

Return, Rebuild, Restore
Study Guide
Zechariah 10

Big Idea: Idols weaken; God strengthens.

1. Read Zechariah 10:1-3. Discuss the dynamics in this passage around living in dependence upon God (“ask for rain”) versus depending on “household gods”, or idols.
2. What are our modern day “household gods” or idols that we depend upon? Discuss.
3. Read Zechariah 10:4, as a messianic reference. This verse indicates that Jesus is my “cornerstone” (foundation/orientation -Eph. 2:20), my “tent peg” (The peg on the central beam of the tent- meaning, what occupies my heart -Isa. 22:23-24), and my “battle bow” (covering/protection). Discuss why these virtues of Christ are so valuable for us.
4. Read Zechariah 10:5-12. Notice how many times “I will...” is used. Read the phrases and discuss the way that God is fighting for and strengthening His people.
5. According to Zechariah 10:12, discuss what it means to you, to be “strong in the Lord.” If God is really the one providing you with strength, and idols have a weakening effect, then how can you re-orient your life around being ‘in Christ’?

Application

Share with each other what some of the ‘idols’ are that you tend to love, trust and obey. Discuss ideas on how to keep your life oriented around Christ.

I need to “cut off” _____

I need to “continue” _____

I need to “add” _____

Pray for each other to be protected from modern day idols.

Message Slides

Zechariah 10

Big Idea- Idols weaken; God strengthens.

A. The Plight of Idolatry (v. 1-3)

Ask rain from the Lord in the season of the spring rain, from the Lord who makes the storm clouds, and he will give them showers of rain, to everyone the vegetation in the field.²For 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 the Lord of hosts cares for his flock, the house of Judah, and will make them like his majestic steed in battle.

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Jeremiah 2:5 “...they went far from Me and walked after emptiness and become empty.”

Jeremiah 10:21- For the shepherds have become stupid and have not sought the Lord...

Jeremiah 23:1- Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture!

Jeremiah 23:15- Behold, I am going to feed them wormwood and make them drink poisonous water, for from the prophets of Jerusalem pollution has gone forth into all the land.

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B. The Centrality of Christ (v. 4)

⁴From him shall come the cornerstone, from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow, from him every ruler—all of them together.

C. The Strength of God (v. 5-12)

⁵They shall be like mighty men in battle, trampling the foe in the mud of the streets; they shall fight because the Lord is with them, and they shall put to shame the riders on horses. ⁶“I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back because I have

compassion on them, and they shall be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the Lord their God and I will answer them.

C. The Strength of God (v. 5-12 continued)

⁷Then Ephraim shall become like a mighty warrior, and their hearts shall be glad as with wine. Their children shall see it and be glad; their hearts shall rejoice in the Lord.

⁸“I will whistle for them and gather them in, for I have redeemed them, and they shall be as many as they were before. ⁹Though I scattered them among the nations, yet in far countries they shall remember me, and with their children they shall live and return.

¹⁰I will bring them home from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria, and I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon, till there is no room for them.

C. The Strength of God (v. 5-12 continued)

¹¹He shall pass through the sea of troubles and strike down the waves of the sea, and all the depths of the Nile shall be dried up. The pride of Assyria shall be laid low, and the scepter of Egypt shall depart. ¹²I will make them strong in the Lord, and they shall walk in his name,” declares the Lord.

Reflection

I want to re-orient my life around Christ.

I need to “cut off”:

I need to “continue”:

I need to “add”:

I will share this with: