

Sunday School Lesson, Tuesday, June 27th, & Sunday, July 2nd, 2023

by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Summer Quarter Lesson ~ June, July, and August 2023

Lesson 5 – Unit I Theme: “The Prophets Proclaim GOD’S POWER!”

Subject: “World Peace!”

PEACE, as “we” know it (**HIM**) NOW, can be Define in ONE WORD: **JESUS! JESUS! JESUS!**

(John 16: 33; Ephesians 2: 14-17)

PEACE, such as, *Psychological Peace*, is **COMFORT** within... *Relational Peace* such as, Harmony among humanity... *SPIRITual Peace*, that is, between **GOD** and man.

BUT, **World Peace**, is an ideal [sought standard] of ‘Freedom, Peace, and Happiness among and within ALL Nations and/or People. **World Peace** is an ‘idea’ [formulated thought] of Planetary non-violence, by which Nations willingly cooperate, ‘either voluntary’ or by virtue of a ‘system’ of governance to prevent Warfare.

World Peace is a cessation of ALL hostility among ALL individuals. [Human Right, Technology, Education, Engineering, Medicine, Diplomats] World Peace is an End to ALL forms of Fighting’s.

Lesson Text: Zechariah 9: 9-13, 16-17

Zechariah focus is, as the People (Judah) *is* “What is the Future of the Ancient City of Jerusalem?” Can the People (Jews) hold the City? Will it be attacked again?

Zechariah, answers, **GOD** is in Control; **HE** will have Mercy; **HE** is Jealous for Jerusalem;

HIS House shall be Built; **The LORD** shall **COMFORT** Zion and choose Jerusalem.

(Zechariah 1: 12-17)

Zechariah prophesies when Jerusalem was still in ruins. [In 586 BC the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and took the Jews to Captivity. In 536, the Babylonians fell, and King Cyrus permitted a *remnant* to return to Jerusalem. In 535 BC they (Jews) laid the foundation of the Temple, but the work stopped. In 520 BC, the Jews again began to rebuilt **GOD’S House**, and completed it.]

Zechariah saw beyond the Nation weaknesses to the Future “New Jerusalem” and

The Coming of Jerusalem’ KING, The MESSIAH—The PERSON, Work and Glory of CHRIST!

In Zechariah 9: 1-8, Zechariah describes the Victories of Alexander the Great (Greek General— “It was said, He wept when He ran out of Land to conquer!” 336-323 BC).

He destroyed many Cities, but NOT Jerusalem. He *threatened* Jerusalem but never carried them out. Before He came, “The High Priest,” had a dream... He was told to dress in his Robes and meet Alexander outside the City. Other Priest went with Him dressed in White Robes. It dazzled [overpowered, overcome, overwhelm] Alexander. He entered the City Jerusalem “peacefully” and never harmed the people or the City! Zechariah predicts **CHRIST’** arrival in Jerusalem.

[Alexander the Great last Three Wishes: “I will depart from this world soon; I have three wishes, please carry them out without fail.” **1.** The King of Macedon said, “My physicians alone must carry My coffin.” **2.** “I desire that when My coffin is transported to the grave, the Path leading to the Graveyard shall display the wealth I collected,” The King said. **3.** “That My Hands hang out of My coffin,” Alexander said.

His Generals agreed, but asked Why? The King said, **1.** “I want My Physicians to carry My coffin because people should realize that no Doctor can cure anybody. They are helpless in front of Death.” **2.** “I spent all My life earning riches but cannot take anything with Me.” Let people know that Wealth is nothing but dust.” **3.** “I wish All to know that I came empty-handed into this world, and I will go empty-handed.”]

Topic: HIS (JESUS CHRIST) Reign. (Zechariah 9: 9-10)

Zechariah saw Alexander the Great coming to Jerusalem BUT also *foresaw*, **JESUS CHRIST** coming to **The Holy City**—He predicts **CHRIST’S** arrival... “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy KING cometh unto thee: *Just... with Salvation...lowly...* (V. 9)

See, **JESUS** fulfilling ‘Palm Sunday’ – *Triumphant Entry* into Jerusalem. (Predicted some 500 years before it happened... (Matthew 21: 4-5; Mark 11: 1-11; Luke 19: 29-44; John 12: 12-16) Alexander the Great came for War; **JESUS CHRIST** came with **PEACE!**

V. 10, “...Ephraim, refers to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. [When you look at two Mountains from a distant, they appear to be one Mountain... but the closer You get, the clearer it become that its two Mountains, not one. In fact, there is a huge Valley between the two.]

Point: V. 9, clearly fulfills **CHRIST’S First Coming**... BUT V. 10, refers to **HIS Second Coming**: at this time, Nations will be subject to **HIS Rule**... (Philippians 2: 9-11)

Q. How did they treat **JESUS**? Zechariah 13: 7 tells us they “arrested and smitten” **HIM**—Matthew 26: 31, 32. Zechariah 11: 12 says, **HE** was sold for the price of Slave—Matthew 27: 3-10.

Result: Zechariah 13: 6, **JESUS CHRIST** was ‘wounded’ in the house of HIS friends; and Zechariah 12: 10) ‘pierced’ on the Cross (Acts 2, **The HOLY SPIRIT** poured out at Pentecost, revealing “the man they had pierced and killed, is indeed **MESSIAH—JESUS CHRIST!**”]

Topic: HIS (JESUS CHRIST) Revival. (Zechariah 9: 11-13)

Covenants (Binding Agreements) in OT was **sealed/confirmed** with Blood (something or Someone shed/Died) to seal this Agreement/Contract. Pointing ahead to **The Blood of CHRIST** shed on Calvary’s Cross. **HIS Signature** that confirmed **GOD’S New Covenant** with **HIS** people! “Oooo The Blood!”

Topic: HIS (JESUS CHRIST) Resolution [*Purpose, Decision, Determination*]. (Zechariah 9: 16-17)

This Chapter, 9, opens declaring how **JESUS** through **HIS Coming** help us overcome War. Here (14-17) the prophesy is **JESUS** is here to help us when War is *inevitable*. **JESUS** is our “**GOOD SHEPHERD,**” **WHO** protects **HIS Sheep** (John 10: 10, 11) ... **HE** is our **Great SHEPHERD** of **The Sheep** to *Perfect Us* and Make The Covenant Real to us. (Hebrews 13: 20—**The Blood of The Everlasting Covenant—Our Eternal Redemption!**)