

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

In today’s lesson we are going to learn about three prophecies that were made concerning Jesus by the prophet Zechariah. Two have been fulfilled and the last we are waiting to be fulfilled. To introduce the prophecies have the children play a simple 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. (Optional – 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. Zechariah and his family returned to Jerusalem with the first group of exiles after the Jewish people were in captivity in Babylon for 70 years. God called Zechariah to be a prophet along with Haggai. Do you remember his story? The people were told by God to finish what they started. He wanted the Temple rebuilt and sacrifices restored.

The Lord asked Zechariah to work alongside Haggai to challenge and encourage the people. He challenged the Jews to turn from their sin of selfishness to help build the Temple. Zechariah encouraged the people to accept the coming Savior. Zechariah prophesied about the coming Savior more than any other prophet did. He prophesied about Jesus' first and second coming. Four hundred years after Zechariah wrote these words, Jesus came to earth as a man and fulfilled every prophecy about His first coming. We are still waiting for the prophecies of His second coming to be fulfilled. Today we will look at a few of his prophecies.

We will learn today that Jesus fulfilled every prophecy about His first coming, and that it is just as certain that He will fulfill all the prophecies about His second coming sometime in the future. Will YOU be ready? **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.

In the gospel of John, chapter 12, we see Jesus riding into Jerusalem on the back of a young donkey that had never been ridden before. It was the first, last, and only time that Jesus allowed the people to call Him a King. It was the only time that Jesus let the people proclaim 'Hosanna' and throw their cloaks and palm branches down on the ground before Him. It was the common way to welcome a king to your country or city and honor him.

Jesus said that His hour had come. He knew it was His last week on earth and that it was almost time for Him to go to the cross. He was fulfilling Zechariah's prophecy from over 400 years before so that the Jewish people could realize He was the One the prophets were speaking about. He wanted them to know He was the King they had been waiting for. The only problem was that the Jews wanted an earthly king to help them overpower the Romans. The disciples did not even understand until after His resurrection that His kingdom was not of this world. He is King of a heavenly kingdom. For now, anyway. That is, until His Second Coming.

Did you know that there are over 300 prophecies about Jesus in the Bible? He has fulfilled or brought to pass every one of them concerning His first coming. This is one of the ways that we know

that He is truly the promised Messiah and that the Word of God is true. We believe in Jesus and the Bible because He has shown us in His Word that it is completely true and can be relied on. How wonderful that we have a Savior who fulfilled Zechariah's prophecies about Himself. **Prophets told of Jesus' coming hundreds of years before He came.**

ZECHARIAH 11:12-13; 12:10-11

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.

"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.

In Luke 24:13-35, we have a story about Jesus after His resurrection, appearing to two of His disciples walking on a road going to the town of Emmaus. They were sad and confused about the death of Jesus a few days before. Jesus responded to them, asking them if they didn't understand that the Christ HAD to suffer and be treated that way to fulfill God's plan (Read verses 26 & 27 to the children). 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 these verses from Zechariah. The verses explain how Jesus was to be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver from the priests, which is what Judas did. 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? And then we read 400 years later that Judas was sorry he had taken the money and threw it at the feet of the priests in the Temple and then ran away.

The disciples that Jesus was talking to on the road to Emmaus may have had the privilege to find out from Jesus some things about the future. In Zechariah we learn that in the future, as the enemies of God gather together to destroy the Jews and Jerusalem once and for all that all of the Jewish people will come to the realization that Jesus, the One Who was pierced on the cross, is their Messiah. Right now most do not believe in Jesus, but one day they will all realize that He really is their Messiah.

These last two verses are about His Second Coming. Does everyone in this class know about the Israel of today? There are around three million Jews living in and around Jerusalem right now, but only a small fraction of them are religious or have a relationship with God. They do not believe in Jesus as their Savior; they are still looking for their Messiah, (the One spoken of in the Old Testament who is anointed by God) or they are not looking for a savior at all.

Jesus Himself said He was Messiah and He will come again. What a wonderful Savior we have to tell us how He fulfilled every prophecy about His first coming and how it is just as certain that He will come again and fulfill every prophecy about His second coming too. **Prophets told of Jesus' coming hundreds of years before He came.**

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.

In verse 1 of chapter 4, Zechariah says, “a day of the Lord is coming.” This whole chapter is about the second coming. The Scripture says His feet will touch the Mount of Olives in that day.

Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 24:30 how it would look at the end when He came back. And the angels in Acts 1:11 told the people who were watching Him ascend to heaven that He would be coming back the same way, “with the clouds.”

In Revelation we learn that the nations will gather together outside Jerusalem to put an end to the Jewish people once and for all. It is a place called Armageddon. It is the place where the Lord will show His mighty power once again. He will show that He is Master over all creation, that He truly does move mountains. We are taught in this chapter that His “holy ones” will come with Him. That is you and I, the bride of Christ, the ones whose names are written in the Book of Life. Will you be ready? Will your name be written in His book? Do you want to be one of the "holy ones" who come back with Him?

Verses 6 and 7 say, “there will be no light; it will be a unique day.” That is because it is His light that will shine; there will be no need of the sun.

Verse 8 says, “When the living water flows out from Jerusalem,” we learn in Revelation it will be “flowing from the throne of God, and of the Lamb.”

The Word of God is true in every book and in every chapter. Sometimes we don't understand everything it is saying because the answers are not all lined up sentence by sentence, verse by verse. Sometimes we do not have all the facts and get confused because we have not found all the places in the Bible where a certain subject is talked about. Some things about His second coming were written before He was born, some things He told us Himself and some things were written after He left the earth to go be with the Father. God does not lie! We can trust in Him, and we can be sure that we have a Savior who fulfilled every prophecy about Himself and His first coming. **Prophets told of Jesus' coming hundreds of years before He came.** He will also fulfill every

prophecy about His Second Coming sometime in the future. Will you be ready? Will be you watching for Him?

“Love Truth and Peace” Braille

In Zechariah 8:19 God told His people to “love truth and peace.” Because of Israel’s sin they became blinded to God’s ways and His plan for them. But His Word always stood out to lead the people in the right direction. God wanted them to love the truth of His Word and His ways, not their own ways.

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.

God communicates to us through His Word even though we are blind because of our sin. What a faithful God we serve who desires to help us to have a relationship with Him. (Optional – Have the children wrap the strips around their wrists and staple, tape or glue for a bracelet).

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving that He has given us different prophecies so we can know that His Word is true. Also, thank Him for giving us His Son Jesus so that we could be saved. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.