

THE WHOLE STORY

From Genesis to Revelation

Zechariah 9:9-17, 12:10-13:1

Introduction:

This week, Pastor J.D. returned and launched our Whole Story sermon series into the New Testament. For the next several weeks, we will be in the Gospels exploring different facets of Jesus' life and ministry. If you have been reading along with *The Whole Story* reading plan this year, you see that we are still finishing the Minor Prophets while the sermons move into the Gospels. This is intentional. The Minor Prophets provide so many backdrops for the anticipation that believers had for the Messiah. Zechariah, through this book, provides several images, prophecies, and predictions, which New Testament writers used to describe Jesus. We will look at two of them this week.

This Week's Main Focus:

The salvation that comes through Christ is unexpected, but provides a powerful restoration for all who believe.

The book of Zechariah describes, with many angelic and revelatory visions, how God will restore his people. I use the phrase "his people" because the book uses all different names to describe the community of faith that will be restored: Israel, Judah, Jerusalem, the "remnant," Zion, and several more! Beyond that, Zechariah predicts that people "from the nations of every tongue" will take part in this restoration (8:23). We will look at two passages that describe who, where, and how God's salvation will come to all these faithful people.

Zechariah 9:9-17 provides the backdrop for a king who rides on a donkey. This image meant two things to the Ancient Jewish crowd: 1) the alternate mode of transportation for a king would have been a warhorse. The fact that he is on a donkey means he is taking a decidedly peaceful posture. 2) This is the king in the line of Judah from Genesis 49:9-11 who will rule forever. The marks of his rule include: ending war and re-establishing the blood covenant with God. The picture of this leader is in stark contrast to the violent and corrupt leaders that Judah had in the past (mentioned in Zechariah 11 and 13).

Zechariah 12:10-13:1 gives more information about how God will bring restoration to his people. He will pour out his Spirit on the inhabitants of Jerusalem (which, as Zechariah's visions make clear, includes Jews and people from many nations). They will mourn for how they "pierced" God, as if he were their firstborn son. When they mourn for how they've wounded God, God will cleanse them from sin. This imagery is fascinating for anyone that knows how Jesus provides this "fountain" of restoration and forgiveness.

Sermon Response Question:

1) During this weekend's message, Pastor J.D. outlined several ways that Jesus fulfills the imagery and prophecy from the Old Testament. What is your favorite connection between Jesus and the Old Testament?

Bible Study Questions:

Read Zechariah 9:9-17

2) How would you describe “the King” from what you learn about in this chapter?

3) What are the effects of this king’s reign?

4) How does this king compare with other world leaders, either past or present?

Read Zechariah 12:10-13:1

5) Was there anything that surprised you about this passage?

6) Why is it necessary for the people of God to mourn in order to experience restoration?

7) Based on this short study of Zechariah, what from Jesus’ life and ministry reminds you about these passages?

Group Application Questions:

8) Pastor J.D. mentioned how God's salvation in our lives often takes unexpected turns. Where have you found this to be true in your own life?

9) Zechariah is picturing a future salvation, where Jerusalem becomes a peaceful society and where God dwells with his people. How do you need to re-align your life now to be a participant and contributor in the restored city?

Prayer: Read Psalm 119:113-120

- Praise God that his holiness moves us to fear and love him.
- Ask God to reveal and forgive all the ways that you are double-minded about his kingdom.
- Thank God for continually holding you up according to his promises - namely that his is faithful to finish the good work that he starts in believers through the gospel.
- Ask God to use you to be the instrument by which he moves people who are wicked into the shield and hiding place of his grace.