

A. The character of these chapters.

In many ways this is a "tough" section. It is one of the most important eschatological portions of the Old Testament and tells a great deal about Israel's future from the standpoint of the times of the prophet Zechariah. Some of this is relevant to us in historical perspective, some very important for constructing our eschatological themes. But all of it is important in showing us how God uses the promises of tomorrow as the encouragements of today.

The section divides into two portions and, unfortunately, our treatment will be rather superficial...but it should be adequate to make our point and the thrust of what God has planned should encourage and motivate us in the present sphere.

B. The hope of the future:

1. God will undertake for those who suffer 9:-11

- a. History and prophecy 9:1-8
- b. The means of practical deliverance 9:9-17
- c. God's leader and a battle plan 10:1-12
- d. What happens when trust fails 11:1-15

The Burden of the Oppressor.

It is ironic but when we are unwilling to trust God and act of His word...it is as though the program "fails"...although as seen in the long sight of His word, the program never really fails.

2. God will undertake for the oppressors! 12-14

- a. A work of strengthening 12:1-8
- b. A work of renewal 12:9-13:1
- c. A work of truth 13:2-9
- d. A work of establishment 14:1-21

The Burden of the Oppressed.

Each of these portions is far more complicated than I might seem to suggest in these simple headings. But the heart of it is transparent. God will take charge of those who have opposed His people and His will. At such time as they may think they are overthrowing God, He will overthrow them. You don't think that's an encouragement?

C. Bringing our whatevers to the hope of the future.