



## Small Group Questions:

Sunday 11th Dec 2021

The Coming King: Zechariah 9:9-13

Read Zechariah 9:9-13

Opening question:

In what ways do you think people can be held captive in our society? What are the things that imprison people emotionally and spiritually?

Background:

All term we have been looking at the story of 1 Samuel, and last week we finally arrived at the discovery of the boy David who would be anointed by Samuel as King of Israel and would usher in the golden age of Jerusalem, and age of peace and prosperity in the land. But even this wasn't God's best for the people of Israel. God wanted to be their one and only King. After the death of King David and his son, King Solomon, we see a long line of kings who let Israel down time after time – until finally the Kingdom is divided and defeated and the people are carried off into exile.

After many years, the people are released back to the land... and so that's where we are now... in the book of Zechariah, sitting in the rubble of the temple, and the people are disillusioned. The mission for the prophet Zechariah is to envision a broken people – a people near death socially and culturally (see Ezra 5:1-2). The people are described as being in a waterless pit (v.11), a cistern, which was in those times, used to imprison people.



And yet he says you will be called 'prisoners of hope,' because there is one who is coming to free you from the waterless pit and not only free you but restore to you twice as much as you had in the beginning AND restore peace, not just to Israel, but to the nations (verse 10), he will rule from sea to sea and to the ends of the earth.

## Prisoners of Hope

Read either side of the passage Zech 9:1-8 and 14-17

Q. What is going on either side of the passage?

Q. What is different in this central passage?

Q. What is promised to Zion? (Peace to the nations, restoration beyond what they had before, this king is already victorious – riding not on a military animal but a donkey – as princes would do in times of peace to meet with their people.)

### 1. See Your King

In many cases the returned exiles are still living under the influence and power of Babylon, they've been living there for over 70 years, they've become accustomed to living in captivity, and they don't really know any different. Most of them do not have living memory of Israel before captivity.

We live in a world still governed by the God of this age – by Satan's rule – and even though, I imagine most of us here have accepted that invitation to become citizens of heaven, the temptation is to remain in every other sense, captives to the wrong kingdom...

Q. What are the things in our personal lives that, if we were not living under the Kingship of Jesus, we would come under the authority of? What things often dominate your priorities or your dreams?

Read together Ephesians 2:1-10

Pray: spend some time in prayer either all together or in pairs/ small groups – bringing those things to God – turning our eyes back to Him.

Q. Share with each other ways to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus e.g. Prayer patterns, worship, daily disciplines, silence and solitude, walks, journaling.

Q. Are there new ways of praying/ worshiping that you would like to try?

'Rejoice greatly daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem

See, your King comes to you...'

### 2. Join Your King

What the readers of this passage are called to, is to be participants IN the restoration plan.

This prophet is speaking here beyond his current situation – beyond the release of the captives from Babylon, beyond the restoration of the temple and into a future eschatological hope. This passage is about a cosmic restoration beyond human capability – a restoration of this earth to how it was always intended to be – and more... and the exciting bit is... we are called to join in.

N.T. Wright says:

'He is claiming THIS WORLD BACK for himself – he's not abandoned it... heaven and earth are brought together at last, with God's sovereign rule extending on earth as in heaven through the mission of Jesus, climactically in his death and resurrection, and then through the similarly shaped and spirit-driven mission of his followers.'

### Discuss

In what ways can we usher in God's Kingdom to our corner of creation?

What areas/ situations/people in your life are you praying 'Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'

### Pray

Spend some time praying into these things

Perhaps spend some time in worship