised her**: (8:1-8)
He expected his **bride to stay close to him and serve him**. (8:9-17)
He **provided prayer and fasting for his bride to come and ask for what she needed** to do what he expected. (8:18-23)
You might say: "What a good God!" And he is! But your covenant God, Jehovah God, did not stop there. Today you will see how **God decisively destroyed those who threatened his bride**. You can say that he put terror on Tyre and his friends.

Our headings are:

The Certainty of God's Judgment

The Carnage(大屠杀) of God's Judgment

The Continuation of God's Judgment

Our goals are: **That you will not be afraid to obey God your Redeemer knowing that God will exterminate 消灭 your enemies.**

The Certainty of the God's Judgment

1 The **burden of the word of the LORD... (For the eyes of men And all the tribes of Israel Are on the LORD)**;

1. What is the "burden of the word of the Lord?" We use the word "burden" in a figurative (比喻的) sense to mean that we are **concerned or worried about a person or thing**. "I have a burden for my children." Or we use "burden" to refer to **responsibility**. "My yoke is easy and my burden light." But the word "burden" is use differently in here. Here it applies to the **weightiness (重要性) of God's Word, responsibility, and judgment**.

Isaiah 15:1 The burden against Moab. Because in the night Ar of Moab is laid waste And destroyed, Because in the night Kir of Moab is laid waste And destroyed,

Nahum 1:1 The burden against Nineveh...

John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but **the wrath of God abides on him.**"

Jesus took your burdens (the weight of God's justice) on the cross.

2. God's severe judgment (burden) would rightly come on these nations because of what they did to God's people. No wonder you read that the eyes of the Jews were on God to see what he would do.

Psalms 91:8 Only with your eyes shall you look, And **see the reward of the wicked**.

3. Lessons:

a. God always sees your troubles, every unfairness (不公平) you face in life. Don't panic. Be patient.

b. God will remove the source of your troubles when it is the best time for you – not necessarily when you think is the best time.

c. God's wrath is a burden that no one can throw off or shake off. God's burden crushes the one on whom it rests.

The Carnage of the Judgment

...Against the land of **Hadrach, and Damascus** its resting place 2 Also against **Hamath**, which borders on it, And against **Tyre and Sidon**, though they are very wise. 3 For Tyre built herself a tower, Heaped up silver like the dust, And **gold like the mire (泥土) of the streets**. 4 Behold, the Lord will **cast her** out; He will destroy her power in the **sea**, And she will be devoured by **fire**.5 **Ashkelon** shall see it and fear; **Gaza** also shall be very sorrowful; And **Ekron**, for He dried up her expectation. The king shall perish from Gaza, And **Ashkelon shall not be inhabited**. 6 "A **mixed race** shall settle in **Ashdod**, And I will cut off the pride of the Philistines.

1. God's destruction would come to Syria in the North East: Hadrach, Damascus, and Hamath.

a. Hadrach was part of Damascus, the capital of Syria. They Syrians were bad neighbors to Israel and Judah. And God's burden would rest on them...in a crushing way!

b. Hamath, a city north of Damascus. Zedekiah's children, along with many Jewish nobles, were murdered there.

c. But there was hope for this wicked land in the future. (Hamath was later called Antioch.)

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he **brought him to Antioch**. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

2. God's destruction would come on Tyre and Sidon in the North West. These 2 cities were dealt with together because they were neighboring seaport cities. The "**burden**" of God's judgment was too heavy and they could not shake it off.

a. Tyre and Sidon thought their diplomats (外交官) would keep them safe. But God sarcastically said earlier of Tyre: Ezekiel 28:3 (Behold, you are wiser than Daniel! There is no secret that can be hidden from you!) Ezekiel 26:17 'And they will take up a lamentation (哀哭) for you, and say to you: "How you have perished, O one inhabited by seafaring (航海的) men, O renowned city, Who was strong at sea, She and her inhabitants, Who caused their terror to be on all her inhabitants!"

b. Tyre thought her tower was strong, and her city, situated on a rock by the sea, was impregnable (坚不可摧的), (15 storeys high with double walls), but God would show her! Hear some of what she did for protection: "*She had already a profusion (丰富, 大量) of catapults (弩炮) and other machines useful in a siege (围攻), and easily prepared many others by the makers of war-engines...so that the whole circuit of the city was filled with engines...grappling hooks and nets to entangle near-assailants (近处的攻击者); melted metal or heated sand to penetrate between the joints of their armor; bags of sea-weed to deaden the blows of the battering (捶击的) machines; a fireship navigated so as to destroy the works of the enemy, while its sailors escaped; fiery arrows...*

c. Tyre and Sidon thought her flourishing (繁荣的) city and her finances would keep her safe... but she wasn't safe from God's judgments; Solomon made silver like stones...but she would make gold like street dust. **God would throw her out-drown her in the sea. God would burn her with fire. God would destroy her ships!** Right next to the water, Tyre and Sidon would be burned to the ground. Alexander killed 7000 in Tyre, crucified about 2,000, and sold the rest as slaves.

d. But Jesus himself would go to Tyre and Sidon to preach the Gospel. Paul preached there. Acts 21.

Matthew 15:21 Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of **Tyre and Sidon.**

Acts 21:3 When we had sighted Cyprus, we passed it on the left, sailed to Syria, and **landed at Tyre;** for there the ship was to unload her cargo. 4 And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days...

3. God's destruction was coming to the cities of the Philistines in the South.

a. Ashkelon. They would see what happened to Tyre and Sidon and fear. Many would leave or be driven out and taken captive. Ashkelon would be an abandoned city – a city laid bare. They would have no power to defend themselves.

Alexander did this as he marched to Persia to destroy their king for insulting him.

Zephaniah 2:7 The **coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah;** They shall feed their flocks there; In the houses of Ashkelon they shall lie down at evening. For the LORD their God will intervene for them, And return their captives.

But this place was conquered by Christ and was known as a gathering place for church leaders for many years!

b. Gaza. Her king would be destroyed. With no shepherd, the sheep would be scattered.

Amos 1:6 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because they took captive the whole captivity To **deliver them up to Edom.** 7 But I will **send a fire upon the wall of Gaza,** Which shall devour its palaces. 8 I will **cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod,** And the one who holds the scepter from Ashkelon; I will turn **My hand against Ekron,** And the remnant of the Philistines shall perish," Says the Lord GOD.

Alexander conquered Gaza, killed 10,000 of its people and sold the rest as slaves.

But the Gospel came here as well, likely through Philip. (A bishop from Gaza went to the Nicene Council 尼西亚会议!)

Acts 8:26 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.

c. Ekron. She was famous for idolatry and would be conquered too. See Amos 1.

Zephaniah 2:4 For Gaza shall be forsaken, And Ashkelon desolate; They shall drive out Ashdod at noonday, And **Ekron shall be uprooted.**

Ekron had hoped when Alexander was marching through Tyre and Sidon they would have been able to stop him, but they couldn't. Alexander was God's tool of justice. (He followed this prophesied path.)

But Ekron were conquered by the Gospel as well. Philip likely preached here. Acts 8:40.

d. Ashdod. Foreigners (mixed race) would take up residence in Ashdod. The word for foreigners is usually translated "bastard." (私生子) Bastards had no right of inheritance. So God gave the land to whomever he was pleased to give it.

This happened! Hear Henry's account: "Alexander the Great, who ravaged (毁坏, 劫掠) all these countries with his

victorious army, took the cities, and planted colonies in them..." **And according to history, Alexander was a bastard. But surely the Gospel conquered here as well.**

7 I will **take away the blood from his mouth**, And the **abominations from between his teeth**. But he who remains, **even he shall be for our God**, And shall be like a leader in Judah, And Ekron like a Jebusite.

4. The Philistines cities enjoyed killing and participating in abominable idolatries...just like a man might enjoy tearing into some raw meat...but God would rescue his people. Amos wrote prior to the fall of Israel.

Amos 3:12 Thus says the LORD: "**As a shepherd takes from the mouth of a lion Two legs or a piece of an ear, So shall the children of Israel be taken out Who dwell in Samaria...**

Revelation 20:9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And **fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.**

Gath, the other great city, was missing from this list probably because it was inland and not a threat to God's people.

5. While the Jews would be rescued from the mouth of the murderers, some people from those murdering places would be objects of God's grace. These would become leaders among God's people...just like the **Jebusites who were conquered**. Many of the Jebusites were incorporated into the Jewish community.

2 Samuel 24:16 And when the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the LORD was by the **threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.**

Josephus confirmed the conversion (皈依) of many of the Philistines...and so were people from Tyre, Sidon, and Syria.

The Jews were not touched by Alexander, as he had threatened to do. God protected his people. (The High Priest showed Alexander the prophecy that he would conquer the King of Persia and he left the Jews alone.)

6. Lessons:

a. Don't panic when the wicked prosper— even with great prosperity. God will bring them all to nothing at his time.

b. God will deliver you from all your troubles...even if you were trapped in the teeth of your greatest enemy! He might kill your enemy or convert him. It doesn't have to be bloodshed! It's not your fight.

c. Your foreigner status...from pagan Europe, to communist Chinese, to idolatrous Indians, is not an impediment障碍 from the hearing and believing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The uncircumcised Philistine was as valuable as King David! There is hope for PM Trudeau and Premier Wynne, even though they support murder of infants and attack the innocents!

The Continuation of the Judgment

8 I will camp around My house Because of the army, Because of him who passes by and him who returns. No more shall an oppressor pass through them, For now I have seen with My eyes.

1. God's judgment on the wicked would not be a one-time thing; it would be a continual flow of judgment on the enemies of God's people – conquering their bodies or their souls.

2. This type of assurance of the continual conquering of their enemies was essential to God's people, and this type of assurance was often given to God's people.

Psalms 34:7 The **angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him**, And delivers them.

2 Chronicles 16:9 "For the **eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him...**

3. Lessons:

a. If you are worried about ISIS threats – or any threats for that matter, stop!

Psalms 10:14 But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, To repay it by Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless.

Exodus 3:7 And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

b. Go about your work, knowing that the one who holds the future, is holding you, and know that no weapon formed against you shall prosper.

Conclusion:

The Jews received God's forgiveness and his promises, so they were expected to serve the living God and be faithful to him. But in order to do that they needed God's help. God reminded them that **they ought to fast and pray for help** to do what they were called to do, and God reminded them that **he would destroy their enemies**. They need not worry; God would keep them.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. God's justice protects you. But that protection is for a purpose...that you will love and obey his law and advance his kingdom's cause around the world. Don't use God's protection for self-indulgence (自我放纵).

2. But be hopeful for the redemption (救贖) of the wicked. God may want to conquer their souls. They too can see their sins and believe in Jesus...believing that he lived and died for them too.

Finally: God's terror will come upon you if you are not a Christian. To avoid God's terror you have to be part of God's family. To be part of God's family you have to believe that Jesus died on the cross for you because you were a sinner who needed to be redeemed.