

Series: "PROPHECY"

Text: Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:1-11

Title: "Flash in the Pan"

Introduction: Good Morning BMZ! Glad you are with us as we CONTINUE our SERIES called: "**PROPHECY**". MANY PEOPLE do NOT find it IMPORTANT to READ the BIBLE ... I think, for people INSIDE the CHURCH, although they KNOW they NEED TO READ the BIBLE, they can NOT FIND the URGENCY to READ IT!

MANY DON'T READ the Bible BECAUSE it does NOT make SENSE. What they READ DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, Therefore, why take TIME to READ?

So, in this series, we are going to do a BIBLE STUDY of SORTS to maybe FIND some SENSE in READING the BIBLE. Here's what I HOPE: ***I HOPE we will DISCOVER throughout this SERIES, The BIBLE is GOD'S WORD and we'll be REMINDED by The BIBLE, GOD is GOD and WE are NOT! The BIBLE is TRUE and can be TRUSTED. It's NOT like any OTHER BOOK.*** It's God's LIVING WORD!

We're using OT PROPHECIES and NT FULFILLMENTS and I hope as we study how God has ORCHESTRATED human EVENTS in HISTORY and has NEVER BEEN WRONG that we will ACCEPT God is still ORCHESTRATING human events TODAY and INTO THE FUTURE!

For INSTANCE, last week, we talked about JESUS teaching in the Synagogue in his HOMETOWN of NAZARETH and his READING from the Book of ISAIAH. Here is what JESUS READ (just on screen): ISAIAH 61:1-2 = ¹ *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me, for the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.* ² *He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the LORD's favor has come, and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies.* ¹ Isaiah SPOKE / WROTE those words around 700 BC. Do you know WHY? Because GOD KNEW His Son, JESUS, over 700 YEARS LATER, was going to be HANDED the SCROLL of ISAIAH in his HOMETOWN of NAZARETH and He needed to SAY THOSE VERY WORDS! Get it? TODAY? MORE of the SAME!

GRAB your MESSAGE NOTES ... *If you haven't already, I invite you to take out your 3-HOLE PUNCHED MESSAGE NOTES and CONNECTION card. You will see that there are blanks to fill in ... Please take the time to do so. Grab a PEN and write down whatever else you think is important to you and your faith journey. After worship, drop off your CONNECTION CARD and take your MESSAGE NOTES home. Please Re-read the Scripture and the notes to keep growing and learning. **For those of you joining on-line, you can go to our website, www.bmzchurch.org ... find the NOTES and follow along ... LET'S PRAY (turn off marked lights during prayer)!***

Fast HISTORY lesson. In about 583 BC, the Babylonian Empire DEFEATED JERUSALEM. Many Hebrews/Jews were EXILED and SCATTERED ACROSS the Babylonian Empire with MANY shipped to MESOPOTAMIA. When CYRUS decreed the Jewish EXILES could RETURN to JERUSALEM in 538 BC, they found the CITY of Jerusalem and their TEMPLE was a PILE of RUBBLE. A couple of years later the people decided to REBUILD the TEMPLE.

¹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible, New Living Translation* (Is 61:1-2). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

You can read the Books of EZRA and NEHEMIAH for DETAILS about the REBUILD. For today, ZECHARIAH became a PROPHET around 520 BC when the TEMPLE REBUILD resumed. They took a 10 Year BREAK from rebuilding (530BC).

For the FIRST few YEARS of his ministry, Zechariah was a CHEERLEADER for the people REBUILDING the Temple. He REMINDED the people, even while they were PUTTING the Temple BUILDING back TOGETHER, they ALSO needed to PUT their RELATIONSHIP with GOD back together. Zechariah pushed them to be GODLIER and TURN AWAY from SIN. AFTER the Temple was COMPLETED (516 BC), Zechariah spent his TIME TALKING about a COMING MESSIAH...

ZECHARIAH and the MESSIAH

Zechariah is an IMPORTANT PROPHETIC book BECAUSE of the incredible ACCURACY in which Zechariah prophesied about the COMING of JESUS. Many of these PROPHECIES were clearly FULFILLED in the life of JESUS. Remember, this was written about 500 YEARS BEFORE Jesus was BORN.

As Christians, we BELIEVE Jesus will make TWO (2) appearances on EARTH. The FIRST was in the 1st Century when he came in the form of a BABY in Bethlehem, grew up in NAZARETH and did THREE YEARS of MINISTRY around GALILEE, as well as SAMARIA and JERUSALEM.

