

If this is allowed, then the prophecies that follow in the text would logically follow in time! But we must be careful about this since chronological order is not always in the mind of the writer.

Following this is the announcement of the coming of the salvational king and the portrayal of his regal but humble entrance. The nature of his rule is seen in 9:10 and the reminder of God's power to do this is given in 9:11. But and it is a large but, it seems implicit that the king 'must be accepted as king..just as the temple must be built...just as trust in God must be directed, etc., before the blessings of the kingdom will be seen. The king is coming "lowly" and it would seem apparent that the trust given to the king is the trust that will make his kingdom functional. This trust in the King leads to the further blessings of chapter 9 when the children of God will be given great victory and will be powerful in their own behalf. But this follows the coming of the king and probably precedes the institution of the kingdom.

Consequently the perspective is very critical. 9:9.. the King is coming, 9:12-16..his foes will be overthrown. 9:10..the king will institute his kingdom, 9:11 you have see in happen in history and in 9:12 you will see it happen in the present. 9:17 wraps this up with a song of praise.

However chapter 10 introduces a striking thought. Some are so confident of the Lord's necessary blessing, that they have ceased to call on him, have relied on evil forces and have allowed the flock to be scattered. Against this is the promise that the foundational strength will come and deliverance will be accomplished...the foes being overthrown. But in the background is the challenge of belief and the strong hint that belief is not in the people. The promises of God are presented to stiumate a belief that seems not to be in evidence.

So chapter 11 presents a difficult scene. The flock is in trouyble and the Lord cannot feed it...although He will care for the poor of it so that all those who wait on Him will be cared for and not be disappointed but his gracious dealings, patience, etc., and His strengthening powers are at a pragmatic end. And the shepherds who hate Him, apparent ly the dominant voices in the nation, pronounce Him to be worthless