

Post-Exile Prophets  
**THE WARRIOR SAVIOR**

Thursday, August 28  
Reading: Zechariah 9:11-17

**Zechariah 9:14** *Then the LORD will appear over them; His arrow will flash like lightning. The Sovereign LORD will sound the trumpet; He will march in the storms of the south, **15** and the LORD Almighty will shield them.*

From the promise of the coming Messiah, the prophecy now turns to the benefits for God's people Israel. These benefits will come because of "the blood of My covenant with you." When the Mosaic Covenant was confirmed, Moses sprinkled blood from the sacrifice on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you..." (Exodus 24:8).

But the old covenant was only a picture of the new covenant to come. It could not save but merely show them their sin and promise the perfect Sacrifice God would one day provide. Through the prophet Jeremiah, God promised the establishment of a new covenant, not like the old covenant which they could not keep, but a covenant written on their hearts. This New Covenant promised a relationship with God where He "will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more" (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Jesus established this new covenant at the Last Supper where He lifted the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you" (Luke 22:20).

The New Covenant would free the prisoners. This likely refers to the Jewish people scattered around the world who will be brought back to the Promised Land during Messiah's reign. Some suggest that the mention of Greece in verse 13 refers to the Maccabees' war with the Greek king Antiochus Epiphanes about 150 years before the birth of Jesus (c. 167-160 BC). But this is a partial fulfillment at best. The ultimate fulfillment will come at Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming at the end of the age. The time of war and Israel's suffering will be over. They will be like jewels in God's crown and celebrate with grain and new wine.

This passage pictures God as both a Warrior and a Shepherd. He will fight for His people but will also "save His people...as a shepherd saves His flock." This dual role was also proclaimed by the prophet Jeremiah in the new covenant passage:

Jeremiah 31:10 "Hear the word of the LORD, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over His flock like a shepherd.' 11 For the LORD will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. 12 They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD—the grain, the new wine and the olive oil

The book of Hebrews reminds us of the promises spoken of by Jeremiah and Zechariah.

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

How has the Lord given victory in your life?  
How have you felt His 'shepherding' care?