Sermon Notes for July 12, 2015

The First Coming of the King

Zechariah 9-11

Introduction

Prophetic Perspective – To the prophets everything was in the future. They events that were coming were like mountain peaks in the distance.

Zechariah 9-14 is about the future coming of the Messiah and the restoration of Israel.

- Written around 480 B.C. It is in two parts.
- The First Oracle is about the first coming of the King. 9-11
- The Second Oracle is about the second coming of the King. 12-14

I. The Coming of the King. Zechariah 9:1-9

Zechariah begins his prophecy by talking about the restoration of the land. Verses 1-8

There will be a day of joy and celebration, because the Messiah has come. Verse 9

He goes on to describe the character of the King. Verse 9

- Righteous – Just, good and morally pure.
- Bringing salvation.
- Gentle and humble – riding on the foal of a donkey, not a war horse.
- Bringing peace.

He is a king like no other.

These texts were fulfilled on Palm Sunday. Matthew 21:5 and John 12:15

This king will be perfect in every way. He will be a:

- Wise Ruler – “Wonderful Counselor”
- Strong Ruler – “Mighty God”
- Fatherly Ruler – “Everlasting Father”
- Peace-bringing Ruler – “Prince of Peace”. Isaiah 9:6-7

Could you follow a king like that?

II. The Blessings of the King. Zechariah 9:10-10:12

He will bring an end to war. Verse 10
“He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.” Isaiah 2:4

He will bring peace to the nations. Verse 10

His rule will be over all the earth. Verse 10

It will begin with the covenant he has made with his people. “Because of the blood of my covenant with you.” Verse 11

“This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Matthew 26:28

He goes on to say:

- I will free your prisoners. Verse 11
- I will give you an inheritance in my kingdom. Verse 12
- I will protect and defend you. Verses 14-15
- You will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown. Verses 16-17

The Lord will bring peace, prosperity and plenty. Shalom.

III. The Rejection of the King. Zechariah 11:1-17

Chapter 11 begins with a poetic description of a massive destruction of the land of Israel. Verses 1-3

What crime is so heinous that it calls for this severe punishment?

It is their rejection of the Messiah, their King.

Zechariah is asked to play the part of a good shepherd who is rejected by his flock. Verses 4-13

They paid him 30 pieces of silver for his work – the price of a slave. Verse 12

The money was thrown into the temple and used to buy a potter’s field. Verse 13

The fulfillment of these prophecies is found in Matthew 27:1-10. Matthew combines quotes from Jeremiah 19:1-13 and Zechariah 11:12-13 and attributes the prophecy to Jeremiah because he was the better known prophet.

The Lord, the faithful and good shepherd was rejected by his own people.

The devastation of Israel that followed in A.D. 70 was terrible. Israel was destroyed as a nation and scattered among the nations.

Conclusion
Even though the nation of Israel rejected him at his first coming, there is still hope. There is a glorious future for Israel and the people of God.

One day, Jesus will return to establish his kingdom on earth.

For those who are ready, it will be a day of joy and celebration.

For those who rejected him, it will be a day of grief and destruction.

Will you be ready?

“All your life an unattainable ecstasy has hovered just beyond the grasp of your consciousness. The day is coming when you will wake to find, beyond all hope, that you have attained it, or else, that it was within your reach and you have lost it forever.” C.S. Lewis, The Great Divorce