

Zechariah 9:9-13

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In this passage, the prophet Zechariah writes of better days to come. More specifically, a better king to come. He is writing to the Israelites who had been taken captive and forced out of their homes into unknown lands. When they finally returned to Jerusalem, the temple had been destroyed along with the whole city. They had to rebuild their entire lives, and with all the obstacles this task would have seemed impossible.

In verse 9, he tells this broken people that despite all of the difficult years, they still have reason to rejoice because a king is coming. This king is not like the kings of the past who were selfish and led the people away from God and into sin. This coming king would be righteous and all his decisions would be perfect. His laws and actions would help his people. He would bring them joy and he would even bring them salvation. This anticipated king would be humble. He would rule his people with gentleness and compassion.

In verses 10-12, we see that this king is promised to change the direction of even the most powerful nations. He will bring peace to this world that knows very little of peace. This king will bring an end to all battles. He will free all the prisoners and restore them. His people will have no need for instruments of war because his rule will cover all the world. There will be no battles to fight because the entire world will be gladly under his reign.

We have been blessed to see this prophecy come to reality in the birth of our eternal king, Jesus Christ. It's amazing to see how Jesus truly is a righteous, humble savior who is our God and king. However, this Christmas season may arrive and you find yourself feeling like the Israelites, tired and worn out from a difficult life. The holidays may be a reminder of broken family or difficult life situations. Perhaps you are spending a first Christmas without a loved one who passed away. It is ok if Christmas comes and goes and you don't have a perfect storybook Christmas. It doesn't mean that you are any less Christian or that you are not grateful for the birth of Christ.

After all, verse 13 says that God's people will serve as weapons against the evil in this world. This constant battle within the world often does leave us sad and broken, but regardless of this, like the Israelites, we can rejoice. We can rejoice that King Jesus was born and has conquered sin and given us salvation. We can also rejoice that He will return and reign over all the nations. We can rejoice that King Jesus has already overcome the world. Zechariah reminds us to rejoice in the coming of the King who has given us salvation and will one day finish the battle and bring peace and restoration to all the earth.