

Zechariah 10:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Out of him came forth the corner, out of him the nail, out of him the battle bow, out of him every oppressor together.

Analysis

Out of him came forth the corner, out of him the nail, out of him the battle bow, out of him every oppressor together מִמְּנָנוּ פְּנָה מִמְּנָנוּ יָתַד מִמְּנָנוּ קֶשֶׁת מִלְּפָה (fourfold mimmennu ('from him/out of him') emphasizes that Judah will produce the essential elements of stability and victory. The pinnah (corner/cornerstone) represents foundational leadership; yated (nail/peg) suggests secure fastening; qeshet (battle bow) denotes military strength; noges (ruler/oppressor) indicates authority.

This is messianic prophecy. Paul applies cornerstone imagery to Christ (Ephesians 2:20), as does Peter (1 Peter 2:6-7), quoting Isaiah 28:16. The 'nail' may allude to Eliakim as type of Messiah (Isaiah 22:23-24). From Judah comes not just any leader, but the Messiah who is foundation, security, defender, and king. All essential leadership roles converge in Christ.

Historical Context

Post-exilic Judah was weak, dependent on Persian imperial permission. This prophecy assured them that from their tribe would come the ultimate Deliverer—not merely another Davidic king, but the Messiah who would establish eternal rule. Jesus the Jew from Judah (Hebrews 7:14) fulfills every metaphor in this verse.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Christ function as 'cornerstone' (foundation), 'nail' (security), and 'battle bow' (victory) in your life?
2. What does it mean that all essential leadership qualities converge in Jesus rather than requiring multiple human leaders?
3. How should recognizing Jesus as the fulfillment of these roles affect your security and confidence?

Interlinear Text

קָרְבָּן מִתְּמָרֵךְ פְּנֵה מִתְּמָרֵךְ יְתִיר תְּמָרֵךְ קָרְבָּן מִתְּמָרֵךְ
H4480 the corner H4480 out of him the nail H4480 bow
H6438 H3489 H7198

מִלְּבָנָה מִתְּמָרֵךְ אֵלֶיךָ אָמַר כִּי
out of him the battle H4480 Out of him came forth H3605
H4421 H3318

נִזְגָּשׁ יְחִידָה
out of him every oppressor together H5065 H3162

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 9:10 (Parallel theme): And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

Zechariah 9:8 (Parallel theme): And I will encamp about mine house because of the army, because of him that passeth by, and because of him that returneth: and no oppressor shall pass through them any more: for now have I seen with mine eyes.

Numbers 24:17 (Parallel theme): I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

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