

THE KING THAT WE ALL NEED

3-24-24

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, RIDING UPON A DONKEY, AND UPON A COLT THE FOAL OF A DONKEY”.

MATTHEW 21: 1 – 11 - (READ) - (K.J.B.)

Since it was “The Feast of the Passover”; there was probably about 2 million people in and around Jerusalem. This was the only time in Jesus’s Ministry, that Jesus actually PLANNED AND PROMOTED, a public appearance. Jesus and His disciples were on the Jericho Road and they had already walked up most of the treacherous and steep pitch pathway; that twisted and turned for 17 miles, from Jericho to Jerusalem.

By this point in Jesus’s Ministry, most of the disciples had learned to do as they were told, so the two men went out and did as Jesus had instructed them to do. They brought the donkey and the colt and they placed their clothes on them, and Jesus sat on them (MATTHEW 21: 6, 7). However trivial, this errand may have seemed to the disciples, it was full of Biblical and theological significance and fulfilled the Bible prophecy in ZECHARIAH 9: 9.

This act by Jesus, demonstrated that Christ Jesus had come to be the king! The people of Israel had always understood Zechariah’s prophecy, to refer to the Messiah and to God’s anointed king. When Jesus mentioned the donkey not just any donkey, but specifically a purebred donkey and a colt, as Zachariah promised; Jesus was presenting Himself as Israel’s promise king. By His action, He was saying: “Behold thy king cometh unto thee”. For a moment, at least, Jesus was acknowledging Himself as king.

Christ Jesus has planned and promoted, another future public appearance, as stated in “The Book of Revelation”. However this next time, it will not only be before the Jewish people and for all of Israel but will be viewed by all of the world. This next time coming, Jesus will not be riding on a donkey and it’s colt but on a mighty warhorse (REVELATION 19: 11 – 16).

REVELATION 19: 11 – “And I saw Heaven open, and behold a white horse; and He (Christ Jesus) that sat upon him was called FAITHFUL AND TRUE, AND IN RIGHTEOUSNESS HE DOTHTH JUDGE AND MAKE WAR”.

THE ONLY THING COMMON BETWEEN THESE TWO PLANNED AND PROMOTED APPEARANCES BY CHRIST JESUS – IS IN THE NATURE AND CHARACTER OF THE KING!

(1). CHRIST JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS AND RIGHTFUL KING.

Although it is often overlooked, there is even an older prophecy, that explains why Jesus rode on a donkey and it's colt. Long before Zachariah, Jacob pronounced this blessing, on his son Judah:

GENESIS 49: 10 – “THE SCEPTER WILL NOT DEPART FROM JUDAH nor a lawgiver from between his feet., UNTIL SHILOH COME; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be”.

GENESIS 49: 11 – “Binding his foal unto the vine, and his donkey's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes”:

This was a prophetic word, that of Jacob's 12 sons, that the leadership of the nation of Israel, would come from Judah descendants, “The Tribe of Judah”, and that they would become the leadership of the nation of Israel, until “SHILOH (THE MESSIAH) COME”.

In REVELATION 5: 5, Jesus is called “The Lion of the tribe of Judah”.

“The Leadership of Israel Prophecy”, took some 640 years to fulfill, in the reign of David, first of Judah's dynasty of kings. The prophecy took some 1,600 years to completely fulfill in Christ Jesus. From King David until the “Harods”, a prince of Judah, was head over Israel. Even under the under their foreign masters, Israel had a limited right to self-rule, until A.D. 7. At that time, under “Herod” and the Romans, the right to administer CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, was taken away from the Jewish people, a small but the last remaining element of their self-governance, was taken away.

At that time, the Rabbis, considered it a disaster of “UNFULFILLED PROPHECY”. Seemingly the last vestige of the “Scepter” had passed from Judah, and THEY DID NOT SEE THE MESSIAH!

Reportedly, the rabbis walked the streets of Jerusalem and said, “WOE UNTO US, FOR THE SCEPTER HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM US, AND SHILOH (THE MESSIAH) HAS NOT COME”!

Yet God's Word had not been broken and the prophetic Word of God had come true - they just didn't see it fulfilled in Christ Jesus! Perhaps, at the same time, when Jesus was 12 years old and went into the Temple and marveled the scholars of his day – the rabbis were in the street saying: “God did not keep his word”!

ZECHARIAH 12: 10 – “And I will pour upon the House of David (TRIBE OF JUDAH), and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, THE SPIRIT OF GRACE AND SUPPLICATION: and THEY SHALL LOOK UPON ME WHOM THEY HAVE PIERCED, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn”.

REVELATION 1: 7 – “Behold, He (Christ Jesus) cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and THEY WHICH PIERCED HIM: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen”.

ISAIAH 53: 5 – “But He was WOUNDED for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed”.

ISAIAH 53: 5 also predicts that the Messiah would be “Pierced” – “BUT HE WAS WOUNDED (ONE OF THE DEFINITIONS “WOUNDED” IS “PIERCED”) FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS”.

