

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
THE VISION OF THE COMINGS OF MESSIAH
PART 1b & 2-MESSIAH'S FIRST & SECOND ADVENT
ZECHARIAH 9:9-17; MATTHEW 21:1-11

Introduction

The prophets often foretold Jesus' **First and Second Comings in one vision**. They did not see the valley separating these two events.

IN VERSE 9 WE SEE THE MESSIAH'S FIRST ADVENT!

As Israel recognizes the One for whom they have been waiting for so long, their response is to have no bounds!

We looked at the three characteristics of the coming King:

I. THE MESSIAH-KING IS JUST! (i.e. Righteous!)

He would be **“just” both in character and in conduct—perfect in judgment and sinless in deed!**

II. THE MESSIAH-KING IS SALVATION!

Man's greatest need for deliverance, is the deliverance from sin!

Messiah came the first time showing Himself as Savior in the spiritual realm by becoming the Savior of the World!

No doubt, Messiah will save His people at the end of the Tribulation! But His greatest action was in providing salvation from their sin!

What good does physical deliverance do if you die and go to hell?

III. THE MESSIAH-KING IS LOWLY!

(i.e. humble, poor, afflicted, submissive to another!)

An illustration of the Messiah's lowliness is that He would appear “riding on an ass” (i.e. donkey)! Not very kingly!

By doing so, He proclaimed **that He had no interest in earthly political priorities!** His first coming was to provide salvation for all!

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Zechariah's prophecy in verse 9 was literally fulfilled when the Lord came the first time. Look at Matthew 21:1-11.

You will find in the Old Testament Scriptures that God ordered that a donkey, in contrast to all other animals but in the same way as man, **could be redeemed through a substitutionary lamb!**

1. All the firstborn among the unclean animals had to be redeemed with money or sold.
2. All the firstborn among the clean animals, such as cattle, sheep or goats, had to be sacrificed (Note: *Numbers 18:15-17* onwards and *Leviticus 27:26-27*).
3. **Only human beings and donkeys could be redeemed through the sacrifice of a lamb:** *Exodus 13:12-13—“That thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORDs. And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck; and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem.”*

I read where one of the original breeds of donkeys that lived in the Orient at that time (*nubian*), which also exists even today, features a dark horizontal stripe over its shoulders and a vertical stripe that begins at its neck and travels down its back.

Looking down from above, it looks as if the donkey is carrying a cross on its back. Did the Creator do this purposely?

Note Matthew 21:7 here, *“And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon.”* This is how Passion Week began.

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The Messiah,
Who would be crucified in a few days,
Whose Cross would read, "*Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews,*"
Who would be slaughtered as a substitute for Israel and for the
world, now sat on the back of a donkey.

We can already see the Cross in this! Jesus sacrificed Himself for man!

Israel's future redemption and liberation are foreshadowed in this picture!

There's an indication here of what Jesus accomplished on Calvary's Cross for Israel. John the Baptist had cried out, "*Behold the Lamb of God,*" at the sight of Jesus early on in His ministry! And now Jesus comes riding on a donkey as He approaches to give His blood for the redemption of Israel and all mankind!

Note how literally Zechariah's prophecy was fulfilled! At His First Advent, the Lord appeared as the meek and lowly one! Jesus said in: Matthew 11:29—*"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."*

He was obedient to His Father unto death, even the death of the Cross. Philippians 2:5-8—*"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."*

He was the ultimate, and only valid eternal sin offering for Israel and the entire world. He is our sin offering! There is no sin for which Jesus did not die. John 1:29—*"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."*

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The Lord was so meek and lowly, so sinless, so much God — the true Messiah — that He could sit upon a donkey colt so young that it still was with its mother. (Matthew 21:2)

Luke's account calls it , "*...a colt...whereon yet never man sat*" (Luke 19:30). Normally it would be impossible to ride on an untamed colt, but the Lord not only did this, but also rode through a multitude of people who were calling out to Him and waving palm branches!

Yet the colt did not shy or kick out; it behaved as if it were tame beneath the Lord's body. Only the true, supernatural and meek Messiah could ride this colt under these circumstances. This is a beautiful picture of His rule! Where He rules, it is quiet in the midst of noise.

I. ISRAEL'S PRESENT SITUATION ILLUSTRATED.

Mark 11:4—"And they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him."

Three things in this passage illustrate Israel's present situation:

A. The Donkey Was Bound.

It was controlled by another. Today, the Jews are bound more to the power of America and the European Union than they are to God.

As we view Israel today, we see that it is continually forced by Arab nations, and those who support them, to comply with demands that are not Biblical!

We know that Israel is **not free** because the **Messiah's reign has not yet begun!** She has to do what the nations lay upon her and cannot move about freely because the time of the Gentiles has not yet ended!

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Jesus prophesied of the Jews in *Luke 21:24* – “*And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*”

In the Word of God:

- 1. Satan is called the prince of the power of the air!**
(Ephesians 2:2)

- 2. He is also called the prince of this world!**
(John 12:31)

- 3. He is the chief ruler of the darkness of this world!**
Ephesians 6:12– “*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*”

In all of this, he has incited and continues to incite the nations against the Jews! This will continue until the return of Christ at the end of the Tribulation Period. (Revelation 12:1-6)

This is the only way to explain the politics of the nations and the media's one-sided reports against Israel!
Satan is behind it all!

But listen, every individual who has not surrendered his life to Christ is also in Satan's possession and involved in Satan's work!

Jesus Christ is the only One Who can liberate us from sin, the devil and from all bondage! His blood is the ransom paid for us!

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That is why it is vital that the Lord lay **His work** upon you and take possession of your life.

Jesus said of the donkey, “*Set him free and lead him to me!*” Only in Jesus can we find release from bondage and peace for our hearts.

