

# THE KING PROMISED

CORE PASSAGE: ZECHARIAH 9:9-17

## CONTEXT

In His perfect timing, the Lord used prophets as His mouthpiece to deliver divine messages to His people. Often they warned the people of consequences for their sin while also holding out a future hope. The book of Zechariah is split into two sections. Chapters 1–8 called the Jews to reject complacency and return to God. After declaring God’s call to repentance and the restoration obedience would bring, Zechariah unveiled in chapters 9–14 a hope-filled, divine plan—a promise that stretched far beyond their immediate horizon and wildest dreams.

## KEY CONCEPT

**God will provide a messianic King who will restore and save His people.**

As you examine Zechariah 9:9-17:

- Notice how Zechariah described the coming king who would restore God’s people and kingdom.
- Take comfort in the truth that the Lord will save His people because they are precious to Him.



## TIMELINE

The First Group of Jews Returns, Builds the Altar, and Lays the Foundation for the Temple (Ezra 1–3)

Haggai and Zechariah Encourage the Building to Resume (Ezra 5)

The Temple Is Completed and Dedicated (Ezra 6)

The Jews Face Opposition and Pause Rebuilding the Temple (Ezra 4)

**SESSION STUDY: Zechariah**  
Prophesies of the Coming Messiah (Zechariah 9)

Ezra the Priest Returns to Judah and Instructs the People in the Law (Ezra 7–10)

## Daily Readings

☐ **Day 1:** Haggai 1–2

☐ **Day 4:** Zechariah 7–8

☐ **Day 2:** Zechariah 1–3

☐ **Day 5:** Zechariah 9–14

☐ **Day 3:** Zechariah 4–6

☐ **Day 6:** Psalm 2



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

ZECHARIAH 9:9-13

## THE PROMISED MESSIANIC KING WILL BE RIGHTEOUS AND HUMBLE, RIDING ON A DONKEY.

*Circle everything attributed to the promised King in this passage.*

**9** Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout in triumph, Daughter Jerusalem! Look, your King is coming to you; he is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. **10** I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem. The bow of war will be removed, and he will proclaim peace to the nations. His dominion will extend from sea to sea, from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth. **11** As for you, because of the blood of your covenant, I will release your prisoners from the waterless cistern. **12** Return to a stronghold, you prisoners who have hope; today I declare that I will restore double to you. **13** For I will bend Judah as my bow; I will fill that bow with Ephraim. I will rouse your sons, Zion, against your sons, Greece. I will make you like a warrior's sword.

**Key Concept:** God will provide a messianic King who will restore and save His people.

Verse 9 reveals much about the promised Messiah-King. First, He emerges as “your” King. He will belong to God’s people; He won’t be a foreign king like those who had subdued them for nearly a century. This King most certainly would be of David’s line, a true and proper King of the Jews.

Second, this promised King is “coming.” There is a divine plan in place surrounding Him, which leads to the third detail to see—He is coming “to you.” God’s people could expect this promised One to come to them. Next, the text lists various traits of this Messiah: righteous, victorious, humble. Most rulers barely embody one of those characteristics, never all three.

Lastly, verse 9 tells us the King will ride on a donkey’s foal. With New Testament insight, we see this fulfilled in Matthew 21, when Jesus triumphantly rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey a week before His death and resurrection—a day we celebrate each year as Palm Sunday.

**Why is the King’s humility such a unique characteristic to highlight?**

#### CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is the coming King riding on a donkey, as prophesied by Zechariah. His peace and dominion will be an everlasting kingdom for those who believe in Him.

Zechariah also declared the King’s victory. War will cease. He will proclaim peace to the nations. He will rule from sea to sea. His kingdom will extend to the ends of the earth.

