

Connection Group Participant Guide

July 18, 2021

Zechariah 9:9-17

Introduction

Zechariah 9:9-17 provides prophecy on multiple levels. While he pictures on one level the victory that God would grant the Jews during the Maccabean revolt, on another level it looks ahead to the final victory when the Messiah will return in power and glory to crush the Antichrist and his followers. Again, God demonstrates that He helps those who are helpless, who depend on His deliverance.

The entire church age fits between verses 9 and 10.

In verse 9, we see a prophecy of Jesus coming to Jerusalem to be crucified. As you know, on what we call Palm Sunday, just before His crucifixion, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey in precise fulfillment of this prophecy (Matt. 21:1-11; John 12:12-15). The Jews in Jesus' day were expecting a powerful political Messiah who would deliver Israel from Rome. They did not expect a suffering Messiah who would die for the sins of His people. Even though Jesus repeatedly told His disciples that He would be killed and rise again, they did not comprehend what He was saying until after His resurrection (Luke 18:34; 9:45; John 12:16).

In verse 10, we see a prophecy of when Jesus comes a second time. At that time, He will cut off all opposition against Israel, and He will rule in peace over the entire earth.

Highlight

For what reason does God say He has set the "prisoners free from the waterless pit" (Zech. 9:11)?

Explain

Describe the scene at His coming. How will the people respond? Why the donkey (v. 9; see Matt. 21:5 for Jesus' use of it instead of the war horse (v. 10)?

Apply

What projects or actions have you taken to promote peace in the church, your community, or the world?

Respond in Prayer

Read through Matthew 21:1-11 and listen with your heart to what it has to say. We recommend praying through this text on your own at home and together with your Connection Group.

