

Zechariah 9:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land.

Analysis

And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people (וְהוֹשִׁיעֵם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא כְּצֹאֵן עֲמֹו)—shepherd imagery pervades Scripture; here God acts as shepherd-deliverer, fulfilling covenant promises. **For they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land**—the metaphor shifts dramatically from sheep to crown jewels (avnei-nezer), gems displayed as banners or signals.

This remarkable transformation—from vulnerable sheep needing defense to glorious crown jewels displayed prominently—captures the gospel paradox: those saved by grace become God's treasured possession (Exodus 19:5, Malachi 3:17). Peter applies similar language to the church: **"a chosen generation, a royal priesthood"** (1 Peter 2:9). God's people aren't merely rescued; they're glorified, made into His royal diadem (Isaiah 62:3).

Historical Context

Written to a small, vulnerable Jewish community rebuilding Jerusalem, this prophecy assured them that despite present weakness, God would exalt them. The Maccabean victories partially fulfilled this, but ultimate fulfillment awaits Messiah's kingdom when Israel will be displayed as God's treasure to all nations.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does your identity shift from seeing yourself as 'needing rescue' to being God's 'crown jewel'?
2. What does it mean practically to be 'lifted up as an ensign'—a visible testimony to God's glory?
3. In what ways does this verse anticipate the church's role as the 'bride adorned for her husband' (Revelation 21:2)?

Interlinear Text

וְהוֹשִׁיעַ	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵיהֶם	בַּיּוֹם	הַהוּא	כַּצֹּאֵן
shall save	And the LORD	their God	them in that day	H1931	as the flock
H3467	H3068	H430	H3117		H6629
עַמּוֹ	כִּי	אֲבִנֵי	גִזְרֵי	מִתְנוֹסֶסֶת	
of his people	H3588	for they shall be as the stones	of a crown	lifted up as an ensign	
H5971		H68	H5145	H5264	
עַל	אֶדְמָתוֹ:				
H5921	upon his land				
	H127				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 62:3 (References God): Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

Luke 12:32 (Parallel theme): Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Haggai 2:23 (References Lord): In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts.

John 10:27 (Parallel theme): My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Ezekiel 34:31 (References God): And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD.

Isaiah 60:3 (Parallel theme): And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Isaiah 60:14 (References Lord): The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Psalms 100:3 (References God): Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Jeremiah 31:11 (References Lord): For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he.

Isaiah 40:10 (References God): Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.