

Text: Zechariah 9:9-12 NAU (New American Standard, 1995 Version)



Saturday, 3/27 at 4:00 & Sunday, 3/28 at 9:00

Palm Sunday – 2021

Holy Thurs: 11 & 7; Good Friday: 11 & 7; Holy Sat: 4; Easter Sun: 9

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: It is **AD 2021** and we are remembering the first Palm Sunday, when Jesus – ***the Son of God, the Son of David, the Messiah, the Christ*** – entered Jerusalem on a donkey. He was **not proud, but humble**; **not weak, but meek**; **not an earthly king, but the King of kings**; **not here to conquer the Romans, but to conquer sin, death, and the devil!** Jesus entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday was part of GOD'S MONUMENTAL PLAN to **remove our sins and open the way to heaven!**

**These KEY EVENTS lead up to Zechariah's Palm Sunday prophecy, which he wrote down 520 years before Jesus' birth:**

- **587 BC:** The temple was destroyed by the Babylonians.
- **538 BC:** *Cyrus, the king of Persia*, released about 50,000 Jews from Babylon to return to rebuild the temple.
- **520 BC:** Since many turned from **God's work to their work**, *the LORD sent Haggai to call them to repent.*

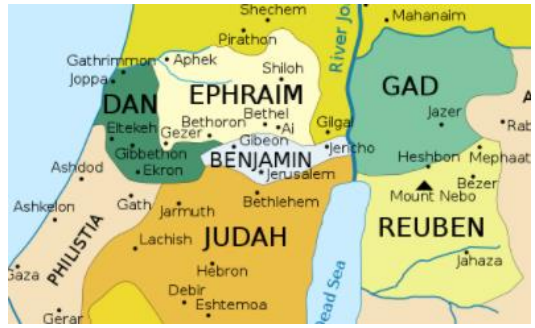
- **520 BC:** God began to speak to the people through Zechariah: chapters 1-5, *encouragement*; chapter 6, *the gospel of Christ*; chapters 7 & 8, *urging the people to keep building*; chapter 9, *prophesying about*:
  - *Alexander the Great* (356-323 BC) – who conquered ♦Tyre, ♦Sidon, and ♦the Philistines *to open the world to the coming Christ!*
  - *The Christ Himself* – who came into Jerusalem on a donkey to bring †peace, †freedom, and †blessing!

1. **A Palm Sunday Prophecy:** <sup>9</sup> **Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion** [*a people waiting to be saved*]! **Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you** [*at the LORD's appointed time*]; **He is just and endowed with salvation** [*thus coming to save*], **Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt** [*male*], **the foal of a donkey** [*under one year old*]. // Connections to David and Solomon:

- a. David: Jesus is David's greatest descendant, *a.k.a. David's greatest Son!* As David thoroughly defeated Israel's enemies, *so Jesus won a total victory over death and hell!* **Now, we know by faith; when Jesus returns, we will see and experience the fullness of His victory!**
- b. Solomon: When David was near death, *he told his son Solomon to ride his own mule to his coronation* (1 Kings 1:33). **As Solomon** arrived on a donkey, *an animal of peace, so Jesus, the Prince of Peace, entered Jerusalem on a donkey to establish everlasting peace between God and people by taking away their sins!*

2. **The GREAT BLESSINGS of God's Kingdom:** <sup>10</sup> **I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim** [*a reference to the northern kingdom,*

which was defeated by the Assyrians in 721 BC] **And the horse from Jerusalem** [a reference to the southern kingdom, which was defeated by the Babylonians in 587 BC];



**And the bow of war will be cut off. And He will speak peace to the nations; And His dominion will be from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.**

- a. Remove the things of war: Whether it be physical or spiritual, *war is horrible!* Therefore, it is certainly **good news** that the coming Messiah would remove the things of war such as chariots and horses and bows!
  - b. Establish peace and dominion: The kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom, *thus a non-geographical kingdom*. Whenever the Messiah is reigning in a person’s heart as Savior and Lord, *that person is a member of God’s kingdom*, which stretches **“to the ends of the earth.”**
3. **For the Hopeless – FREEDOM:** <sup>11</sup> **As for you also, because of the blood of My covenant with you, I have set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.**
- a. Trapped in a pit: Imagine *the pit is deep and dry*, you have **no** water or food, **no** way to climb out, **no** one to help you, and *you are almost unconscious*. Then, *just then*, you are aroused because *someone has come to set you free, and provide you with water and food* 😊!
  - b. Trapped by sin: Whether people know it or not, *sin has brought* **no** spiritual death and **no** separation from God. All people were *trapped in a spiritual pit*, so they had **no**

way to overcome their sin, **no** way to escape, and *hell was imminent*. Then, *just then*, the Messiah arrived to **win the victory over sin and hell, and gift people with forgiveness and heaven!**

4. **A GREAT Invitation and a DOUBLE Blessing:** <sup>12</sup> **Return to the stronghold, O prisoners who have the hope; This very day I am declaring that I will restore double to you.**
- Repent:** **The stronghold is the Messiah;** He is our place of safety from *sin, death, and hell!* For all who are currently prisoners, *the cry to repent is going forth – so **be sorry AND trust in Jesus for eternal life!***
  - Be blessed:** There is *NO neutral position* with the Messiah; He does NOT simply remove us from sin, death, and hell; ***INSTEAD, He blesses us with forgiveness, life, and heaven!***

### **Conclusion:**

- **Truth** – The Messiah has come, *and His name is Jesus!*
- **Relevance** – We deserve death and hell, *so we all desperately need the Messiah!*
- **Inspiration** – Through our God-worked sorrow and faith, *we are richly blessed now and forever!*

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Lord Jesus, out of perfect love and obedience, You came, lived, suffered, and died *to win our freedom*. May peace and joy overflow from us in such a way *that others might gladly receive You as their Savior and Lord!*

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