

**Behold! Your King is Coming!****Zechariah 9:9**

We left off in our study of the book of Acts as Paul was making his final descent into Jerusalem knowing that chains and tribulations await him, knowing that it is the will of God to go to Jerusalem. And as I was thinking about the determination and the tenacity of the Apostle Paul to press toward the prize and finish his race, I was reminded of another Man who came to Jerusalem by the will of God; and He too had a tenacity and a determination to serve God; and He too suffered. This of course is our Savior Jesus Christ. And with today being Palm Sunday, I was led to talk about our Coming King. The One who came and the One who is coming again!

It was Palm Sunday in 32ad, one week before the Feast of Firstfruits that Jesus came to Jerusalem to finish the race and the joy that was set before Him, **Hebrews 12:1-2**. And as Jesus was making His final descent into Jerusalem, He began telling His disciples the things that would happen to Him there, **Luke 18:31-34**. The Prophets had been foretelling of the Coming Messiah for hundreds of years. Prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and many of the minor prophets as well. Amos tells us that the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals it to His prophets first, Amos 3:7. So as Jesus was coming into Jerusalem for His passion week, Scripture had foretold of His Coming, His death, His resurrection, and of His final coming. And on that Palm Sunday in 32ad as Jesus came into Jerusalem, the Prophets had foretold of these events in which Jesus fulfilled perfectly, **John 12:12-16**. This was foretold by Zechariah over 500 years before Jesus came to the earth, so today I want to take you through the book of Zechariah along with some other prophets and point out some of the prophecies foretelling of our coming King and how this relates to us today. Because God's promises are always Faithful and True. The prophecies of His first coming came to pass perfectly. And He is faithful to His the promise of returning again! This is our Blessed Hope.

In 537bc, the first year of king Cyrus' reign, the Jews were allowed to go back to Jerusalem after being in captivity for 70 years. Remember that Jerusalem and the temple had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar over the course of three invasions from 605bc to 586bc. And as a result, the Jews were dispersed throughout the world. But then according to the prophets Jeremiah and Isaiah, after 70 years in captivity, king Cyrus would allow the Jews back into their land to rebuild the temple. In 537bc, Zerubbabel went back to Jerusalem and erected an altar to offer burnt offerings to God, Ezra 1:1; 3:2, 6. And in the 2nd year after their release from captivity, they began work on the temple and building its foundation and laying its walls, Ezra 3:8-11, 4:12, Hag 2:18. But during this time there was much opposition from the adversaries of Judah that delayed and prolonged the building of the temple, Ezra 4:1-21. Then 15 years later, a decree went forth from king Artaxerxes (Smerdis (brother of Cyrus) in 522bc to stop the building of the temple, Ezra 4:21-24.

One year later, in the 2nd year of the reign of Darius king of Persia in 521bc, 16 years after the captivity, God spoke to Zechariah and Haggai to encourage Zerubbabel to finish building the temple in Jerusalem, Ezra 4:24; Zech 1:1; Haggai 1:1-8; 2:1-5. But as the case with many of God's prophecies, they usually have multiple fulfillments. So while God is encouraging Zerubbabel to finish this second temple, God is foretelling of the True Temple that would be built by Jesus Christ, which is the body of Christ, **Haggai 1:8; 2:6-9; John 2:19-22; Heb 12:26**. Paul also speaks of this Holy Temple of the Lord as the Church, the body of Christ, **Eph 2:19-22**.

Now let's go over to the book of Zechariah and look at these prophecies. Again, these prophecies were for Zerubbabel to encourage him to finish the temple, but they had a future significance for the coming of Jesus and the Eternal Temple of God, **Zech 1:16-17; Isaiah 54:2-3**. God is getting Jerusalem ready to expand its tent and invite the whole world to salvation. And God is doing this through His Son and using Israel as His chosen nation, His chosen vessel to do this. So as God is foretelling of the temple to be built through Zechariah, His prophecies are also foretelling of the Messiah who would come to build the True Temple of God, **Zech 2:8-13**. Here we start getting some clues as to who the Messiah is. Notice that the Messiah whom God will send is God Himself!

