

Zechariah 9

* As we begin this next section of Zechariah we see the Messiah's appearing, the first come which we celebrate as Palm Sunday and the Second Coming that we look forward to.

* **In this chapter we see two kings coming into play here.**

v.1-8 verses we read of the judgment of the Gentile nations accomplished by Alexander the Great

- the cities mentioned trace Alexander's march down into the Promised Land- **it is history now, it was prophesy then**

- Alexander left Europe, crossed over into Asia Minor and took city after city.

- He had an army of only 50,000 which in that day was rather small, so every place he conquered he had to destroy or weaken to the point that they were no threat because he could not afford to leave men behind.

v.8 The Lord says that He will camp at His house or the Temple to protect it

- according to Josephus the historian, the high priest of Jerusalem had a vision in which he was instructed to go out and meet the conqueror who was coming and so he waited for Alexander.

- when Alexander approaches, he sees this procession coming out to meet him. When Alexander saw the multitudes coming out in white garments and the high priest in his fine linen, his mitre or turban with the name plate reading HOLINESS TO THE LORD

- Alexander proceeds alone and salutes the high priest, the Jews with one voice salute Alexander and proceeds to pass by the city without taking it

- one person a man named Palmenio asked why Alexander honored the high priest when everyone else everywhere honored Alexander

- *Alexander replied " I did not adore him but that God who has honored him with his high priesthood. For I saw this person in a dream in these very clothes when I was at Dios in Macedonia when I was considering how I might obtain dominion of Asia. He exhorted to make no delay but boldly pass over the sea for He would conduct my army and would give me dominion over the Persians. Since I have seen no other person dressed like this and remembering the dream and vision, I believe that I bring this army under the divine conduct and shall therewith conquer Darius.*

- Then he entered the city of Jerusalem and worshipped God in the Temple

- another tradition says the high priest now only approached him but showed him the prophecies concerning him in the book of Daniel.

*Daniel 2- Nebuchanezzar's dream- statue of gold, silver, **brass/Greek**, iron/clay*

*Daniel 7- four beasts- lion, bear, **leopard/Greek**, and one horned monster*

v.9 Palm Sunday

John 11:45-57

- The plot to kill Jesus is in force and He is out of sight for three months

- The word is put out that if He comes to Jerusalem for the Passover, He is to be arrested on sight

- (*Dan 9:24-27 NKJV*) *"Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy. {25} "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. {26} "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. {27} Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."*

- the Hebrew word translated week is shabua which means seven, the context of Daniel is that he is thinking in terms of years, he knows that Israel is in captivity because they did not keep the Sabbath for 490 years so it was to be a 70 year captivity to make up for it.

- it tells us that there will be 7 weeks of years and 62 weeks of years until the Messiah comes or 69 weeks of years, or 173,880 days(in 360 day Jewish prophetic calendar) from the time of the going forth of the command to rebuild the temple

- on March 5, 444 BC, King Artaxerxes issued the command to rebuild the temple

- 173,880 days later, March 30, 33 AD, Jesus Christ rides into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey according to the prophesy in the book of Zechariah

- picture the scene

Hosanna means save now, deliver now- I beseech you!

v.10-17 describe the Lord's triumphant return to establish His Kingdom which we refer to as the millennial reign as described in Revelation 19 & 20- more in depth on this as we continue through the book in coming weeks

Let's go back to that coming in verse 9

What kind of people were in that crowd ? What were they going through ? What were they crying out for? Put yourself in that crowd, what would you be calling out for ? Decide before you leave here today who you are in this gathering !

What did He come to do ? What kind of Messiah is He ?

- * Are you Mary?
 - broken at His feet because of what you have seen Him do
- * Are you one of the cheering crowd?
 - liken to crowds cheering in Baghdad over victory
- * Are you one of the Greek?
 - we wish to see Jesus
- * Are you those in verse 37? Seen it all, haven't really believed
- * Are you secret believer like verse 42 because of the fear of man?
 - fear of man brings a snare
- * Are you Lazarus with a testimony that you have been raised from the dead?

But in **Luke 19:41 through Luke 19:44 (NKJV)** 41Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

Jesus is here today as your Messiah, will you recognize the day of your visitation.

Go back who are you?