

Every day somewhere the news will tell you to be on the lookout. It might be the grainy picture of a bank robber from a security camera. It might be an armed suspect who is dangerous. It might be a contractor out to rip people off. No matter what or who, they'll try and give you details, tell tale signs to look for. Hair color, height, weight, vehicle, something that will be a sign for you.

Those descriptions rarely last more than a couple of days. People change, especially people who don't want to be noticed. Details that once identified with certainty usually don't work after a while. Now imagine the news giving you details of something to be looking for years into the future. What about centuries into the future? Who could know those details? Who would match them up exactly? That's just what God did through the prophets. He gave details for the people to watch for in regards to the coming Messiah. He gave them signs to identify the one who would save them.

Zechariah was one such prophet. He wrote the prophecy of the first lesson. More than 500 years before Jesus lived, Zechariah was writing promises God was making to the people so they could identify the Messiah. We can use them too. The signs Zechariah gave are surprising. The king he told the people to look for wasn't the kind of king anyone would expect. Still the promises are from God. So we can know for sure...

**Your king comes to you
Rejoice in his humility
Rejoice because he brings peace**

Kings like to do it up big time. Crowns, robes, thrones, and servants are all to show who has the power and who doesn't. It also separated the king from the people. Your average person couldn't come to see the king. Kings weren't into mingling with the common people. The king would need to grant permission for anyone to come and see him. A king that came to the people and showed the people were important was unheard of. Not with the king that Zechariah was pointing ahead to. **"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you."** The king comes to the people in a show of humility.

No one traveled quite like a king. Chariots, armed guards, and horses all accompanied his travel. The king might even ride on the horse if necessary. Everything signaled power and importance. Not with the king that Zechariah was pointing ahead to. **"See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."** The people would look for a king riding a donkey, not the expected arrival. These specific signs would signal the promised king had come. All of the signs pointed to humility.

Humility rarely stands out as impressive. That's maybe because the truly humble person isn't looking to get noticed. We know what impressive looks like. It's the power position. It's the parade of followers behind a celebrity. Its importance being judged based on the number of followers. Its glamour and fame, power and position. Humility doesn't necessarily mean no power, it just means not putting it on display. Humility considers others important. Humility doesn't flaunt success or status. Humility willingly takes the lower position. Because of this humility isn't always attractive to us. It is to our shame that the humble and weak looking are often ignored by us.

In the coming king humility would be the sign to look for. The people were to rejoice because he was humble. Humble was what was needed. This king would be entering human history. Not observing from above, but actually getting into human history and becoming part of it. His arrival would be expected yet surprising. This king would come fully righteous. **"See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation."** Righteous means to be perfect, to be right with God. Righteousness before God is exactly what sinful people like us need. Notice Jesus didn't wait for you or me to come to him. In love Jesus came to us to bring this righteousness from God, to restore us to being perfect in God's eyes. Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy. Jesus was the king riding humbly to come to his people. He was humble but victorious. In just days he would defeat and conquer his enemies, our enemies. Except victory would look nothing like this cheering crowd. Victory would come in the darkness and dreariness of the cross. Victory would cost Jesus everything.

Kings often tried adding to their kingdom. Expansion and growth signaled their power. To add territory or subjects they needed weapons of war. Enemies responded to weapons of war. The people of Zechariah's day were living among warring nations. Even the chosen people of God had divided into opposing sides that had been at war for some time. **"I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken."** Ephraim represented one side and Jerusalem the other. There was no peace between them. So Zechariah's signs were a powerful image. Look for the king whose very coming signals what he was coming to bring. The people would be able to rejoice because he would bring peace.

We know what it is to not have peace. As a country we still trust in our implements of war for our protection and security. Today's battles aren't so much over territory but over world power and domination. We put a certain amount of trust in our weapons and ability to make war if necessary. Individually we also go into the world with certain fear over what might happen. So we trust technology to alert us to bad weather. We trust technology in our homes to keep them standing and us safe. We trust security systems and weapons to guard and protect us if attacked. But living with weapons and security systems, are we safe? Do we really have peace? No true peace has been gained at all because we're still at war with God over our sins. They separate us from him.

When the king promised by God arrived bringing peace the weapons of nations would no longer be needed. Peace had finally come; true peace between us and God. True peace because Jesus came to be the Savior for all people. In Christ we stand under a banner of peace. **"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."** Better than technology for keeping you safe is the rule of Christ over the whole world. His rule can't be stopped by rivers, lakes, or oceans. He rules in your hearts. He has set himself up as Savior with power and peace to give. You are under that rule. Everything happening in your life is promised to work out so that you get to heaven. Jesus restores true peace. For true peace we don't need more technology to alert us to storms. Our trust no longer is in our ability to make war or weapons to fight off intruders. We have the forgiveness of sins. We have true peace, peace only our king can give. Only he earned. He earned it by leaving the cheering crowds on Palm Sunday and going to the cursing crowds on Good Friday. He is the king who came for us. We can rejoice because he brings us peace.

Take the opportunity to rejoice and shout over the peace we have with God now through Christ. Our king came just as the prophecy of Zechariah promised. He came to win for us the victory and secure our place in heaven. Now at peace with God you have a peace to share with others. Share with them how that peace makes you feel. Share how that peace affects your life. Enjoy this peace and continue to live in it. Even though you won't always know peace on this earth, take comfort there is a greater peace still to come. Christ Jesus has secured us peace and he brings it as the king who comes to us.

Zechariah promised a king would come for his people. He wouldn't be like other kings. Signs would accompany his coming so people could identify him. We clearly see Jesus as our king. When he entered Jerusalem on the back of a donkey to the shouts of the people it was clear. He came humbly to save us. He came to unite us back to God in peace. For everything Jesus did we rejoice. Jesus is the king who comes to us.