We believe the SECOND (2nd) COMING of Jesus will happen SOME TIME AFTER RIGHT NOW! As Zechariah PROPHECIED about the coming MESSIAH, he TAUGHT about BOTH TIMES Jesus would APPEAR! We believe GOD SPOKE through the PROPHETS, SO our FAITH in GOD would GROW. God was CORRECT about JESUS' FIRST appearance and we believe Jesus is coming AGAIN!

Here's Zechariah's PROPHECY: ZECHARIAH 9:9 = ⁹*Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey's colt.* ² Happy PALM SUNDAY! SO, what WE CELEBRATE as Palm Sunday was PROPHECIED 500 years before it HAPPENED! Fast-forward 500 years!

You WILL See

As we move into our NT Scripture from the GOSPEL (stories / HISTORY of Jesus) of MATTHEW; remember, Jesus is headed to Jerusalem to celebrate The PASSOVER Meal as part of The FESTIVAL of UNLEAVENED BREAD. This was a HUGE Hebrew HOLIDAY / HOLY DAY! Hebrew people, if possible, came together in the HOLY CITY of JERUSALEM for the celebration ... and thousands did!

According to MATTHEW, Jesus LEFT GALILEE in Chapter 19 (about 3 years into ministry). Jesus TEACHES and HEALS as he TRAVELS. Remember, Jesus FED 5,000 MEN, not counting the women and children? Let's GUESSTIMATE that MANY in the CROWD TRAVELING from GALILEE to JERUSALEM. Jesus has MANY FOLLOWERS with him as he heads to Jerusalem.

We're told those crowds GREW on the way; at least BY TWO. RIGHT BEFORE we pick up our Scripture, Jesus HEALS TWO BLIND MEN on the road (PICTURES: "Road to Jericho 1", "Road to Jericho 2", "Valley of the Shadow of Death") between Jericho and Jerusalem and they FOLLOWED Jesus... Think: Valley of the Shadow of Death. Good Samaritan. Jesus in the Judean Wilderness... This is the TERRAIN. Here is a MAP (MAP: "Jericho to Jerusalem Map") to show ... "UP" from Jericho to Jerusalem.

² Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible, New Living Translation* (Zec 9:9). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

Okay, now we're UP to SPEED. Jesus is heading into JERUSALEM via the MT. of OLIVES and a town called Bethphage. BETHPHAGE was a small town believed to be on the eastern slope of the Mt. of Olives. We KNOW Jesus went BY IT. Here it is ... MATTHEW 21:1-3 = *As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead.*² *"Go into the village over there," he said. "As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me.*³ *If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will immediately let you take them."*³

A COUPLE THINGS: #1 = Do you think JESUS KNEW that asking His Disciples to go into Bethphage and get a DONKEY and COLT for him to RIDE ON FULFILLED Zechariah's PROPHECY about the MESSIAH? I'm thinking He knew!

#2 = Who OWNED the DONKEY and COLT? I, without any scholarly backing, THINK Jesus had BUILT such a large underground MOVEMENT of people (I wonder how many people had relatives healed by Jesus?) that MANY UNDERSTOOD what was MEANT by, *"The Lord needs them."*

You know what else I LOVE? *"...and he will immediately let you take them."* That is AWESOME! Think about this: How many of you have LOANED OUT your CAR? Can you IMAGINE someone coming by, GETTING IN your car and TURNING the KEY (they left the keys on their donkeys in those days...) BEFORE you knew what was HAPPENING? What if they said, *"The Lord needs it"*?

JESUS was about to make a GRAND ENTRANCE into Jerusalem! Jesus was going to RIDE IN and people were going to PRAISE HIS NAME. BUT, to make it HAPPEN, he needed the people who TRUSTED HIM to GIVE what they HAD!

I WONDER WHAT JESUS WOULD LIKE to USE of OURS!?

I believe JESUS WANTS to be GLORIFIED here in SW WISCONSIN, but it AIN'T HAPPENING until the people of SW Wisconsin START USING what they HAVE to glorify JESUS! What are YOU HOLDING BACK from JESUS?

Let's move on ... MATTHEW 21:4-7 =⁴ *This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said,*⁵ *"Tell the people of Jerusalem, 'Look, your King is coming to you. He is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey's colt.'"*⁶ *The two disciples did as Jesus commanded.*⁷ *They brought the donkey and the colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it.*⁴

MOUNT Up

Ever WONDER WHY Jesus RODE on the COLT of a DONKEY (according to MATTHEW and ZECHARIAH)? WHY NOT a HORSE?!

ONE, Jesus was a HUMBLE SERVANT of the people, NOT THEM being HIS SERVANT! TWO, a HORSE SIGNIFIED a MILITARY LEADER. HORSES were used in WAR! Jesus came in PEACE!

