



Hope When All is Hopeless

Zechariah 9:9-17

Let me set the stage. The nation of Israel is returning from exile from Babylon to Jerusalem. In Ezra 5:1-5, Zechariah and Haggai declare God's promises to the people. The exile has lasted about 70 years, as promised in the book of Jeremiah.

Zechariah chapters 1-8 is the time of rebuilding, as the temple of God is under construction.

Here are some important dates to think about when reading this book to understand what is happening. The original temple had been

destroyed and now the children of Israel were given permission to rebuild the temple.

The foundation of the temple was laid in 538 BC (Ezra 1:1).

Building began shortly after and started again in 520 BC (Haggai 1:2). The temple was completed in 516 BC (Ezra 6:15).

Chapter 9 takes place after the temple is completed.

Now, the people ask, “When is God’s kingdom coming? We are tired of waiting”. They are reminded what happened the last time people stopped listening to God’s prophets and they were sent into exile. Listen to what Zechariah tells them.

Are you reading to receive the blessing?

Are you ready to follow God?

Are you expecting Jesus to work in your life?

Are you ready to receive the blessing God has for you?

Are you ready to Follow God?

Chapters 1-8 left the people with many questions. Zechariah sums up their questions with three answers that we can also take comfort from today.

1. **It is worthwhile** - No life is unworthy- Jesus died for everyone - Romans 5:8
2. **Your life has purpose** - We are to live as he desires -Romans 12:1-2
3. **It can be complete** - We can have life more abundantly - 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Chapter 9:9-17 gives us a message the nation of Israel has been waiting for. The message is very simple- Zechariah gives them a message of Hope: **THE MESSIAH IS COMING!**

Verse 9 provides a huge lift to the people. Why was this needed? It had been a long time in coming, and they thought it would never be completed.

Hope is Certain (Verse 9)

- Your King is Coming- No matter what happens in Life. Jesus is still KING.

- Righteousness and Salvation is his name. He wants to share his righteousness and hope in heaven with us.

Hope will Overcome (Verse 11)

- Set you free from the waterless pit- Ever felt like there is no way to win? He is there to lift you out of the pit.
- Return to Stronghold- God will always bring us to a place where we can find him; a place we know we have safety.
- You will be restored double- Not only will you have victory, but you will also have hope and joy.

Hope is Great (Verse 17)

- The Lord will Appear (Verse 14). God will show up in your life and show you He loves you and wants the best for you.
- The Lord will Protect (Verse 15). As his child, you will be protected. Not that sin will *not* be around, but that He will love and protect and care for you.
- The Lord will Provide (Verse 17).

What is his message to us this morning?

For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O
LORD, from my youth... I will hope continually
and praise you yet more and more
(Psalm 71:5, 14).

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