



Sermon, Sunday December 19, 2021

“The Coming of Zion’s King”

SCRIPTURE: Zechariah 9:9-13 ⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. ¹³ For I have bent Judah as my bow; I have made Ephraim its arrow. I will arouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and wield you like a warrior’s sword.

Introduction: Book of Zechariah

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. May we have reconciliation and restoration through encounter and love with Jesus in our lives. The book of Zechariah was written to give courage and hope to the people of Judah who returned to Jerusalem from their long captivity and were building the destroyed temple. The prophet Zechariah gives courage and hope to the people of Judah by stressing the future importance of the temple to them. The prophet Zechariah says that the glory of the Messiah will come in the temple and that the temple must be rebuilt.

The name Zechariah means ‘God has remembered’. As the meaning of the name Zechariah, Israel will be blessed because the Lord remembers the covenant He made with Israel’s ancestors. And the promise of the Lord is fulfilled to us through the coming of Jesus Christ. Today’s text is the answer to the follow two questions, **“Why is the fulfillment of the Lord’s promises a blessing to us?”** and **“Why is the coming of the baby Jesus a joy for us?”**

Body: The Coming of Zion’s King

1. The reason for the joy of the king’s coming

Today’s text, Zechariah 9:9, is the most famous verse in the book of Zechariah. In particular, this verse was fulfilled as Jesus entered Jerusalem to carry the cross. The reason we should rejoice in the coming of the King is that His attributes are beautiful and wonderful. Let’s see who the coming king is.

First, the King to come is a righteous one. The righteousness of the King to come means that His judgments are reliable and need not be questioned. Why should we not question His justice? **Look at Isaiah 11:3. “He will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears.”**

Jesus made it His pleasure to fear God the Father. So, even after Jesus healed the sick and performed miracles for the poor, He still prays to God the Father. For Jesus, the source and strength of joy was not worldly honor and authority, but prayer, which was intimate fellowship with God the Father. So, Jesus did not seek to be popular with many people, but was only interested in doing the will of God the Father. So, because God the



Father is always at the center of Jesus, His judgment is just. Then, what are the other attributes of the coming of Zion's King?

Second, the King to come is the One who provides salvation. Jesus says in John 10:10. “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” Also, in Mark 10:45, he says. “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

In this way, Jesus has a lot to give us, and He delights in giving. Also, Jesus rewards us and gives us strength not to fall into temptation. And Jesus is the One who gives rest to those who are weary and bear heavy burdens. Furthermore, Jesus is the One who gives more than we ask, and gives more abundantly. **So Jesus makes a promise to us; “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35) and “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”(Matthew 7:7)** So His coming should be rejoicing. **Then, what are the other attributes of the coming of Zion's King?**

Third, the King to come is humble. Zechariah 9:9 says: “He was gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” Although Jesus was the Son of God, he did not enjoy privileges and lived humbly. Jesus made this choice to be with us and to be close to us. He was humbled for us because we could not go to God, and He Himself came to us because we cannot go to God on our own effort. Therefore, Jesus fully understands our hard life and becomes our true comforter.

As we saw above, the king who the prophet Zechariah said is coming is different from the kings of the world. He is the One who gives strength and courage to the weary and struggling people. He is also the one who gives comfort and joy to the people in pain and sorrow. He is the one who gives hope to the desperate people. Furthermore, He is the One who gives peace to the world. But the way he brings about peace in the world is clearly different from the kings of the world.

2. The king who removes chariots and war-horses

Let's look at today's text, Zechariah 9:10. “He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.” This verse says that the people of the new king must be humble like Him, so they must cut off their horses and their chariots. But suddenly in the next verse comes the word of war. **Look at Zechariah 9:13. “For I have bent Judah as my bow; I have made Ephraim its arrow. I will arouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and wield you like a warrior's sword.”** To understand this verse, we need to understand the historical facts of Israel at that time. Southern Judah was taken into captivity by Babylon. After this, Babylon was destroyed by the Persians, and the Jewish people were able to return to their homeland by the decree of King Cyrus. After that, Persia was abolished in a war with Alexander the Great of Greece, and Israel came under the control of Greece. This verse is a promise that, with the help of the Lord, the people of faith will be victorious.

However, there is only one way for the Israelites to overcome the world. It is to follow the path that the coming King has walked. For this, what the Israelites need is not the chariots and horses that symbolize their dependence on the world, but the humble faith of the coming king. How, then, can we possess and live this humble faith?

3. Prayer and the word of the Lord

In Acts chapter 12, we see the story of Herod killing John's brother James with the sword. When Herod sees the Jews rejoice over what he has done, he imprisons Peter in order to win their favor. Because of this, Peter was imprisoned, and the congregations of the early church earnestly pray for Peter. The night before Peter's execution, an angel appears and wakes him up. And leads him out of prison. After this, the angel leaves



and Peter goes to the house of John Mark's mother. Even at this time, the church was still praying for Peter, and people learn that Peter was brought out of prison with the help of an angel.

How was this amazing thing possible? They fought with the world through prayer and the word of God. In Acts chapter 12, the saints did not leave the place of prayer and the Word. They did not have war-horses or chariots, but they had the most powerful weapons: prayer and the word of the Lord. There are many examples of miracles through prayer and the power of the Lord's Word in the Bible.

There are many examples of this in the Gospels. When the disciples saw Jesus healed a man possessed by demons, they asked the Lord. **“Why couldn't we drive it out?”** At this time, Jesus said to his disciples, **“This kind can come out only by prayer.”**(Mark 9:29)

That's why Zion's King commands the Israelites that they have to get rid of chariots and war-horses. And a clear reward is promised to those who do well in this battle. **Zechariah 9:16 says: “The LORD their God will save them on that day as the flock of his people. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown.”**

Conclusion: Let's return to the stronghold of the Lord.

Now let's summarize today's sermon. **Today's text, Zechariah 9:12, says: “Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.”**

The Lord tells us to “return to the stronghold.” This means where and how we can remain the most secure in life in the world. It also refers to the peace we enjoy when we are with the Lord. Also, this means the peace we get when we follow the Lord in humble faith.

Even if our instincts try to keep us in the place of joy that can be enjoyed through lust, we want all of us to look to the Lord and dwell safely in His arms.

In the last week of Advent, we pray that we may find peace in our body, mind, and spirit in the love of the Lord.

