



# LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Life Group Notes – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Coming back to the heart: Peace for all. Zechariah 9

*Please visit the LCC website to listen to the talk or read the transcript if available.*

## **Zechariah 9:9-12**

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,  
righteous and victorious,  
lowly and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup>I will take away the chariots from Ephraim  
and the war-horses from Jerusalem,  
and the battle-bow will be broken.

He will proclaim peace to the nations.

His rule will extend from sea to sea  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup>As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup>Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope;  
even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.

*Note this is the NIV2011 version of the text. It would be helpful to compare it with other translations.*

### **Comment:**

In our final instalment from Zechariah for this sermon series, we have one of the clearest depictions of the King of peace coming to Jerusalem. Instead of riding a mighty war horse or being glorified in a military parade, this king comes lowly and riding on a donkey. Isaiah called the coming messiah the 'Prince of peace', and when Jesus was born, the Angel announced 'peace and goodwill to all mankind'. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, this prophecy was fulfilled with great rejoicing, but still the crowd misunderstood God's bigger vision for Israel and expected a military solution to their troubles and oppression at the hands of the Romans. Five days later that same crowd were shouting for Jesus' crucifixion.

Zechariah's vision for Jerusalem is that it is to be a city without walls, where God himself provides security, forgiveness and peace extending to all nations. The last line of Zechariah may be translated 'on that day there will no longer be merchants in the house of the Lord Almighty'. When Jesus overturned the tables of the moneychangers in the temple he rejected the profiteering and consumerism that prevents people from entering in to God's presence. Instead he reasserted, like Zechariah, that the temple should be a 'House of prayer for all nations'. Jesus embodied Zechariah's vision of the Kingdom of God and then shifted the focus from the temple building to a new temple – his body, the church which is for all people everywhere. Our job is to encourage people to be reconciled to God by coming to Christ, and he in turn provides the righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit that Zechariah described all those centuries ago.

### **Questions:**

- 1) What are the main causes of local and international conflict today?
- 2) How does Zechariah's vision of the Kingdom of God give us hope for our world?
- 3) After the 'exile' of the Pandemic what are the key ways we can offer peace and hope in our community?
- 4) How can we ensure the church doesn't become inward looking and remains 'a church without walls'?
- 5) What have you enjoyed and learned most from the sermon series 'Coming back to the heart'?