

# 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**—(וְהוֹשִׁיעַם יְהוָה אֶלְהֵיכֶם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא כִּצְאָן עַמּוֹ) 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

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**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

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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

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כִּי אַתָּה וְהוֹשִׁיעַ מְשֻׁלָּם  
shall save And the LORD their God them in that day  
H3467 H3068 H430 H3117 H1931 H6629

מִתְנֻסָּס וֹתֵר בְּזִר אָבִנִי כִּי עַמְּךָ  
of his people for they shall be as the stones of a crown lifted up as an ensign  
H5971 H3588 H68 H5145 H5264

עַל אֶצְמַתּוֹן  
upon his land  
H5921 H127

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.