

Prepare For Messiah

Zechariah

MEMORY VERSE

ZECHARIAH 9:9

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

The “Love, Peace, and Truth Braille” template copied onto colored cardstock (one strip for each child), pencils or scissors and tape, glue or a stapler.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Prophecy Charades

Zechariah, the prophet gave three prophecies concerning Jesus. Two have been fulfilled. One will be fulfilled in the future. To introduce the prophecies, have the children play a game of charades. Split the group into three teams of equal number. Give each team a prophecy to act out. The three are:

1. The triumphal entry (when Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on a donkey).
2. Judas betraying Jesus for 30 pieces of silver and throwing the coins down in the temple at the priests’ feet.
3. Jesus’ second coming when He will stand on the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem and the mount will split in half.

For scripture references you can see below in the lesson text.

Have each team take a few minutes to prepare their prophecy to act out. Only the team performing should know what their prophecy is. Have each team act out their prophecy and allow the other two teams to guess. Let all three teams perform and then go into an introduction of today's lesson. (You may want to provide some props for the children to help them in their performance.)

LESSON TIME!

Zechariah was born into a family of priests in Babylon during the captivity of the Jewish people. After 70 years of captivity, Zechariah and his family returned to Jerusalem. God called Zechariah to be a prophet at the same time as Haggai. Do you remember Haggai? The people of God had laid the foundation of the temple, but then, as they encountered difficulties, they became discouraged with the task. Zechariah worked alongside the prophet Haggai to encourage the people to finish the work they had begun.

In addition to encouraging the people to turn from sin and selfishness and resume the rebuilding of the temple, Zechariah encouraged the people to accept the coming the Savior. Zechariah prophesied about the coming Savior, His first and second coming, more than any other prophet. Four hundred years after Zechariah wrote these words, Jesus came to earth as a man and fulfilled every prophecy about His first coming. We can be certain God will fulfill every prophecy about the second coming of Jesus as well. God's Word will never fail. **Prophets told of Jesus' coming hundreds of years before He came.**

ZECHARIAH 9:9-11

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.

I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem;

the battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be 'from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.'

“As for you also, because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

This prophecy is fulfilled in what we call Jesus' "Triumphal Entry" into Jerusalem. In the Gospel of John, chapter 12, we read that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a young donkey that had never been ridden before. Accompanied by shouts of "Hosanna," the people threw their cloaks and palm branches down on the ground before Him—a common way to welcome and honor a king to your country or city.

At that very moment in history, Jesus fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy from almost 500 years earlier, proving to the Jewish people and all who did and would study scripture that He was indeed the coming Messiah, the King, they had been waiting before. Yet, there still existed confusion, even among Jesus' disciples. For, the Jewish people anticipated and desired an earthly king to help them overpower the Romans. They did not understand that, in His first coming, Jesus' kingdom was not of this world, but a heavenly kingdom. In His first coming, Jesus came to die. He said that His hour had come. It was His last week on earth; for He had come to go to the cross where He would offer Himself a sacrifice in payment for the sins of the world. Yet future, at His second coming, He will come to rule and reign and establish His kingdom on the earth.

Did you know that there are over 300 prophecies about Jesus in the Bible? Jesus fulfilled or brought to pass every one of them concerning His first coming. We can know with certainty He is the promised Messiah. **Prophets told of Jesus' coming hundreds of years before He came.**

ZECHARIAH 11:12-13;

Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.

And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter.

What a remarkable prophecy. Four hundred years later, we read that Judas went to the high priest and said, "How much will you give me, and I will deliver Him (Jesus) to you?" Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver from the priests. Is it not interesting that God told Zechariah to throw his pay from being a shepherd (for a time) into the Temple at the feet of the potter? We read that Judas was later sorry he had taken the money and threw it at the feet of the priests in the Temple and then ran away. The priests could not return the money to the temple treasury since it was "blood money" (money used to purchase someone's death). So, they bought a "potter's field." God had created a prophetic picture of what would happen nearly 500 years before it happened. What are the chances that such a picture would come together for any other person? Betrayal for 30 pieces of silver; silver thrown down in the house of the Lord; silver used to buy a potter's field.

