

'Palm Sunday: The Promise of a Savior in Zechariah' Zech. 9:9,10

I. Good news! The promise of a Savior in Zechariah

First, a good way to think about Zechariah is to imagine yourself as a young child in love with your community. Then imagine a _____ comes along and takes you to a foreign land where people speak a different language and worship different gods. Deep down, you realize that your one great hope is to get back home before you die. Finally, good news has come, you get to go home. But now there's a new problem. All the stories you have heard about Jerusalem don't match with the Jerusalem you're now seeing.

On this Palm Sunday I want to look at 5 prophetic messages an angel gives the prophet Zechariah. These 5 messages were designed to fire up their imaginations to see what God was going to do for them.

II. 5 prophetic messages

- A. The first message was that God loved them and was on their side. 2:8 – *'the apple of God's eye.'*
- B. Second, it says that God is ready to act. Zech. 2:10, 13
- C. The third message is that God will undo the injustice of their oppressors.
- D. The fourth message says God will reconcile the people back to God and to one another. 8:1-9
- E. The fifth message is that God will permanently dwell with His people in a new King. God announced that He will return and when He does, many nations, not just Israel, will worship the Lord. 2:10,11 9:9 says this new King will come riding into town on a lowly _____.

All these messages were designed to give His people hope. We have not been left alone and forgotten about, as we sometimes feel. Zechariah announces the king is coming! The people who knew their Bibles in Jesus' day saw Zechariah's prophecies coming true before their eyes. We now call that day, Palm Sunday. *But why do we celebrate Palm Sunday?*

III. Why celebrate Palm Sunday

- A. Because they saw it as a cause for great celebration. They realized Zechariah's ancient prophecy was coming true and so they rejoiced greatly. They really celebrated, with their whole bodies.
- B. Because it announces that the Messiah has come. This is no ordinary parade and no ordinary guy.
- C. Because it highlights the importance of humility, patience and praise.
- D. Because it reminds us that our world is bigger than we think. We live in quite a crowded world. There are God's creatures all around. There are people, animals, insects, angels, fallen angels, God.
- E. Because it reminds us that God is _____ to His word. God made many promises a long time ago, and now He is literally, not just metaphorically, fulfilling them! God is always faithful!
- F. Because it reminds us it's a day to rejoice because this is *'a day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.'* Ps. 118:24 - that verse applies to every day!
- G. One more, because this event marks that His final, climatic, earth-shaking, mankind-changing final week has begun. And what a week it is!

Go over some of these reasons and reflect anew this week on Jesus's last week and the profound impact it has on our lives even to this day.