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On A Donkey... for Now Zechariah 9:9–10

Introduction



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- Jesus rode into Jerusalem publicly for the last time on a donkey...that's the way it was on Palm Sunday...but why? Why a donkey?
- Is there some other meaning here?

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- Jesus rode into Jerusalem publicly for the last time on a donkey...that's the way it was on Palm Sunday...but why? Why a donkey?
- Is there some other meaning here?
 - The answer is YES. Jesus did it in a way that very consciously fulfilled the prophecy of ZECHARIAH .

Introduction

“This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet.” (Matt 21:4 ESV)



“Tell the daughters of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt the fowl of a donkey.” (Zech 9:9 ESV)

Introduction



- In John 12:15, the Apostle John quotes part of Zechariah 9:9 and then explains to us the disciples did not know what was going on at the time.
- “*...but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered.*” (John 12:15 ESV)

Introduction



- After the resurrection of Jesus, a lot of things began to fall into place about what Jesus really meant by the things He did and spoke.
- In fact, we will learn later in John that this was the work of the Holy Spirit recalling to their memory all Jesus had taught them. (John 14:26)

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- In fact, we will learn later in John that this was the work of the Holy Spirit recalling to their memory all Jesus had taught them. (John 14:26)
- Prior to the resurrection they were in a PRE-EASTER FOG.

Introduction

- So where are you in your understanding of this prophetic donkey thing?
 - Are you still scratching your head in a kind of pre-Easter fog...or are you standing in the light, with the apostles, now that Jesus is glorified and at the Father's right hand?



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Introduction

- So where are you in your understanding of this prophetic donkey thing?



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- Are you still scratching your head in a kind of pre-Easter fog...or are you standing in the light, with the apostles, now that Jesus is glorified and at the Father's right hand?
- There are things you know, and things you have not gone back and pondered from the standpoint of what they meant in the light of the resurrection.

Introduction

You don't want to miss this one—
because Jesus is only on a donkey...
for now!



Introduction

Why am I so excited about this?

1. When God inspired Zechariah 500 years before Christ to see His Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, it had to do not just with Zechariah's future, but with our future too.
2. In the past couple of decades, I have been given, as a gift of the Holy Spirit, to see Jesus all over the Hebrew Scriptures.
3. In the news on NPR the week of March 15, (2021), they covered a story involving archeologists at the Dead Sea.



THERE ARE 3 PARTS TO ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY

I. GOD'S GOAL FOR HIS PEOPLE

*“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout
aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!” (Zech 9:9a)*



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“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!” (Zech 9:9a)

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“But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, “Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband.”

(Galatians 5:25-27 ESV)



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I. GOD'S GOAL FOR HIS PEOPLE

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!” (Zech 9:9a)

- God's goal for His people is to restore the rightful worship due to the one true God and Father of us all.
 - Why is this being done? (Listen to the Study on the Book of Ephesians on the Church of the Messiah, website for full understanding.)



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- In addition to restoring worship to the rightful place of Father God's throne, worship also overflows to us by increasing our JOY.



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➤ Jesus on joy: John 15:11, 6:22 & 24, and 17:13

*“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”
(John 15:11)*



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- This same increasing joy is prophesied in our Zechariah text. Not only does it say “rejoice,” The prophet heightens the expectation of that joy by saying it is GREAT joy.



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- This same increasing joy is prophesied in our Zechariah text. Not only does it say “rejoice,” The prophet heightens the expectation of that joy by saying it is GREAT joy.
- But the prophet doesn't stop there, Zachariah heightens the sense of joy again by saying the kind of joy God has in mind is a shouting joy.
- The Hebrew word for “Shout aloud” is a word also used for trumpet blasts and victory shouts.

THERE ARE 3 PARTS TO ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY

II. WHAT GOD WILL DO TO MAKE HIS PEOPLE REJOICE

“...Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he...” (Zech 9:9b ESV)



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II. WHAT GOD WILL DO TO MAKE HIS PEOPLE REJOICE



“...Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he...” (Zech 9:9b ESV)

- A King is coming who makes people exceedingly joyful. But how does He do this?

