

and this deliverance may be typical of further deliverance. The prophesied military action is fulfilled by Alexander the Great and out of it what is shown is the continual involvement by the Lord in the lives and interests of His people. This portion is something of a foundation of assurance to indicate to the reader the intention of God to deliver.

2. Analysis of 9:9-17

This is a message of hope. It is based in:

- the coming king (9:9, cited in Matthew 21:5) and His character (v. 9) and rule (v. 10). The previous deliverance (v. 11) is seen as evidence for a further deliverance (v. 12). The promise of national salvation is strong in vs. 13-17.
- the character and action of God
- the relationship Judah bears to Him.

There is a period of time between vss 9 and 10 similar to that seen in Isaiah 9:6 and 7.

The picture overall is one of the joy of victory..the oppressor is overturned, the victim is strengthened. This is part of what we call the burden of the oppressor: that he shall be overturned and punished.

3. Analysis of 10:1-4

This is the promise of strength. The shepherds have failed but the Lord will raise up one superior shepherd from the family of Judah. Note the powerful declaration of him and his character in vs. 4. Those who read in belief will learn the joy of depending on the Lord (v. 1) for even the most simple things. But God will set up a foundation that is certain.

4. Analysis of 10:5-12

This is a promise of victory and triumph. It shows how the oppressors will be victimized by the people of God. I think none of it has been fulfilled yet as it is dependent on the rule of the supreme lord promised in 10:4. The unseen factor in these sections is the rejection of the Messiah and the unwillingness of Israel to be ruled by God. A good historic understanding of this sort of thing can be seen in Judges 2...with regard to how God pushed out some enemies and left others remain. The Israelites could only have the blessings He offered as they were obedient in executing His will. For the moment, in our historical perspective, the King came but the nation said.."We will not have this man to rule over us." Hence we wait the fulfillment of these verses until such a reign is established. But the knowledge of what God plans to do should be the challenging factor that moves the people to love, obedience, and...acceptance of the King. It has not yet worked out that way..

If we put these together we have something like this: a message of judgment on the foes, one of hope for God's people, an assurance of strength and a promise of victory and triumph. Bad news for the enemy..good news for the friends.