

Introduction

Imagine the great joy and the resulting anticipation at the news of the coming of a king to a realm where his oppressed people longed for deliverance.

The Messianic King does not come in military strength and splendor but in humility and lowliness. The Messianic King does not achieve victory by military strength and prowess but by his sufferings and death. **Zech 9:9** is fulfilled in the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, immediately prior to his arrest and crucifixion.

Summary

Zechariah 9:9-17 is a Messianic prophecy, which speaks of the glories of Christ and His universal reign of peace resulting in deliverance for His people and judgment on their enemies.

1. Coming Righteous King vs. 9

The Jews are told to look for the coming of the ruler God would send, one who fits and fulfills the picture of the Messiah in the Old Testament. Here is a king who is righteous and having salvation, who comes in meekness and affliction (**Zech 9:9**).

The only person in all of history who fits this description is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Whereas earthly kings rule for their own riches and glory, Christ rules for our salvation. Earthly kings reign over the people from above, in haughty power, but this king condescends to dwell among his own.

Application

Christians have every reason to be happy; to rejoice and be glad. (**Zech. 9:9**). This prophecy was fulfilled on the day her king did come, when Jesus rode in on a donkey's back (**Luke 19:37-38**). Christ, their king has come and is coming again bringing salvation with him. A lack of joy is a failure to see your king.

A pilgrim, suffering people can also find great comfort in a humble, suffering Savior who can sympathize with us in our weaknesses (**Heb 4:15**)

2. King's Salvation vv. 10-17

When we put our faith in this righteous king, we trust in his work for our deliverance. Here we have a description of the king's reign and its progress.

The first step in the king's reign is to restore the people to God through faith (**9:10**).

The second step in the King's reign is liberating the prisoners (**9:11**). **Zech 9:13-15** indicate that their restoration will also involve the renewing of their fighting ability.

The third step of God's reign speaks of the Lord's care for his people, resulting in the fullest blessing (**Zech 9:16-17**).

3. Fulfilled in Christ

These promises were partially fulfilled in the deliverance of the Jews in the time of the Maccabees (**163-63 BC**) but this passage ultimately centers on Christ and His coming into Jerusalem.

In the battle against the devil and sin, here is the great and mighty conqueror of whom Isaiah spoke (**Isa. 63:1**). This king comes in humility because he comes to save by means of a cross, yet that cross is the instrument of God's conquest of sin.

The salvation Christ gives is like the picture of the king's reign in Zech 9.

First, God's people are restored to him in faith. Salvation begins in our lives when we are turned from the ways of the world to trust in the Lord.

Secondly, God's people are returned to fighting strength.

Christ has gathered his people, but they need to be strengthened; they are gathered in a fortress, fed with God's Word, and then sent onto the battlefield to push back the forces of sin in our lives and in the world.

Thirdly, all of this leads to future glorification. Sanctification leads to glorification.

Application:

The covenant love of God and his faithful promises that are sealed in blood are the hope of the church and every individual believer in times of trouble.

Let sinners who are prisoners of sin and misery turn to the stronghold, who is Christ, whilst there is yet opportunity and God will grant them the double blessing of deliverance and wholeness.

However terrifying the conflict with our foes, the people of God are safe in Christ and will one day be finally delivered from all their enemies.

God's people will celebrate the victory of their king and enjoy the full consummate blessings of his salvation forevermore.

4. Reign of Peace vs. 10

The whole of our salvation rests on and is the fruit of the work of Jesus Christ.

"He shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth" (**Zech. 9:10**).

Peace is what Jesus brings **John 14:27**.

Sin makes us enemies of God. It is only through the blood of the covenant, the precious blood of Christ, that we can have peace with God.

Therefore, you must do what the prophet commands if you would be saved, if you would have peace: look to him, behold this king who comes, righteous and bearing salvation, coming forth in gentleness to be the Savior of sinners.

Col. 1:19-20 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Look to him, receive him in faith, and you will be saved.