1) He Is Righteous

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“...Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he...” (Zech 9:9b ESV)

1) He Is Righteous

- The Hebrew word for “righteous” carries the sense of “successfully standing firm for what is right.”
- Jesus put it this way: *“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt 5:10 ESV)*

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“...Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he...” (Zech 9:9b ESV)

1) He Is Righteous

- The righteous king coming from heaven will bless those whom the world has cursed because they stood for the righteousness of God.
- Jesus continues, *“Rejoice in that day and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven”* (Matthew 5:12 ESV).

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“...Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he...” (Zech 9:9b ESV)

2) He comes having salvation

- The Hebrew word for salvation is translated here as, “saved.”

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“...Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he...” (Zech 9:9b ESV)

2) He comes having salvation

- To call the coming Messiah “saved” is so strange...how could it inspire joy and worship...it sounds so weak, I mean who is going to wage war on our behalf?

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2) He comes having salvation

- To call the coming Messiah “saved” is so strange...how could it inspire joy and worship...it sounds so weak, I mean who is going to wage war on our behalf?
- The king is not coming mainly as a strong warrior. Oh, He is strong...but he is not strong in the sense of being fierce or cruel.

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II. WHAT GOD WILL DO TO MAKE HIS PEOPLE REJOICE



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3) He comes as a Peacemaker

*“Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”
(Zech 9:9b-c ESV)*

- The Hebrew word for “humble” is also used for afflicted, as well as mEEK, i.e., there is a quiet strength in our Savior.

THERE ARE 3 PARTS TO ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY

II. WHAT GOD WILL DO TO MAKE HIS PEOPLE REJOICE



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- It says He comes riding on a donkey—so what does that mean?
 - ❖ In the Hebrew Scriptures, kings and kings' sons rode donkeys to take their place. (eg: Judges 10:4 & 12:14)
 - ❖ A warhorse would have projected an entirely different message.

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 - ❖ A warhorse would have projected an entirely different message.
 - ❖ The king is coming not only as a humble man, but is also coming as a peacemaker.

THERE ARE 3 PARTS TO ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY

III. GOD, IN SENDING HIS ONLY SON AS MESSIAH, WILL BRING PEACE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH.



- In Luke's Palm Sunday account, Luke tells us the people were shouting: *“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”* (Luke 19:38 ESV)
 - Luke makes plain Jesus was coming not only as a peacemaker on earth, but also to bring peace in Heaven between God and humanity.

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III. GOD, IN SENDING HIS ONLY SON AS MESSIAH, WILL BRING PEACE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH.



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- How did Jesus make peace between sinful people and a holy God?

“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” (Colossians 1:19-20 ESV)

THERE ARE 3 PARTS TO ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY

III. GOD, IN SENDING HIS ONLY SON AS MESSIAH, WILL BRING PEACE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH.

Jesus died to make peace between God and humanity.



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THERE ARE 3 PARTS TO ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY

Conclusion

Looking back from this side of Good Friday and Easter...we can see all this:

- He is righteous, which means He can be our righteous substitute and fulfill all that we have failed to do.



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Looking back from this side of Good Friday and Easter...we can see all this:

- He is righteous, which means He can be our righteous substitute and fulfill all that we have failed to do.
- He is humble or afflicted, which means He is willing to be rejected and despised and beat up and killed for others.
- He is riding on an donkey, which means He wants to make peace not war, He is coming to forgive, not to condemn.

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Conclusion

Oh, if you haven't done so, won't you please accept His terms of peace? Jesus is only on a donkey for now...this humble, righteous, killed, and resurrected King...will one day...and perhaps very soon...come back to the earth as ruler over all the nations. It will be too late then. For when Jesus comes again on a great white stallion, then, there will be a judgment.



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THERE ARE 3 PARTS TO ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY

Conclusion

For when Jesus comes again, He will be on a great white stallion; then, there will be a judgment.



THERE ARE 3 PARTS TO ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY

*“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold,
a white horse!*

*The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True,
and in righteousness he judges and makes war.*

*His eyes are like a flame of fire,
and on his head are many diadems,
and he has a name written that no one knows but
himself.*

*He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the
name by which he is called is The Word of God.”*

Revelation 19:11-13 (ESV)