

## **“Safest Place in the World to Live!”**

**Zechariah 9:1-8**

*The only true safety in all the world is in Christ!*

### **1. Peril for God’s Enemies! (However secure they may try to make themselves!) vv. 1-7**

#### **(1) Bad News! God’s Judgment Coming!**

*“The oracle of the word of the LORD  
is against the land of Hadrach  
and Damascus is its resting place.”*

##### **-1- “Heavy” tidings**

“the *burden* of the word of the LORD”

##### **-2- God’s “Instrument”: Alexander the Great**

- All eyes were on Alexander!

“For the eyes of men and all the tribes of Israel are on the LORD.”

- Syrian (southward) conquest after defeating the Persians in 333 B.C. (Battle of Issus)

##### **-3- Exhibit ‘A’: Tyre**

v. 3 *“Tyre has built herself a rampart  
and heaped up silver like dust,  
and fine gold like the mud of the streets.”*

##### **- Her pride**

- She felt herself invincible - an impregnable island fortress – ½ mile off the shore

She “built herself a strong rocky fortress”

Is. 23:4 “the stronghold of the sea” Surrounded by a double wall 150’ high

Shalmanezar besieged it for 5 years without success

Nebuchadnezzar for 13 years

- Fabulously wealthy and a bask in luxury

- Absolutely secure!??

##### **- Her downfall**

v. 4 *“But behold, the Lord will strip her of her possessions  
and strike down her power on the sea,  
and she shall be devoured by fire.”*

A stunning siege and conquest!

##### **-4- “The burden of judgment travels south” The Philistines humbled vv. 5-6**

*“Ashkelon shall see it, and be afraid; Gaza...Ekron...*

*the king shall perish from Gaza;*

*Ashkelon shall be uninhabited;*

*a mixed people shall dwell in Ashdod.”*

- Gaza was deprived of any ruler bearing the name of king

- Ashkelon ceased to exist

- Ashdod became inhabited by a mixed (bastard) population

### **(2) Mercy to follow Judgment!**

**v. 7**

*“I will take away its blood from its mouth,  
and its abominations from between its teeth;  
it too shall be a remnant for our God;  
it shall be like a clan in Judah,  
and Ekron shall be like the Jebusites.”*

#### **- A remnant from the Philistines**

**one day brought to faith in the true God!**

- Deprived of – or delivered from – their idolatrous sacrifices

- The remnant “shall be like a clan in Judah”

- “Ekron shall be like the Jebusites”

Jebusites: The ancient inhabitants of Jebus (Jerusalem) who adopted the religion of Israel after they were conquered by David. 1 Chron. 11:4ff.

### **2. Safety for God’s People!**

**v. 8**

*“Then I will encamp at my house as a guard,  
so that none shall march to and fro;  
no oppressor shall again march over them,  
for now I see with my own eyes.”*

#### **(1) God Himself is the Shield**

**and Protector of His People**

- “my house” = the temple

- “no oppressor” = no “taskmaster” cf. Ex. 3:7; 5:6-10

- “for now I see with my own eyes” // Ex. 3:7 “I have surely seen the affliction of my people”

#### **(2) Immediate Fulfillment**

- **Alexander marched toward Jerusalem to conquer her, but had a stunning change of heart!**

- cf. The history related by Josephus

- “I did not adore him (the high priest), but that God who has honored him with his priesthood.”

- **Terms of peace offered and national privileges granted equal to Macedonia!**

#### **(3) Ultimate ‘Gospel’ Fulfillment: Our life hid with Christ in God**

### **Further Application:**

Where is true safety and security to be found?

As God’s judgment approaches, there is only one safe place to live!