Zechariah 10:1-5

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Zechariah 9:17b***Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.

***Zechariah 10:1–5***  
**1** Ask rain from YHWH in the season of the spring rain, from YHWH who makes the storm clouds, and he will give them showers of rain, to everyone the vegetation in the field. **2** For the household gods utter nonsense, and the diviners see lies; they tell false dreams and give empty consolation. Therefore the people wander like sheep; they are afflicted for lack of a shepherd. **3** “My anger is hot against the shepherds, and I will punish the leaders; for YHWH **Tsava’ot** cares for his flock, the house of Judah, and will make them like his majestic steed in battle. **4** From him shall come the cornerstone, from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow, from him every ruler—all of them together. **5** They shall be like mighty men in battle, trampling the foe in the mud of the streets; they shall fight because YHWH is with them, and they shall put to shame the riders on horses.

1. Chapter 10 continues with the same communication begun in Chapter 9. Summarize the message of Chapter 9.
2. Some people think Zech 9:17, especially the last half, more likely serves to begin the section of Chapter 10, rather than to close the section of chapter 9. What do you think, and why?
3. From whom are God’s people to ask rain? Why? What is the contrast in Zech 10:2? From where else might people seek rain?
4. The word “spring rain” in Zech 10:1 is Hebrew מַלְקוֹשׁ **malkos** “later rain, or latter rain”, referring to the rains just prior to the harvest (springtime) as opposed to those just after planting (autumn). Look up some other references to the “latter rain”, such as Hosea 6:1-3, Jer 3:2-6, and Joel 2:23-28. What does the latter rain seem to be symbolic of?
5. Recall that the Holy Spirit is compared with water in John 7:37-39. What is that comparison? Why do you think that some people link this to the early rains (autumn rains) after the planting. What is the possible connection?
6. In Zech 10:2b, why do the people wander like sheep without a shepherd?
7. What is the Father’s response to the shepherds? Why? Who are the shepherds? Who are the sheep?
8. Compare the sheep and shepherd passage of Zech 10:2b-3a to Ezekiel 34:1-23. What more do you learn about sheep and shepherd? What is the problem described, and what is God’s solution?
9. Zech 10:3b what does YHWH say of Judah? Why do you think he speaks only of Judah and not Israel?
10. What is YHWH talking about when he refers to making Judah like his majestic steed in battle?
11. What is a cornerstone, Hebrew פִּנָּה **pinnah**? And what does it mean to say “from him shall come the cornerstone”. Who is the “him”? Also look at Ps 118:22 and Isaiah 28:16.
12. The Hebrew for “tent peg” is יָתֵד **yated** “peg”. It can be a peg of any kind, including a tent peg. That does a tent peg do? What is this symbolic of. Look also at Isa 22:20-24.
13. Consider the term “battle bow” and look back at Zech 9:13. What does the battle bow here represent? Is that consistent with Zech 9:13?
14. The Hebrew in Zech 10:4b is literally translated “from him go every oppressor”. The ESV takes this to mean “all leaders will come from Judah”. But it could also mean “all oppressors will depart from Judah”. The Hebrew is נָגַשׂ **nagas** “oppress, exploit”. Do a bit of research and explain how you think this should be translated and why.
15. The Hebrew literally reads, “From him go every oppressor **together** they like mighty men in battle”. Some people think the word “**together**” goes with the previous phrase (like the ESV translates it), while other people think that it goes with the following phrase. What do you think and why? If it went with the following phrase, what does that phrase mean? Who are the “they”?
16. Examine Micah 7:10 in light of Zech 10:5. How are these prophecies similar?
17. How can you summarize this section?
18. What do you personally take away from your study of this passage?