The “Book of Zechariah”, was written about 550 years before the birth of Christ Jesus. The Jewish form of capital punishment, was STONING TO DEATH, and if the Jewish people had not lost that last remaining element of self-governance, then ZECHARIAH 12:10, would not been fulfilled. Because king Herod and the Roman government’s, form of capital punishment was CRUCIFIXION, in which, not only the hands and feet was “PIERCED” by nails but also a spear “PIERCED”, the side of the victim on the cross, to make sure that they were dead.

In summary, ZECHARIAH 12:10, predicts the “PIERCING”, of the Son of God, the Messiah, fulfilled it the first coming of Christ Jesus, when He died in the cross and was pierced, IN HIS HANDS AND FEET AND by the spear in his side (JOHN 19: 36, 37). The complete fulfillment of this verse, awaits “The Last Days” (At the end of “The Great Tribulation” period), when the Jewish people will plead for mercy and salvation, from the one they have “PIERCED”.

If Jesus is the king, then all his loyal subjects must recognize His kingship. The Jews did this, “INITIALLY”, by calling Him “THE SON OF DAVID” and also by spreading their cloaks, before Him. This was an ancient custom, and which the people threw down their garments, to make it carpet for a royal procession!

WE RECOGNIZE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF CHRIST JESUS – BY LAYING OUR HEARTS BEFORE HIM AND BY THROWING DOWN OUR WILLS, IN ABSOLUTE SURRENDER, AND BY ASKING JESUS, TO GOVERN EVERYTHING, THAT WE THINK AND DO. THAT IS WHEN WE THEN PRAISE HIM, AS OUR RIGHTFUL KING!

(2). CHRIST JESUS IS THE VICTORIOUS KING

Let’s look at ZECHARIAH 9: 9 again and what it says:

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 RIDING UPON A DONKEY, AND UPON A COLT THE FOAL OF AN DONKEY”.

The phrase “AND HAVING SALVATION”, is the strongest Hebrew word #3467; “Yasa” and means “TO SAVE, BE SAVED, be delivered, to be liberated, to be saved (in battle), TO BE VICTORIOUS”.

The question is: “Does the rightful king, come to save or to be saved”? The Messiah did not come to be saved, but to save. The very reason for His coming, is because all of mankind, needs a Savior. What good would it do, for God to send a Savior, who himself, was in need a salvation? To understand this prophecy; it helps to recognize that the “Savior”, does not need to be saved from His sins, Zachariah himself says, that the rightful king is “JUST” (Righteous). In other words, He “JUSTS”, does what is right and good in the sight of God the Father. In the case of Jesus, who is the fulfillment of this prophecy, the king is perfectly righteous. Jesus kept all the commandments of God.

“He who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth” (1 PETER 2:22). So all of Jesus’s thoughts was pure, all of his words were true, and all of his actions were just!

If Jesus did not need to be saved from his sins, as he clearly did not, then in what sense was he saved? He was saved from DEATH but by THE TRIUNE NATURE AND POWER OF GOD! All the Bible often

uses the word, "SAVE", to refer to salvation from sin, it also uses the term in a more general way to refer to any kind of DELIVERANCE.

For example, when the psalmist writer, praised God for bringing the Jewish people out of Egypt, he said: "And He (God) SAVED (#H3467) saved them (The Hebrew people) from the hand of him that hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy". "The Exodus", of the Hebrew people out of Egypt, did not save the Hebrew people from their sins but it was a great "Deliverance", a mighty act of salvation.

The word "SAVE" is used in a similar way, at the end of PSALMS 20:9 – "Save, Lord: LET THE KING HEAR US WHEN WE CALL". This is not a prayer for the king's salvation or for the people salvation, from their sins but deliverance from the FEAR AND POWER, of their enemies.

PSALM 20:7 – "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God".

PSALMS 20:8 – "They (The enemies) are brought down and fallen: but we are RISEN, and STAND UPRIGHT".

Another example, is in PSALM 72:13 it says "He (God) shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy". For the psalmist writer, "Save" here meant deliverance from death. That is the kind of Salvation, ZEchariah had in mind, when he promised that the king would come "Just and Saved".

THE PSALMIST WRITER MEANT, THAT GOD'S RIGHTFUL KING, WOULD BE DELIVERED (DELIVERED FROM THE POWER OF DEATH – DEATH WOULD NOT REMAIN) AND THAT HE WOULD BE VINDICATED, FROM DEATH AND THE GRAVE!

Once we understand, what Zechariah meant, when he promised that the KING would "Have salvation"; we can see why the gospels leave out the this part of the prophecy or part of the prophecy found in MATTHEW 21:5, MARK 11:1 – 5, LUKE 19:38, JOHN 12:15.

Notice again, the Apostle John only quotes part of ZECHARIAH 9:9 and notice what he says in the very next verse, as his explanation for the reason, why he leaves out the last part, of ZECHARIAH 9:9 or the part, in which, Jesus "Receives" salvation or becomes victorious over death.

JOHN 12:15 – "Fear not, Daughter of Zion: behold, THY KING COMETH, sitting on a donkey's Colt".