Only under His rule, and the power of His Word, are we safe and without cause for fear!

The Donkey Was Bound.

B. The Donkey Was Outside.

The donkey that was bound outside is a picture of man's alienation from God! (**Ephesians 2:11-13**)

Israel is in the same position as the nations insofar as she is blind and still living in alienation from God!

2 Corinthians 3:14-16 and **Romans 11:25-28.**

But, the day will come when Israel will be planted in the Messianic kingdom and will come under the Messiah's rule!

How many people right now are still outside, alienated from God, and in need of security, yet they stand both bound and outside?

C. The Donkey Stood At The Crossroad.

In the near future, according to prophecy, the Jews will be led to a crossroad where they will have to choose between the Antichrist and Jesus Christ as their Messiah.

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They will have to choose between the rule of the Gentile nations and the rule of God.

Today, we can see how that Israel is being brought closer to that decisive moment.

II. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

In Zechariah 9:10, the eyes of the prophet are lifted from the Lord's First Advent or coming to His Second Advent or Second Coming!

Israel is standing at the crossroad between the rule of the nations, the future Antichrist, and the true Messiah. Israel is still bound, she is still outside, and she is still alienated from God.

But first, Israel is being led toward the greatest tribulation in her history; she will find herself in a situation from which there is no escape!

But then she will receive her sight and set her eyes upon the Lord. Zechariah 9:10 explains how this will happen: *"And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth."*

People are reaching out for peace covenants today! Everyone is crying out for peace, peace, yet there is no peace! There have never been as many terrible wars as there have been in the 20th and 21st centuries. I saw just this past week where the question was asked in a brief documentary, **"Has World War III begun?"** And evidence was provided to suggest that it had!

As terrible as they were, the two world wars in the twentieth century were the starting point for Israel's restoration.

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World War I brought the Jewish people their land!

World War II brought them their state.

And a future world war will bring them the Messianic kingdom!

The time of Jesus' return will be a completely new era in which weapons will be turned into plowshares!

Isaiah 2:4— "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Micah 4:3 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

This time of Messiah's kingdom of peace will embrace the entire world and will include all the nations! No one but Christ can establish a rule of peace that extends over the entire world!

The shalom (peace) will go forth from Jerusalem, the *"city of peace."* As long as Jerusalem has no peace, the nations will strive in vain and will have no peace!

Zechariah 9:11—"As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water"

During Israel's captivity, when they were in dispersion, the Jews were like people imprisoned in a pit without water. This comparison reminds us of Joseph, who was cast into a pit by his brothers, from which he could not free himself (Genesis 37:24).

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Yet God holds fast to His blood covenant with Israel. He made this covenant with Abraham, and it was sealed by the acceptance of a blood sacrifice (Genesis 15:8-20).

Also remember how that a ram caught in the thicket was sacrificed in Isaac's place (Genesis 22:13-18).

"The blood of thy covenant" also reminds us of the countless sacrifices that took place on the basis of the Sinai covenant that Moses communicated to the people.

All of these are mere symbols of the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who gave His blood as a sacrifice for Israel.

Ultimately, that is where Israel's liberation lies! She will be led to streams of living water again. God's covenant is stronger than any league of nations.

Zechariah 9:12—"Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee."

The phrase *"ye prisoners of hope"* reminds us that the Lord will not do away with His promises to Israel. Through all tribulation, persecution and dispersion, the Lord will lead His people to freedom and return unto them double.

Isaiah prophesied in this direction when he foretold Israel's future: *Isaiah 61:7—"For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them."*

Zechariah 9:13—"When I have bent Judah for me, filled the bow with Ephraim, and raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece, and made thee as the sword of a mighty man."

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This verse is believed to refer to the Maccabees' victorious battle against Antiochus Epiphanes, the Greek king of Syria, when the Empire was divided after Alexander the Great.

However, it seems that this Jewish victory was also used as an example to describe Israel's last victory over her enemies shortly before Jesus returns.

Just as the Lord performed a miracle at that time, through His power, He will perform a miracle at the end of the days and fight for Israel, which is described in detail in the last three chapters of Zechariah.

Zechariah 9:14-17

We see here that the Lord will intervene triumphantly through His appearance on Israel's behalf and will save His people during the last gathering of the Jews' enemies (Zechariah 12:3-10; 14:1-4, 12).

The last two verses are a beautiful picture of the fulfillment of God's promises for His people and His land!

My how differently God sees the future of His people from how the nations see it! There could not be a more beautiful symbol of God's love for His people and their future than this reference to them as, *"stones of a crown."* (i.e. jewels)

When Christ appears in glory, things will be much different for Israel! Israel will bear fruit in this new era to the glory of her Messiah! Sorrow and suffering, persecution, war and dispersion will be over, and the wine of joy will flow!

He who entered into Jerusalem upon an ass will return victoriously!

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Jacob saw this new time prophetically and prophesied of it:
Genesis 49:10-11—"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes."

This paints a glorious picture of Israel's future. The Lord will return to establish His kingdom in and with Israel where there will be peace and abundant blessings in the millennium of peace.

Matthew 21:7, "And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon," also suggests a picture of this.

The ass represents the old Israel, and the colt upon which the Lord sat represents the new, young, restored Israel, upon which He will lay His rule.

At the Lord's coming in glory, the Jews, the new, young Israel will exclaim the words of the Messianic ***Psalm 118:26*** with all of their hearts. *Psalm 118:26—"Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD."*

Mark 11:9-11. At that time they asked, *"Who is this?"* (Matthew 21:10), but now they will recognize Him as their Messiah. He will enter the Temple and begin His reign as King, fulfilling *Zechariah 9:9: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass."*