Then Zechariah continues prophesying of the coming Messiah calling Him the Branch, **Zech 3:8-9**. The Messiah removed iniquity from the land in one day by being the final sacrifice for sin. Zechariah continues speaking of the coming Branch and tells them the Messiah will be a Man, **Zech 6:12-13**. This prophecy is obviously going far beyond Zerubbabel building the physical Temple and is referring to the coming Messiah who would build the True Temple of God. And this Man will be both a Priest and a King. That was unheard of. In Israel, these offices were held by two separate tribes. The kings came from the line of Judah and the priests came from the line of Levi. But Jesus is both the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek and not after Aaron, **Heb 7:11-19**. Paul was quoting Psalm 110 which David wrote over 1,000 years before Jesus came. And Zechariah prophesied of these things over 500 years before Jesus. Isn't it beautiful how God spelled all this out hundreds of years earlier? But the Jews were so hard hearted that they continued to reject their own prophets. Notice what Zechariah says in chapter 7, **Zech 7:11-12**. This is exactly what the Sanhedrin Council did when Stephen was preaching the Truth, they stopped their ears from hearing the Truth, Acts 7:57. But even with their hard hearts God continues prophesying of Jesus and the remnant who would believe and trust in God, **Zech 8:9**. The Temple is built on the Apostles and the Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself is the Chief Cornerstone.

Then Zechariah continues speaking of the coming Messiah and foretells of the Triumphant Entry of the Messiah as King, **Zech 9:9**. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> time God has foretold of the Messiah coming in the book of Zechariah. So if you put all these together we start getting a clearer picture of who the Messiah is. He is God Himself being sent by the Lord, Zech 2:10; He is the Branch, specifically the Branch of David, Zech 3:8; He is a Man, Zech 6:12; and He is a humble King who will also be a Priest. Zechariah says, Behold, your King is coming to you, but not as a mighty warrior, but lowly (humble and meek) riding on a donkey, Zech 9:9. This day of Jesus' triumphal entry was also prophesied in **Daniel 9:25**. The command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem came from Artaxerxes in 445bc when he allowed Nehemiah to go rebuild the walls in Jerusalem, Neh 2. Daniel 9:25 says that there would be 69 weeks of years from this decree until Messiah the Prince. 69 weeks of years is 173,880 days (69x7x360). And according to Sir Robert Anderson in his book, *The Coming Prince*, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on that very day, 173,880 days after Artaxerxes made this decree in 445bc! It is so fascinating to see all the prophecies about the Messiah fulfilled perfectly in Jesus Christ. Again, this is what Jesus said back in Luke 18 as He was approaching Jerusalem, **Luke 18:31**. But the Jews weren't ready and expectant of the Messiah and they missed their King, **Luke 19:37-44**; **Matthew 23:37**. Jesus held them accountable. They should have known this day, but they were not willing to come to Him because *they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God*, John 12:43. They missed the time of their visitation from their King because they didn't know the Scriptures and they were too focused on themselves instead of Jesus. Jesus said, John 5:39-40-<sup>39</sup> *You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.* <sup>40</sup> *But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.* ... John 5:46-47-<sup>46</sup> *For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.* <sup>47</sup> *But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?*

It is the Word of God who reveals who our Savior is. If you know His Word then you will know Him, 1 John 2:3-6, lest you miss the time of your visitation. This is important because did you know that our King is coming again? Now we don't know the exact time of His next coming, but we do know He is coming soon, Rev 22:20. And Jesus purposely leaves this a mystery because He wants us to be watchful and expectant for His imminent return at any time, Luke 12:35-40; 19:13; Matt 24:36-44; 25:1-13; Mark 13:32-37. Jesus is coming again, and He is coming for those who love Him, for those who are watching, and for those who are eagerly expecting His return, **Hebrews 9:28**. Are you ready? Are you eagerly expecting Him? Is He everything to you? Do you love Him? Is He your Hope, your future, and your Life? If He is, then when He appears, you also will appear with Him in Glory, Colossians 3:4; **John 14:1-4, 21-23**.

Know His Word, abide in Him and Love Him. So that when He appears a second time, you will be with Him forever. Seeing Him face to face in Glory!