

INI Hymns:
Palm Sunday

Zechariah 9:9-10

Sermon 26-19
3/29/26

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, lowly and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. 10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and 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.”

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!” Do you ever wonder why God refers to His people as the “Daughter of Zion?” There are two beautiful pictures in that. Zion, the mountain of God’s holiness and presence, is pictured as the mother of God’s people. AND Fathers often have a special affection for their daughters. So that expression portrays God’s special affection for His covenant people. Both are reasons for us to “Rejoice GREATLY.”

Now God gives yet another reason to “Rejoice greatly” and to “shout aloud,” literally to shout in triumph. Back in chapter 2:10 Jehovah says, “Shout for joy, O Daughter Zion, for I am coming, and I will dwell among you.” Now they are to rejoice because “Your King is coming to you.” Jehovah is our King. Both Matthew and John tell us that this prophecy was fulfilled on Palm Sunday as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey with the people shouting for joy and calling Jesus the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

This prophecy gives us some interesting and very comforting details about our King that give us all the more reason to

Rejoice Greatly in Our KING!

-I- The LORD of Hosts first tells us to Rejoice in What our King IS!

He is Righteous and having Salvation.

There have been many tyrants in this world who cause a great deal of misery and suffering for their citizens. So to have a King who is truly Righteous; one who always does everything right and good, is truly a reason to rejoice greatly. Not only is Jesus righteous, but Jeremiah calls Him “The LORD OUR Righteousness.” Jeremiah 23:6 He is the King who gives us Righteousness so we can dwell with God and God with us. That’s why He’s also described as “Having Salvation.” Literally it says He is “Victorious.” Jesus Christ came to battle all our great enemies—sin and Satan, death and hell. And He did that for us. Since He is victorious, then we are victorious. That’s what our Salvation is, winning the victory over these enemies.

Then, in a sudden and surprising twist, Zechariah further describes this righteous and victorious King by saying, **He is Lowly.**

The example Zechariah gives of His lowliness is that He is “mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” A donkey is a lowly animal for a great victorious King to ride. Matthew says they brought both the donkey and it’s colt, at Jesus’ request, and as we see from Mark and Luke, He chose to ride the on colt just as was prophesied. Lowliness is not what we would expect from a victorious King. But it is another reason for us to Rejoice Greatly!

The word translated lowly is very interesting and significant. *Ahnee* is a very common word in the Old Testament. It’s primary meaning is poor and needy, oppressed and afflicted. It refers to the downtrodden. And then, by association it means humble or lowly, because the oppressed and afflicted are usually very lowly. God has a special love and concern for the poor and needy, the oppressed and afflicted. He shows that in giving His law. He said, “You must not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. If you do and they cry out to Me, I will surely hear their cry.” (Exodus 22:22-23) God’s heart bleeds for the poor and oppressed and wanted His kingdom to be one that

showed mercy to the *Ahnee*. (Matthew 11:5). God gave many laws to protect the poor and needy. His people were to allow the poor to glean in their fields, to give interest free loans, to have fair courts that give equal justice to the poor as to the rich. He said, “Remember that you were slaves in Egypt” (Deuteronomy 24:18) They knew what it was like to be afflicted and so they were not to oppress and afflict others, but rather to help the poor and needy. They were to show mercy to the *Ahnee*. The destruction of Jerusalem and the exile in Babylon came in part because of widespread abuse of the *Ahnee*.

Now Jesus is called *Ahnee* here in our text, not because He was weak and vulnerable, but because in His great love and compassion for the poor and vulnerable, He chose to associate with the poor and needy, the weak and vulnerable. He is God, the creator and ruler of all, yet He stooped so low as to become a man, yes, the lowliest of men, to be a servant of the poor and afflicted. He came to seek and save the lost—to be poor and afflicted with them and for them. This is a King who “is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief,” because “He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.” (Isaiah 53:3-4)

We see His lowliness on this day when we understand His purpose for coming into Jerusalem that day. That was the day that the passover lambs were chosen. He was presenting Himself as the Lamb of God for sacrifice. He came to give His life as a ransom for all the poor and needy, the afflicted. What a King! That is reason to rejoice greatly.

In the next verse the LORD of Hosts tells us to

-II- Rejoice in What Our King Does!

He Speaks Peace to the Nations.

Verse 10 begins with the LORD of Hosts saying, “I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off.” God shows the real significance of Jesus riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey. This was in total contrast to the Kings and Kingdoms of this world. The kings of both Ephraim and Jerusalem, both the northern tribes of Israel and the southern tribe of Judah, placed their confidence in their war horses and chariots, and their battle bows. Jesus rode in on a colt. They sought to protect and extend their kingdoms by force of arms, as we see from all the battles fought.

It total contrast to that, the true King of the Daughter of Zion, God’s people, came riding on the most lowly animal that could carry Him, a foal that had never been ridden before. This is visualizing and emphasizing what Jesus told Pilate, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.” (John 18:36) Jesus would not extend His kingdom by force of arms with armies and horses.

To further demonstrate that, God literally “cut off the the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow.” The nation of Israel was under the power and rule of the Romans and so the Jews were not allowed to maintain any armed forces of their own. Roman soldiers were stationed in Israel to maintain peace. Jesus did not come to raise up an army to defeat the Romans as many Jews thought and hoped. Instead, the LORD of Hosts said that your King, Jesus “shall speak peace to the nations.” As Jesus explained to Pilate, He came to “bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” (John 18:37) That is how He would gain followers and build His Kingdom, by proclaiming the truth of God.

The angels sang at His birth, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14) Many people mock this idea and say that Jesus did not bring peace on earth, neither has Christianity been able to establish peace on earth. But He has! Jesus’ whole message is about peace. He is the Prince of Peace. He has brought peace with God by removing our sins and

satisfying His wrath and justice against sin. In Christ we have Peace with God. We do not have to fear His wrath and punishment, but can count on His love and protection, giving us peace even in the midst of the strife of this world.

We also have peace with one another in His Kingdom, because He teaches us and moves us with His love to “Live peaceably with all men.” (Romans 12:18) As we read in our Epistle lesson from Philippians 2, “Be of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” If everyone would listen to Jesus’ voice and truly follow Him, there would be peace everywhere on earth. But Jesus said that will never happen. However, we can rejoice greatly because Jesus has caused His Kingdom to grow and spread into all the world.

He Rules from the River to the Ends of the Earth.

Jesus’ Kingdom has truly spread throughout the whole world. Millennialists who are waiting for some future Millennial Reign of Christ where there will be perfect peace everywhere on earth, are waiting for an empty dream which Jesus said will not happen. Worse yet, they miss the true Glory of His Kingdom now. Jesus truly has established His kingdom from Sea to sea and to the ends of the earth, we rejoice to see Jesus’ kingdom spread and grown in countries around the world.

As we see the Church dwindling in our own country, it is encouraging to see Christ’s kingdom spread and grow throughout the world. It is wonderful to see the peace and joy that believers have even in lands where they are hated. They know they have peace with God and the sure promise of eternal life.

This is what our King gives to us. So let us “Rejoice greatly,” and “Shout in Triumph” For our king Has come to us. He came in utter lowliness, putting us ahead of Himself. We see Him riding on to die for us on the cross and secure for us a place in God’s eternal Kingdom where we will enjoy perfect peace forever in heaven. Yes, we have great reason to Rejoice Greatly! And may we strive to be like our Saviour, lowly in our willingness to serve Him with our life by serving one another in love.

Amen