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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**ASK YE OF THE LORD RAIN IN**

**THE TIME OF THE LATTER RAIN**

**ZECHARIAH 10:1-12**

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***Zechariah 10:1 "Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; [so] the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field."***

This has a double meaning. In the physical, they should pray and ask God for the rain the last time before the crop matures. This rain would provide an abundant crop.

***Deuteronomy 11:13-14***

***13 And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,***

***14 That I will give [you] the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.***

The other meaning is the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon all flesh. It is the latter rain. The latter rain is the spring rain of late April or early May. Hence the impetus of the colloquial expression “April showers bring May flowers.” The Day of Pentecost was the former rain.

***Joel 2:23-25***

***23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.***

***24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.***

***25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpiller, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.***

***Joel 2:28-29***

***28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:***

***29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.***

***Zechariah 10:2 "For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain: therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because [there was] no shepherd."***

Not only would the Lord judge the external enemies of his people, but he would also judge the enemies among them. They wander like sheep because there is no shepherd, that is, their leaders had failed to follow God and care for his people. The only thing that brings results is prayer to God. Idols cannot help in time of trouble. Diviners bring false messages of hope. They will all vanish away. Our hope and help is in Christ Jesus. Jesus is the great Shepherd.

***Jeremiah 27:9-10***

***9 Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon:***

***10 For they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish.***

***Matthew 9:36 "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd."***

***Zechariah 10:3 "Mine anger was kindled against the shepherds, and I punished the goats: for the LORD of hosts hath visited his flock the house of Judah, and hath made them as his goodly horse in the battle."***

Therefore, the Lord declares, My anger burns against the shepherds. The shepherds and goats refer to the leaders of the foreign nations who persecute Israel and set themselves against the Lord. The entire chapter of Ezekiel 34 is all about what God does to the shepherd who destroys the sheep.

***Ezekiel 34:2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe [be] to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?"***

***Ezekiel 34:5 "And they were scattered, because [there is] no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered."***

***Ezekiel 34:7 "Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;"***

***Ezekiel 34:10 "Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I [am] against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them."***

***Ezekiel 34:23 "And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, [even] my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd."***

***Zechariah 10:4 "Out of him came forth the corner, out of him the nail, out of him the battle bow, out of him every oppressor together."***

This is speaking of out of Judah. Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The corner (cornerstone) portrays the Messiah as the foundation of God’s new kingdom. Nail refers to either a large tent peg, or a peg by which valuables were hung on walls. It portrays the fact that all of Israel’s value will depend on Jesus Christ.

***Isaiah 28:16 “Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.”***

***Mark 12:10 "And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner:"***

***Ephesians 2:20 "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone];"***

***Zechariah 10:5 "And they shall be as mighty [men], which tread down [their enemies] in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the LORD [is] with them, and the riders on horses shall be confounded."***

This is speaking of a war fought on horses. The "mire" symbolizes the sinful. This battle is fought by the Lord. The riders on horses shall flee at the sight of the LORD and His army.

***Romans 16:20 "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you. Amen."***

***Revelation 19:13 "And he [was] clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God."***

***Zechariah 10:6 "And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off: for I [am] the LORD their God, and will hear them."***

In the last days, God will strengthen, deliver and restore Judah. His compassion will be so great that it will be as though he never rejected them. The Scripture above, is speaking of the two houses of Israel. The physical house and the spiritual house of Israel are both saved by the blood of Jesus Christ.

***Jeremiah 3:18 “In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers.”***

***Romans 11:25-26***

***25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in***

***26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:"***

***I Peter 5:10 “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle [you].”***

***Zechariah 10:7 "And [they of] Ephraim shall be like a mighty [man], and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see [it], and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD."***

This symbolically is speaking of the Christians, who were filled with the Spirit of God {wine}. They are the redeemed.

***Ephesians 5:18 "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;"***

***Zechariah 10:8 "I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them: and they shall increase as they have increased."***

In the last days, God will draw Israel together. They are the redeemed. They are God's people scattered all over the world.

***Matthew 13:38 "The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked [one];"***

***I Timothy 2:4-6***

***4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.***

***5 For [there is] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;***

***6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.***

***Zechariah 10:9 "And I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and turn again."***

God's family was sown to the far countries of the world. We must remember, that the Word of God had been entrusted to them to bring to the unsaved world. This is speaking of the sowing of the Word of God which brought great increase. It is the Word of God which turns the people back to God.

***Zechariah 10:10 "I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and [place] shall not be found for them."***

All of the lands mentioned, here, are thought of as the unsaved world. "Egypt" symbolizes the world. God will bring His people home from all the heathen lands, and they will live in His land. There is, at present, such a flow of Jews coming into the holy land, that there is hardly place for them. There is even a dispute going on about some of the land they are settling.

***Zechariah 10:11 "And he shall pass through the sea with affliction, and shall smite the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the river shall dry up: and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart away."***

The judgment of God comes upon the lands that have been opposed to God's people. He will whistle and gather them from the distant lands. Any who oppose them will be brought to an end. God will do whatever is necessary to bring His people out. He caused the Red Sea to part then, and He will again, if He has to, to bring His people to the promised land. The world power will be destroyed by God, Himself.

***Zechariah 10:12 "And I will strengthen them in the LORD; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the LORD."***

God did do wonders to save His people. Jesus won the victory over Satan on the cross. He defeated sin's hold over the believers at that time, also. He defeated death, when He rose from the grave. But Israel will be strengthened by God. The Messiah will reunite and restore his people under his kingdom rule, and they will walk in his ways. All Christians walk up and down in the name of Christ. The first part of the name Christians is Christ.

***Ephesians 3:16 "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;"***

***Ephesians 6:10 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."***

***Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." There are more Scriptures, but you get the idea.***

**QUESTIONS**

1. What are the two meanings of the latter rain?
2. When was the former rain?
3. What is the only thing that brings results?
4. What kind of messages did the diviners bring?
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the great Shepherd.
6. Who was God's anger kindled against in verse 3?
7. What chapter, in Ezekiel, is about this subject?
8. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the tribe of Judah.
9. The "mire" symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_.
11. What is verse 6 speaking of?
12. What does the 11th chapter of Romans tell us about the natural Jew?
13. Who is verse 8 speaking to?
14. Who is the mediator between God and man?
15. What was one of the reasons God's people were sown to foreign countries?
16. What does "Egypt" symbolize?
17. What is verse 11 speaking of?
18. All Christians walk up and down in the name of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
19. How are we strengthened in our inner man?
20. Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.