

The Lord Provides

Zechariah 10:1 – 11:3

Psalm 104

by Don Falkos

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The people of Israel were like a flock of sheep without a shepherd. They had no dependable spiritual leadership. They put their trust in idols and diviners – false prophets of false gods. They of all people should have known it is the Lord who provides. The Lord makes springs of water flow, and the animals quench their thirst. The Lord coaxes the grass to grow, and the cattle satisfy their hunger. The Lord sends rain to grow grain for bread and grapes for wine. The Lord administers all of nature and guides all of history.

Ever since the return from exile under Sheshbazzar, Zerubbabel, Nehemiah, and Ezra the majority of the people of God had remained scattered in various nations. Under the rulers of these nations they had suffered incessant mistreatment. The Lord was not pleased.

From Judah will come my anointed one, the Messiah of my people. As a shepherd whistles for his sheep, he will call for my people, and they will come to him. He will be their cornerstone. They will rally around him, and together they will be strong, overcoming the threats of the enemy in the most unconventional ways.

My people will be more numerous than ever. Scattered all over the world, they will nevertheless be a united people. They will come through many troubles. The authority of their oppressors will dwindle away.

It will be as if the stately cedars of Lebanon were wiped out by disease; as if the mighty oaks of Bashan were all cut down; as if the lairs of the lions were exposed by the destruction of the lush thicket of the Jordan.