Though much of what Zechariah foretold has been accomplished, God’s restoration plan continues. From where we stand, we see more clearly than the people of Zechariah’s time, yet the Messiah’s kingdom awaits completion. So until that day when Jesus comes again, with Christ we pray: “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

**What might life look like if God’s kingdom ruled in every corner of this earth?**

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

ZECHARIAH 9:14-17

### GOD WILL DEFEND AND SAVE HIS BELOVED PEOPLE THROUGH HIS MESSIAH-KING.

*Circle every action of the Lord in the text.*

**14** Then the LORD will appear over them, and his arrow will fly like lightning. The Lord God will sound the ram's horn and advance with the southern storms. **15** The LORD of Armies will defend them. They will consume and conquer with slingstones; they will drink and be rowdy as if with wine. They will be as full as the sprinkling basin, like those at the corners of the altar. **16** The LORD their God will save them on that day as the flock of his people; for they are like jewels in a crown, sparkling over his land. **17** How lovely and beautiful! Grain will make the young men flourish, and new wine, the young women.

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**CHRIST AS KING:** God has always been King over His creation, whether in heaven or on earth. Yet some of His creatures in both realms have rebelled against Him, leaving destruction in their wake. To restore His broken world, God promised a King who would deliver His people and restore all of creation. The promise of a coming King finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ and looks forward to its perfection when Jesus returns for His bride, the church.

**Key Concept:** God will provide a messianic King who will restore and save His people.

This passage reveals two vivid portraits of God's provision. First, God emerges as the divine, majestic commander. Arrows fly, trumpets sound, storms surge—this is frenetic battle language. Zechariah paints the sovereign Lord of Armies as defending and saving His people. This provision descends from above, as He “will appear over them” (v. 14). The fire of His glorious presence guides and guards His people—echoing His guidance and provision in the exodus (Exodus 13:21-22).

As a result, God's people will conquer, celebrate, and flourish (Zechariah 9:15,17). Yet they will not sit on the sidelines; God will lead them to action—they will “conquer with slingstones.” Just as David toppled Goliath the giant with humble stones and faith in God (1 Samuel 17:49-50), they too will claim victory and rejoice as they trust in their heavenly King.

**What victories has God provided that you can celebrate today?**

God stands not only as the strong and stately Lord of Armies but also as the Savior of His flock. As Jesus later declared, He is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep (John 10:11). This second portrait of provision, that of Savior, pulses with deep tenderness. The Lord cherishes His sheep “like jewels in a crown,” treasuring them as His prized possession (Zechariah 9:16). He nourishes and cares for them, and they grow lovely and beautiful.

What a striking contrast of provision! The Lord's glorious salvation spans the powerful deliverance of troops in battle and the nurturing care of treasured souls. The Lord Jesus came to save His people. The Good Shepherd rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, yet within a week, He was crucified on a cross. The war His people expected never erupted. Instead, King Jesus triumphed in a greater battle, saving His people from sin and death. Though His work on the cross stands complete, the Good Shepherd still seeks and saves the lost, desiring all to come to repentance until He returns for His treasured people (Luke 19:10; 2 Peter 3:9).

**How have you experienced the tender care of the Good Shepherd lately?**



## EXPECTATIONS VS. REALITY

*Read the Scriptures below. In the space provided, write how the reality of the kingdom of God far exceeds our expectations.*

### ZECHARIAH 9:9-10

**EXPECTED:**  
A Conquering King  
**REALITY:**

### JOHN 18:33-37

**EXPECTED:**  
Political Dominance  
**REALITY:**

### HEBREWS 9:11-14

**EXPECTED:**  
Temporary Deliverance  
**REALITY:**

### PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

**EXPECTED:**  
Strength Through Force  
**REALITY:**

How does recognizing Jesus as the humble, righteous King shape our understanding of His rule in our lives today?

How might we expect Jesus to fit our own desires rather than submitting to His reign?

**Key Concept:** God will provide a messianic King who will restore and save His people.



## HEAD

How can we focus on Christ as our King this week and submit to His rule?

### PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read and pray through Psalm 2. Praise the Lord, who is sovereign over all kings and kingdoms, and thank Him for the promised gift of King Jesus, His Son. Finally, pray for your non-believing friends and family to be receptive to the good news of Jesus and His kingdom.



## HEART

What are some ways we can nurture our relationship with God as both our Conquering King and our Good Shepherd?

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

With whom will you share the good news of our humble, victorious, and righteous King Jesus?

