All the promises of God are “Yes” and in Him “Amen” to the glory of God (2 Corinthians 2:20); these promises will come in His time and in His way; but they will be fulfilled; the theme of Zechariah’s prophecies is: “The Lord remembers and the Lord blesses in His time;” in chapter 10 the words: “I will” or “they will” are repeated throughout the chapter to give assurance that God is not iffy about His plans for His people.

The only command in this chapter is in verse 1: “Ask the LORD for rain in the time of the latter rain…;” this can be taken both literally and spiritually; they were to ask for the spring rain that would produce a bountiful harvest; but they were to ask for a spiritual rain to pour out on His spiritually parched people; the chapter can be divided into two sections: The promise of Israel’s revival (10:2-4) and the promise of Israel’s return (10:5-12).

**The Promise of Israel’s Revival (10:2-4)**

Revival begins with divine recompense (10:2-3a)... There are two enemies mentioned that stand in the way of revival: the lies of false gods and diviners as well as the people putting trust in those lies.

For the most part Israel did not fall into idolatry after they returned from Babylonian captivity, but that sin had caused their exile; when the Lord did not quickly answer their prayer for rain, Zechariah is concerned that they could easily fall prey to false prophets who promised rain through their idols, fortune tellers, soothsayers, diviners and interpreters of dreams.
The idols called “teraphims” were household gods; these people did not go to the temple; but they stayed home and worshipped these little self-styled gods as a demon would impersonate the gods and hold them in bondage; there was a time when Israel was troubled by this form of idolatry because they had no true shepherd (Ezekiel 34:6).

In verse 3, God is angry at the false shepherds called “goatherds” or “male goats;” these goatherds were Israel’s leaders who like male goats butted their way into dominance over the Lord’s flock; a goat is an interesting description of a false teacher or as a false leader; they butt their way into a position of authority and bring on the anger and judgment of God.

Revival begins with the divine Redeemer (10:3b-4)... God now reveals that He will make Israel like a royal horse in the battle; He will make One from the tribe of Judah the cornerstone, the tentpeg, the battle bow who will like a mighty ruler tread down their enemies.

Zechariah is referring to the Messiah who will come from the tribe of Judah; he characterizes Him in three ways:

He comes as the cornerstone (10:4a)...Scripture often speaks of the Messiah as the cornerstone (Isaiah 28:16; Acts 4:11; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:6); the cornerstone holds up two walls of a building; Paul speaks of the Jews and Gentiles as “fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the chief cornerstone…” (Ephesians 2:19-22).

He comes as the tent peg (10:4b)...Some translations use the word “nail;” Christ is the nail that was driven into the middle post of the tent; the tent was held up by the middle post; when families wanted to display some ornament, or painting, or work of art they hung it on the nail in that middle post; rich families would hang their valuables there for others to admire; Jesus is the tent peg or the nail in that He displays the glory of the Father (John 1:14); in Zechariah 6:13 we read: “He shall build the
temple of the LORD, He shall bear the glory....” The glory of the Lord will be on display in His holy temple.

In Isaiah 22 we read about the tent peg of Eliakim who was in charge of the household of Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:18); the time will come when the tent peg will be removed and the burden that was on it will be cut off (Isaiah 22:20-25); the significance of the destroyed tent peg is that Israel will no longer have a human king; Jesus will be King; He will be the tent peg that will never be removed and from Him the glory of the Lord will be on display.

He comes as a battle bow (10:4c)...When Christ comes again, He comes as a mighty conqueror who will vanquish all God’s enemies (Revelation 19:11-19).

God is promising a day of revival for Israel; He will bring judgment on all occultists and false teachers; from out of Judah He will send the Messiah, the cornerstone, who will hold together Jews and Gentiles and build their lives on the foundation of the Word of God; He will be the tent peg that displays the glory of God; He will be the battle bow that will subdue His enemies.

The Promise of Israel’s Return (10:5-12)

There is the promise of divine resurgence (10:5-6)... God is going to transform Israel into a world military power; their military will become “like a flaming torch among sheaves” (Zechariah 12:6) and they will “consume” all the people around them; we have seen that since Israel has become a nation a second time in 1948.

There is the promise of divine rejoicing (10:7)... There will be a day of rejoicing as if people had too much wine; there will be joy when God establishes His kingdom (Isaiah 66:10-13); in the Millennium, Jerusalem will be like a mother who is rich and full and all the people will be like a child bouncing on her knees.
There is the promise of divine regathering (10:8-11)... God’s whistles to regather His people (Isaiah 11: 11-12; Ezekiel 36:22-28); it is strange to think of God whistling to get people to listen; God regathered the Jews from the four corners of the earth; He had to scatter them before He could regather them (10:9; Deuteronomy 28:64); God promised to preserve the Jew and once back in the land will not be uprooted (Leviticus 26:33; Isaiah 49:15-16; Amos 9:14-15).

There is the promise of divine redemption (10:12)... God brought them back for they shall walk up and down in His name; today Israel is a secular nation, but the day is coming when they will know the Lord; the salvation of Israel will come after the end of the tribulation and at the coming of the Lord (Zechariah 12:10; Romans 11:1-6, 25-29; Zechariah 13:1).

The Prayer for Israel’s Rain (10:1)

Be responsible to pray... “Ask the LORD for rain...;” God made four promises to them: divine resurgence, divine rejoicing, divine regathering, and divine redemption; He asks them to pray for rain even when He promised to send rain; He promised that with the re-establishment of Israel in the land that it would bloom again (Isaiah 35:1-7; Joel 2: 21-26; Ezekiel 36:35); over 300 million trees were planted in the 20th Century; rainfall increased 450 percent; why pray when God has already promised to do it? Praying in the promises is to experience the blessing of seeing your prayers answered.

Be responding to His command... God asks us to pray for the fulfillment of His promises because He wants us to be part of the process by which His promises come to fruition; Jesus taught His disciples to pray: “Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10); God’s kingdom will come, the question is will you be part of the process of ushering in His kingdom? Praying in the promises in one way of obeying God’s commands.
Be recognizing your dependence on Him… Prayer is recognizing your total dependence on God; He knows our needs even before we ask (Matthew 6:8); praying in the promises is recognizing our dependence on Him.

Be remembering He is the source of all blessings… God sends the rain; scientists can explain how rain forms but attribute the process to good old Mother Nature; she does not exist; she is a term popularized by secularists and feminists to remove the Father-Son-God from the creation process; God alone sends the rain; praying the promises is remembering that God alone is the source of all blessings.

Be realizing the fulfillment of His promises is in His time… The people of Zechariah’s day prayed for rain but did not see the kind of rain they prayed for in their day; it was 2500 years later since God revealed these promises and still not all have come true; it took 2500 years to regather them to their land and to make it prosperous; it took 2500 years to make them a strong militarily; yet Israel has not yet been saved and Christ has still not returned to earth to set up His kingdom; the theme of Zechariah is “Lord remembers and the Lord blesses in His time;” As Solomon wrote, “He has made everything beautiful in its time” (Ecclesiastes 3:11).