

Rev. Shaun Arndt
Sunday, April 2, 2023
Zechariah 9:9-10

Look! Your King Brings.....

Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Amen. Dear Friends in Christ,

God had always planned to use the picture of a King to teach His people about the promised Savior who would rescue the world. But when the people of Israel asked the prophet Samuel for a king a little over 1,000 years before Christ, God made it clear they were doing it for all the wrong reasons.

So as a consequence, though the kings of Israel would be a picture of the Savior to come, yet these imperfect, earthly kings would often be a source of trouble for the nation!

And so the prophet said: **“This is what the king who reigns over you will do. He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots... ..to plow his ground and to reap his harvest. He will take your daughters to serve as perfume makers, cooks, and bakers. He will take your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves... He will take a tenth of your seed and of the produce of your vineyards... He will take your servants...and your donkeys... He will take a tenth from your flocks and you will become his servants.** (1 Samuel 8:11-18)

You heard the refrain right? **He will take...** Even the best of Israel’s kings like David, Solomon, Hezekiah and Josiah would all **take** from their people.

And what was true of Israelite kings has been true of all the other kings and rules of history – they all **take...** power, glory, taxes, service and so much more.

And with that in mind, be amazed, astonished at what we hear about our King Jesus in our Old Testament lesson, written about 500 BC:

Look! Your King is coming to you. He is righteous and brings salvation.

Look! The prophet says! Behold! Pay attention! This king is entirely new and different. This king is special. He is not the kind of king who **takes... takes... takes...**

Instead, He is the king of King who gives. He came not to **take**, but to **bring** gifts to His people. **Look! Your King Brings...**

For starters, He **brings** the fulfillment of prophecy. 2,000 years earlier, Jacob prophesied that God would send a **King** from the tribe of Judah. In that prophecy from Genesis 49 it connects that peace bringing King to a **donkey’s colt** (Gen 49:11).

1,000 years earlier, when King David wanted everyone to know that Solomon was to be king after him, David had Solomon ride upon David’s own royal **mule** (1 King 1:38).

And then in 500 BC, the prophet Zechariah spoke the words of our Old Testament lesson. And so on that first Palm Sunday, Jesus comes as great David’s greater Son and Lord and enters Jerusalem **on a colt, the**

foal of a donkey just as Scripture said he would. And so Matthew's Gospel states: **This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet** (Mt 21:4).

Look! Your King brings fulfillment to prophecy. That means you can be sure whatever God has promised you in His Word, He will fulfill it. He will do for you all He has promised in His Bible!

Indeed, **Your King brings...** what we need the most. **Look! Your King is coming to you. He is righteous and brings salvation.**

The word **righteous** contains the word 'right.' To be **right** with God a person must be perfect, blameless, without any sin whatsoever.

To be **righteous** is what the Holy and righteous God requires of every man, woman and child. Without righteousness, we will not have life with God. Without righteousness, we have only death and hell. No righteous, no salvation – no heaven, no forgiveness, no way out.

And the Bible plainly says none of us are righteous. Quoting the Psalms, the book of Romans says: **There is no one who is righteous, not even one** (Romans 3:10). We have all done wrong – both by the wrong things God forbids that we have done and by the good things God commands that we have not perfectly done.

So **rejoice** that **Your King is righteous and brings salvation.** True man, born of Mary from the line of David and sinless God, Jesus is the one human being who always was perfectly **righteous.**

Unlike us, Jesus was born without sin. Unlike us, He always did the right thing and never did wrong. He kept every commandment, loved God and neighbor without flaw. His life was one unbroken act of **righteous obedience.**

And Jesus takes the record of His **righteousness** and gives it to you. He drapes His holiness over you and declares you **right** with God – not because we have done right, but because He gives us a **righteousness** not our own, not from the law, but **from God** through faith in Jesus (Philippians 3:9).

To **save us** Jesus lived that holy life, but He also gave up His innocent life to hell and death on the cross to **bring us salvation.** That is why He entered Jerusalem knowing full well it would mean his death. He was determined to go to Jerusalem because He was determined to love us and save us!

And now I have to take back something I said earlier. I said Jesus does not **take** anything from us. That's not quite accurate...

Jesus *does take* away our sin. He takes all our wrongs upon Himself. He takes the hell we deserved. He takes the death beneath God's curse our imperfection earns and suffers instead of us to pay the price we owed!

Just as the prophet Isaiah foretold: **he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed** (Isaiah 53:4-5).

Look! Your King brings... salvation- forgiveness, life with God, guilt removed, shame gone, the Almighty does not reject you but welcomes you into His everlasting Kingdom just as the last verse of our lesson describes:

I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem. The battle bow will be taken away, and he will proclaim peace to the nations. His kingdom will extend from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.

So many kings in this world's history have brought nothing but war. Jesus brings the opposite, **Your King Brings... Peace** – healing – wholeness.

This is the peace the angels sang about at Jesus' birth: **Peace on earth...** for this is the **Peace** of sins forgiven. This is the **peace** of the end of the war between God and man, that Jesus brought to end by taking our sins away. And so the first words out of Jesus' mouth on Easter night was **Peace be with you.**

And notice who this **peace** is for? **The nations. His kingdom will extend from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.**

In the Old Testament, the furthest the Kingdom of Israel ever stretched was to **the River**, that is **the Euphrates River** which is on the edge of Syria. But Jesus' Kingdom goes way further... indeed it goes to the **ends of the earth** further!

After all, God sent His Son because He **so loved the world** (Jn 3:16). And so Jesus came as the **Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

So this verse about a universal kingdom of peace in part describes Christ's Kingdom of believers, that is His Church of all who trust in Him as the Savior and so have peace through Jesus. This is the Kingdom Jesus creates in hearts throughout the world, not by war and weapons like **chariots** and **battle bows**, but with the message of **peace** through sins forgiven.

You know, the same message Jesus calls for His Church to carry out to the ends of the earth through Word and Sacrament: **Go and make disciples of all nations... by baptizing and teaching....** (Mt. 28:18-19).

But at the same time this description of world-wide peace will only reach its greatest completion at the resurrection when Jesus brings His believing people to dwell with Him in perfect joy, life and peace forever in the New Heavens and New Earth (Revelation 21, Isaiah 65).

Ok, I guess I was wrong again. Jesus does take something else from us – He will take away all the sorrow, sadness, grief, pain and shame, darkness, sickness and death when **Your King Brings** you to fully enjoy His everlasting Kingdom (cf. Revelation 21)!

But can you be sure this is all really yours? Yes, because **Look** one more time and see **Your King Brings... Himself!**

Look! Your King is coming to you. Yes, this describes Jesus entering Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday to save us, but these words also describe what happened at your Baptism! Because God's Word tells us we could never come to God by our own power, He came to us. He was there in water and His Word to clothe you in all the saving gifts **King Jesus Brings.**

And still this day, Jesus comes to you with promise after promise in His Word. Through His Word He assures you He is with you, He has forgiven you. Through His Word Jesus comes to your faith in Him as your one and only Savior King.

In the Lord's Supper, Jesus comes to us to give himself and His very body and blood that purchased our forgiveness.

No wonder the Christian Church through the millennia has sung the ancient song '**Hosanna – Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**' For in Word and Sacrament, Jesus, your Savior King Jesus comes to you and **brings** Himself and all His Saving gifts – even peace and life forevermore! Amen.

Hosanna in the highest! Amen.