Zechariah 9:14-17

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Zechariah 9:14–17a***Then YHWH will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; Adonai YHWH will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south. YHWH Tsava’ot will protect them, and they shall devour, and tread down the sling stones, and they shall drink and roar as if drunk with wine, and be full like a bowl, drenched like the corners of the altar. On that day YHWH their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty! Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.

1. Briefly summarize the message of the first part of this chapter, Zech 9:1-13.
2. What is the arrow in Zech 9:14? What does the picture of an “arrow going forth like lightening” communicate?
3. Who blows the trumpet (Hebrew **shofar**)? What does that signify?
4. According to wording in Zech 9:14, who will march forth? Why?
5. What do the whirlwinds of the south represent?
6. In Zech 9:14a, it says “YHWH will appear over them”. Who do you think the “them” refers to? Why?
7. It is interesting that in this Zechariah passage we see that YHWH blows the trumpet to gather his people for final battle in the last days… when the coming King arrives bringing salvation. Look for passages in the Apostolic Scriptures (New Testament) that speak of the trumpet sounding in the latter days. What parallels do you see? Note Amos 3:7.
8. In Zech 9:15, why is the term **YHWH Tsava’ot** so appropriate?
9. What is the meaning of the phrase “they shall devour and tread down the sling stones”? What were sling stones used for? Whose sling stones are being treaded upon?
10. In Zech 9:15b, there is some uncertainty in knowing what the original text said. The Hebrew manuscripts read: “they will drink and roar as if drunk with wine”. However the Greek Septuagint manuscript reads: “they will drink them like wine”. What might each possibility be communicating? Which one do you think makes most sense? Why?
11. Zech 9:15b says “be full like a bowl, and drenched like the corners of the altar.” The word “bowl” here is often translated “basin” and is the Hebrew מִזְרָק **mizrak**. Look at some other uses of the Hebrew word **mizrak** in Ex 27:3, Num 4:14, and 1 Kings 7:40. What do you think the basins were used for? Also look at the Lev 4:7. What is the picture we are being given in Zech 9:15b?
12. What are the metaphors describing God’s people in Zech 9:16? What do each of these metaphors tell us about the role or relationship of the YHWH to his people? Look also at Ezek 34:22-24 and Is 62:3 for other examples of these metaphors.
13. The passage ends with declaration of God’s goodness, which transitions into the next section. What is the result of his goodness? Look also at Is 62:8-9 and Jer 31:12. Can you find other passages in Zechariah which have prophesied this as well?
14. How can you summarize this section, together with the whole chapter?
15. What do you personally take away from your study of this passage?