A COLT, BTW, would be an animal NOT YET RIDDEN. It would make sense to have the colt's mother as a CALMING force as the colt is ridden through the CROWDS. Back to Matthew: MATTHEW 21:8-11 =⁸ *Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.*⁹ *Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, "Praise God for the Son of David! Blessings on the one who*

² Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Mt 21:1-3). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

⁴ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Mt 21:4-7). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

comes in the name of the LORD! Praise God in highest heaven!”¹⁰ The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. “Who is this?” they asked.¹¹ And the crowds replied, “It’s Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”⁵

FLASH in the PAN

Now THAT’S a PARADE! People laying their COATS on the ROAD in front of the DONKEY and COLT Jesus RODE, to show respect. People putting PALM BRANCHES down on the ROAD to SHOW HONOR to Jesus as ROYALTY!

Oh, and it’s not a quiet parade! The people are shouting “PRAISE GOD” and “HOSANNA!” BTW – “Hosanna” means “SAVE NOW” or “PLEASE SAVE”. The people expect Jesus to be the Messiah, their Savior. Guess what they wanted to be saved from? The people wanted Jesus to SAVE THEM from oppression at the hands of the Roman Empire. They wanted FREEDOM! The people wanted to be SAVED! BUT, they didn’t even know what they NEEDED to be SAVED FROM!

Those people on the ORIGINAL PALM SUNDAY in JERUSALEM wanted to be SAVED from the Romans for the DURATION of their LIVES. They wanted FREEDOM from OPRESSION in Israel.

Jesus must have WONDERED HOW to TELL them He had a BIGGER PICTURE! Jesus came to SAVE the WHOLE WORLD, not just Israel. Jesus came to SAVE ALL PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD, NOT JUST those who lived in the 1st CENTURY!

Because those people were SHORT-SIGHTED, only thinking about themselves; by the END of the WEEK, the SAME PEOPLE who were shouting “Hosanna” or “Please Save/Save Now”; were shouting, “Crucify Him!” at the top of their lungs!

You know what? I DON’T want to BE a PALM SUNDAY PERSON ...

PALM Sunday or EASTER People?

“PALM SUNDAY PEOPLE” shout the name of Jesus AS LONG AS there is a CROWD and it’s the POPULAR thing to do! “Everybody’s doing it!” PALM SUNDAY PEOPLE FOLLOW the CROWD when they CHANGE their MINDS and SHOUT, “CRUCIFY HIM!” Crowd of 5,000+ SHRUNK to maybe 100 by EASTER!

Know what “EASTER PEOPLE” do? They LOAN OUT their DONKEY W/OUT HESITATING! They give WHATEVER they HAVE: TIME, TALENT, MONEY, KINDNESS, PATIENCE, ETC. for the CAUSE of the LORD! They SHOW UP at the GRAVE as DAWN BREAKS AFTER the SABBATH! “EASTER PEOPLE” BELIEVE JESUS is NOT DEAD!

Before we get out of here ... “WHAT are YOU HOLDING back from Jesus?”

We have WORK to DO. We have people to OFFER JESUS TO, who have NO IDEA Jesus was PROPHESED about HUNDREDS of YEARS BEFORE He SHOWED UP the FIRST TIME! We have people to OFFER JESUS TO who have NO IDEA Jesus is COMING AGAIN! They have NO IDEA their ETERNITIES will be SPENT SOMEWHERE! And, the PIVOT POINT for their ETERNITIES is JESUS! They need to KNOW they need a FAITH in JESUS for their LIVES HERE and for their FOREVER! IT is going to MATTER WHO they PLACE their FAITH in ... Whose GRACE they relied on ... Who BELIEVED Jesus is “the Son of the Living God” who DIED on a CROSS, so SINS can be FORGIVEN, and we can be RIGHT with our CREATOR GOD!

THAT'S WHY we INVITE people to WORSHIP with us! We live in a POST-CHRISTIAN Culture. MOST PEOPLE in our COUNTRY do NOT see a NEED to WORSHIP JESUS. It does NOT make SENSE to THEM! "*Why WASTE a good SUNDAY MORNING going to a CHURCH?*"

Jesus said it is UP to US ("*Go into all the world...*") to INVITE THEM to a PLACE where JESUS can BEGIN to make SENSE!

MAILERS are going all over SW Wisconsin! We are ENCOURAGING you to be OBEDIENT to Jesus and GO INTO YOUR WORLD and HELP make Disciples... (INVITE CARD). Here's How to USE IT...

Let's Pray!

Next Steps: *I will memorize Zechariah 9:9*
 I will read Matthew 21
 I will use my Invite Cards to invite friends (Next Sunday) for Easter, April 21st
 Sign me up for Believer's Baptism (May 5th)