

IV. THE PROPHEPIC BURDENSA. Some general notes coming to this portion

1. Zechariah presents us with a panorama of material in which the first section stresses the importance of doing God's work, the second the vital reality of keeping on with the key issues and not being distracted and the third aspects of God's care and plan for the future. In a sense we learn about commitment, past, present, and yet to come.

2. The material in this section is divided like this:

The Burden of the Oppressor 9-11

Enemies without 9:1-8

Defense 9:9-10:12

Enemies within 11:1-17

The Burden of the Oppressed 12-14

Enemies without 12:1-8

Enemies within 12:9-13:9

Defense 14:1-15

and, as mentioned earlier, there is the epilogue in 14:16-21

3. The overall theme is the hope of the future. This is, along with Isaiah 24-27, one of the most important eschatological parts of the Old Testament. We will likely have to hurry with it here but it needs a lot of consideration on your part for the better understanding of prophecy and the prophetic Scriptures.

In terms of prediction and events to come, the following are touched on in these chapters:

--the coming of Israel's king and his rule -9:9 ff

--the regathering of the nation 10

--the relationship of the nation and her shepherd 11

--the great deliverance of Judah 12

--the national repentance of the Israelites 12:9 ff

--the great attack on Jerusalem 14:1-3

--the miraculous deliverance of God's people 14:4 ff

--the establishment of peace 14:16 ff

These are portrayed throughout the section, I have merely listed the introductory or chief Scriptures as I understand them. Our discussion will run along the lines of Scripture analysis.

4. A few comments on the term "Burden"

B. The Burden of the Oppressor 9-11

1. General concept: God will undertake for those who suffer. How He has helped in the past is indicative of what He will do in the future. The great issue is one of trust. And the oppressors, incidentally, are not always external foes...sometimes the worst of all are betrayers within.

2. Analysis of 9:1-8

The passage demonstrates a judgment on the nations about Judah as the local governments are overthrown. Judah will be spared (vs. 8)