



ZECHARIAH

A Glorious Future!

The Glory of God's Plan for the Future!

Zechariah 9:1-17

Message #10 of 15 – S1017

Sermon given on October 9, 2022



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Glory of God's Plan for the Future!

Zechariah 9:1-17

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Zechariah 9**
- Today, we continue a series through the book of **Zechariah: A Glorious Future**
- The reason we do the monthly Future Today prophecy meeting is because when we compare God's Word with what is going on in the world, we can see the stage being set for the fulfilment of those future prophecies
- The future can be a very disquieting thing to think about
- Inflation is still running at record levels with no sign of changing
- People are saying that gas prices are going to go up even more
- We are starting to hear about companies laying off people
- It would be awesome if the Bible told us how all of that is going to turn out for us and our families – it doesn't!
- We don't know how it will turn out, but God does **Isaiah 46:10**
Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure...'
- Before a second of time elapsed in this universe, God declared what would happen all the way to the end of time
- And not just the big ideas, but every tiny detail
- That should fill us with a sense of awe and wonder – God knows!
- That is comforting to me when I am struggling to understand where this world is headed and what that is going to mean for my grandchildren and their children
- The question is, 'Will we choose to believe God knows our future?'
- And not only that He knows it, but that He has a good plan for us in that future?
- Let's pray and ask God to speak to our hearts about His plan for our futures - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Glory of God's Plan for the Future!**

- In the first eight chapters of Zechariah, the message was mostly about the people in Jerusalem and the things they were experiencing
- Chapters 9 to 14 are almost exclusively about the future from Zechariah's perspective
- And right in the middle of our chapter for today is a verse that ought to sound very familiar
- Zechariah begins with a proclamation of judgment for some of the nations around Israel
- **Zechariah 9:1-4**
- All of these nations had a mixed history with Israel, but they had one thing in common, they worshipped false gods
- This prophecy was partially fulfilled a couple hundred years after Zechariah when Alexander the Great swept through this area on his way to conquer Egypt
- The city of Tyre was a real challenge – they had built an island fortress a half mile off the coast that boasted of a wall over 100 feet tall
- The Assyrians failed to take it after a five-year siege and the Babylonians spent thirteen years there and failed to take Tyre
- Alexander did it in five months by building a causeway – a stone bridge out to it – God used Alexander to bring judgment
- Alexander’s campaign continued south
- **Zechariah 9:5-7**
- The Philistines lived on the coastland south and west of Israel
- In the area we know as the Gaza Strip
- They were perennial enemies of Israel – a thorn in the side
- ‘Jebusites’ – the inhabitants of Jerusalem before David conquered it.
- They were not destroyed but ended up being absorbed into the people of Israel.
- This suggests the same thing would happen to the Philistines.
- May not be until the Second Coming.
- ‘blood...abominations’ refers to the wicked, idolatrous practices of the Philistines.
- Verse 8 is interesting
- **Zechariah 9:8**

- As Alexander the Great was making his way through Palestine he planned to take Jerusalem also.
- Josephus, the historian relates a story of how God spoke to Alexander in a vision while he was still in Macedonia encouraging Alexander to go forth and conquer with God's promise of success.
- As he approached Jerusalem, the high priest, dressed in his priestly garments came out to Alexander after being told to do so in a vision.
- When Alexander saw him, he prostrated himself on the ground because the high priest was wearing the same garments as the man in his vision.
- Alexander left Jerusalem untouched and continued his conquests elsewhere.
- Whether the story is true or not is something for the historian to figure out
- The main thing is that God protected the Jews and will protect them today and in the future
- Next comes the key verse of this chapter
- **Zechariah 9:9**
- All four gospels reference this verse in connection with Jesus
- For the people of Zechariah's time, the idea of a king coming to them was very exciting
- Especially one who is just and having salvation
- I am guessing that we can all relate to this verse **Proverbs 29:2**
When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan.
- There is a lot of groaning going on these days
- We are told some things about the character of this King
- He is 'just' = righteous – He does what is right
- 'having salvation' – He is coming as a deliverer, a Savior
- 'lowly' – which means he is humble
- Paul said this about Christ **Philippians 2:6-8**
...being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
- Turn to **John 12**

- The next thing is often misunderstood
 - ‘...riding a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.’
 - To us the donkey is a humble beast of burden – symbol of humility
 - To Zechariah’s hearers, this represented the manner in which the King would come to them
 - The donkey was the animal a king would ride when he was coming in peace - It is not symbolic of humility, but of peace
 - A horse was a symbol of war
 - All four gospels record this event – we call it the Triumphal Entry
 - **John 12:12-16**
 - Jesus had come to make a way for fallen mankind to be at peace with God through His sacrifice on the cross
 - Turn back to **Zechariah 9**
 - After Jesus died, was buried, and then raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that these things, like Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey were written hundreds of years earlier
 - The next time Jesus comes He will not be riding a donkey, He will be mounted on a warhorse **Revelation 19:11**
- Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.**
- Verse 9 refers to the first coming of Christ – verse 10 jumps ahead to the Second Coming
 - **Zechariah 9:10**
 - ‘dominion...sea to sea...to the ends of the earth’
 - When Jesus comes back, the whole world will receive Him as king
- Isaiah 45:23**
- I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth *in* righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath.**
- And then Paul said that verse was about Jesus **Philippians 2:9-11**
- Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**
- The rest of this chapter is a promise to the Jews of God’s protection and blessing
 - **Zechariah 9:11-17**

- This is pointing to a time of great prosperity – the Millennium
- Jesus will be king of the world and all His enemies will be vanquished
- After the Messiah returns, all the captives will be freed, all the enemies will be vanquished, and celebration and prosperity will be the state of the world.
- God has a glorious future planned for the Jews
- And even though the Jews of Zechariah’s time might not have been able to imagine such a time, it was none the less promised to them
- Their belief in that future couldn’t change the fact that it was and is coming
- Turn to **John 14**
- At the beginning of the message, I asked if you have chosen to believe that God knows your future and has good planned for you in that future?
- Jesus had just told the disciples that He was leaving to go back to heaven
- His disciples were upset about what that meant for them
- **John 14:1-3**
- Jesus is in heaven with His Father
- Jesus isn’t right here where we can see Him, touch Him, talk with Him, listen to Him, and watch Him perform miracles
- We do all those things by faith, believing in the Word, and walking in the Spirit of God
- The world I see around me is a mess – I don’t like what I see
- The future does not seem to offer anything I can place my hope in
- But I choose to believe God, I choose to believe what His Word says, I choose to believe His Spirit lives in me, I choose to believe God has good in store for me – I can live in this broken world with hope
- Whatever the future brings, God is already there, and I will choose to trust Him, because He is good and because I know He loves me
- We are going to partake of Communion which reminds us just how far God went to show us how much He loves us
- **Pray**