

Post-Exile Prophets
A HUMBLE KING
Wednesday, August 27
Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10

Zechariah 8:3 *Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey*

The last words of God in the previous paragraph were “I am keeping watch.” After the invasion of one king, Alexander the Great, God proclaims the arrival of another King. The ultimate fulfillment of God’s promise of peace and victory for His people would come with the arrival of their humble King – the Messiah. Zechariah 9:9 proclaims His coming, riding on a donkey, to the rejoicing of the people. Both Matthew (21:5) and John (12:15) quote this verse as Jesus enters Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, which we now call Palm Sunday because the people waved palm branches to welcome Him.

Zechariah’s portrays King Messiah coming in peace. The donkey is not a war animal! He is called “righteous” which means just and true. The word “victorious” (NIV) in Hebrew could also mean “having salvation.” The word “lowly” translates the Hebrew word for poor and afflicted. This is not the king the people were expecting! But it is a perfect description of the Lord Jesus. The prophet Isaiah described Him this way:

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a Man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem. Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed (Isaiah 53:3-5)

In His 1st coming, Jesus came as a humble King to bring salvation through His suffering and death on the cross. In verse 10, Zechariah jumps further into the future and witnesses this humble King’s 2nd Coming! Like most of the prophets, he saw these two mountain peaks of prophecy but could not see the large valley of time between them. Now the King returns to bring final peace to the world. God’s people (Ephraim and Jerusalem) will no longer need their military forces to protect themselves, for their Messiah “will proclaim peace to the nations” and rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.”

The world is always looking for peace without the Prince of Peace. The words of Isaiah 2:4 are inscribed on a wall across the street from the United Nations building in New York: “They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, nor neither shall they learn war anymore.” However, the inscription left out the most important part! The statement begins with “He (the Lord) will judge between nations” and ends with “Come...let us walk in the light of the LORD.” There is not peace without the Savior.

How have you experienced God’s peace in your life?

Where do you need God to give you peace?

How do the promises of Zechariah 9:9-10 help you find peace when the world seems out of control?