After Jesus' resurrection, we read that Jesus appeared to two of His disciples who were walking on a road going to the town of Emmaus. The two men thought Jesus was just some stranger taking the same road (God kept the disciples from recognizing Jesus). The two men were sad and confused about the death of Jesus a few days before and began discussing their experiences. Jesus asked them if they did not understand that the Christ *had* to suffer and be treated that way in order to fulfill God's plan. We read, "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself" (Luke 24:26,27). That must have been quite a Bible study. How would *you* like to have a Bible study with Jesus?

Since Jesus talked to them about what the prophets said concerning Himself He may very well have shared with them some of these verses from Zechariah!

ZECHARIAH 12:10-11

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

Now, Zechariah looks to the bright future day (the second coming of Jesus) when the Jewish people will recognize their King, Jesus Christ. Today, there are around three million Jews living in and

around Jerusalem. Only a small fraction of them believe that Jesus is the promised Messiah—the One anointed by God and fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies. They are still waiting for their Messiah to come. But on that future day, they will look on Him (Jesus) whom they pierced on the cross and realize He is indeed their Messiah. The people will grieve in their hearts as their eyes are opened, realizing they had crucified the Lord of Glory.

ZECHARIAH 14:3-9

Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle.

And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.

Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, for the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You.

It shall come to pass in that day that there will be no light; the lights will diminish.

It shall be one day which is known to the LORD—neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen that it will be light.

And in that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; in both summer and winter it shall occur.

And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—"The LORD is one," and His name one.

Zechariah, Chapter 14, is all about the second coming. Zechariah 14:1 begins, "Behold, the day of the Lord is coming..." In 14:2 we read that the nations will be gathered together in battle against Jerusalem. The book of Revelation gives more detail. In what is called the battle of Armageddon, the nations will be gathered together outside Jerusalem to put an end to the Jewish people once and for all. At that time and in that place, the Lord will show His mighty power once again. His feet will touch the Mount of Olives and a tremendous cataclysmic change in geography will take place. The Mount of Olives will split in the middle between the east and the west, forming a great valley. God will show that He is Master over all creation--He truly does move mountains. What glorious a day! In Acts 1:11, the angels assured the disciples who watched Jesus ascend to heaven that He would come back in the same way, "with the clouds." (Read also Matthew 24:29-31).

In 14:5, we are told His "saints" will come with Him. Who are the saints? We are! The church, the bride of Christ, will accompany Jesus upon His return to the earth. In Colossians 3:4 we read, "When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory." (See also Revelation Chapter 19.) What a promise! What a hope! Will you be ready?

In 14:6,7 we read that the day will be unique, "...neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen that it will be light." Perhaps, there will be no need of light at the "brightness" of His coming! In 14:8,9 we read that living waters will flow out from Jerusalem and that the Lord shall be King over all the earth.

The Word of God is proven and true. God through the prophets spoke of things that would happen before they happened. Jesus miraculously fulfilled every prophecy concerning His first coming, and He will miraculously fulfill every promise concerning His second coming. Since God's Word is true, how should the understanding that He will come again affect our lives? Speaking of that future day when we shall see Jesus face to face, John writes: "...who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure" (1John 3:2,3). Are you ready? Are you watching and waiting? God will keep His promise. **Prophets foretold the coming of Jesus.**

"Love Truth and Peace" Braille

Use the enclosed template to make Braille strips. Braille is what blind people use to be able to read. Copy the template onto colored card stock. Cut out the strips and pass them out to the children. Have the children use pencils or scissors to poke holes in the holes on the strips (poke holes from behind). After poking out the holes they can then feel what Braille feels like. (Optional: Have the children wrap the strips around their wrists and staple, tape or glue for a bracelet).

In Zechariah 8:19, God told His people to "love truth and peace." Sin blinds us to God's ways and plan for our lives. God's Word, however, is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, pointing us in the right direction. We no longer need to stumble in the darkness.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving that God's Word has been proven sure through so many fulfilled prophecies, and that Jesus did indeed come to purchase our salvation. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

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