JOHN 12:16 – "THESE THINGS UNDERSTOOD NOT HIS DISCIPLES AT THE FIRST BUT WHEN JESUS WAS GLORIFIED (WAS VICTORIOUS OVER THE GRAVE AND DEATH), THEN REMEMBERED THEY THAT THESE THINGS WERE WRITTEN OF HIM (JESUS), AND THAT THEY HAD DONE THESE THINGS UNTO HIM".

REMEMBER, THAT THIS PROPHECY WAS FULFILLED RIGHT AFTER LAZARUS ROSE FROM THE GRAVE (JOHN 11:1 – 12:11) AND WAS ALIVE!

The way to enter into this VICTORY is to call upon Jesus for salvation, which is what the crowd did when Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Even though they did not yet understand His crucifixion or his

resurrection, they asked their RIGHTFUL KING TO SAVE THEM. They welcomed Him as their Victorious Savior, taking PALM BRANCHES and shouting "HOSANNA (JOHN 12:13). PALM BRANCHES were an ancient symbol of VICTORY! During the "Maccabean Revolt", the Jews made coins with large images of palm trees; pointing to their VICTORY over the Greeks. The word "HOSANNA", is not so much a word of praise, as it is A PRAYER. Originally, it comes from PSALMS 118, where it is a cry for help: "Oh Lord, save us" (PSALMS 118:25). The crowd hardly understood what they were saying. Many of them were looking for for some kind of political deliverance, but that is not at all the VICTORY that Jesus came to win! He came to give His life, as an atonement for sin.

Because of Christ Jesus's death, burial, resurrection and ascension, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY" (1 CORINTHIANS 15:54). We now today, through the victory, won by Christ Jesus over death and the grave (The power and fear of death) and with the Apostle Paul, now, all believers can say, with him, "Oh death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory (1 CORINTHIANS 15:55)"? But thanks be to God, which giveth us the VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 CORINTHIANS 15: 57).

(3). JESUS AS A "LOWLY", GENTLE OR HUMBLE KING.

In ancient times, when a king rode into a city, it was usually with a show of power and wealth. Jesus enters into Jerusalem and meets the people, not with pomp and circumstance, but with all humility and meekness. "LOWLINESS", is one of the attributes Zechariah mentions in his prophecy in ZECHARIAH 9:9. Jesus' HUMBLENESS is symbolized, by his mode of transport. Jesus makes his triumphant entrance, on a borrowed donkey and colt! Another indication of Jesus' humbleness, in this story, is the relationship that Jesus, has with His people. He treats them, as His own family members. Zechariah mentioned this in his prophecy concerning Jesus and this prophecy begins with, "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion, shout daughter of Jerusalem...". The word "DAUGHTER", is a reminder that God regards His people as his own BELOVED CHILDREN. The Old Testament often uses this kind of language in such passages as EXODUS 4:22, that says "This is what the Lord says Israel is MY FIRSTBORN and ISAIAH 62:11 which says "Say to the daughter of Zion, SEE YOUR SAVIOR COMES".

The king's kindness is not a sign of weakness, on God's part. The preceding verse versus (ZECHARIAH 9: 1 - 8), describes how God will destroy Israel's enemies, like the Syrians and the Philistines. The following verse ZECHARIAH 9:10, promises that the humble King who rides that the donkey, will conquer mighty armies, with all their horses and HIS DOMINION SHALL BE TO THE "ENDS OF THE EARTH"!

What Christ the King proclaims to the nations, is "PEACE". The Hebrew word for "Peace", is "Shalom", which is not simply the absence of warfare but the presence of warfare. "Shalom" is the fullest blessing of Harmony and prosperity. In order to bring such peace to the nations, Christ Jesus must disarm His enemies and break the "Bow of battle" (ZECHARIAH 9:10).

When John Newton (Pastor and the writer of the hymn, "Amazing Grace"); preached on Zachariah 9, back in the 17th century, he explained how wonderful it is to be to serve Christ Jesus, the gentle humble King: "Happy are those, His subjects who dwell under His shadow. He rules them, not with a rod of iron by which he bruises and breaks the power of the enemies, but with his golden scepter of love. He reigns over His people, by His own right, and by their full and free consent, in their hearts. He reins upon a throne of grace, to which they have at all times access; and from once they receive, an answer to

their prayers, mercy, peace the pardon of all their sins, Grace to help in every time of need, and a renewed supply, answerable to all their wants, cares, services and conflicts”.

If we are saved by such a gentle King, then we should serve Him with all gentleness. Gentleness is one of the marks of the Christian, one of the fruits, of God's Holy Spirit (GALATIANS 5:23). Our life should be a living demonstration, of the meekness and gentleness of Christ Jesus (2 CORINTHIANS 10:1). Sadly, many Christians, are harsh in their judgments, abrasive in their opinions, and rough in their handling of those that are not as spiritual strong in their faith. One would think that they serve a ruler who rides a mighty horse, rather than the the Gentil King, who rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and it's colt. But those who love him best, follow this commandmen, “LET YOUR MODERATION (GENTLENESS) BE KNOWN (EVIDENT) UNTO ALL MEN. THE LORD IS AT HAND (PHILIP[PIANS 4:5)”.