

Sermon Notes: The Certainty of God's Promises: The Oath and Power of Jesus Shed Blood
Zechariah 9:11-12 and Romans 7:21-25

I. The Promise of Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem

- Usually read on _____ Sunday (verse 9) – Matthew 21:5

- Zechariah's prophesy 9:1-13, is first about the nations surrounding Israel and God's judgment upon them. Their conqueror would be Alexandra the Great in 332 B.C.

- Alexander did not conquer and destroy Jerusalem like the surrounding nations, but visited it and let the people remain in peace. However, in Alexandra's reign and the rulers following him, there were various efforts to change the religious beliefs and practices to follow Greek and later Roman gods, instead of the LORD God. In 168-167 B.C. the ruler Antiochus IV Epiphanes attacked Jerusalem, and forced the end of all Old Testament worship killing many thousands of Jews and desecrating the Temple with pagan sacrifices. The Jews later revolted (Maccabean Revolt) and ruled themselves until about 135 BC. The land was then ruled by the Hasmonean dynasty until Herod the Great, who with support from Rome, became the ruler in 37 BC. This is the "King Herod" of the Christmas narratives in Luke and Matthew.

During this time the foreign rulers often tried to bring in pagan religions to replace the true worship of the LORD God. They wanted the Jews to worship like the rest of the world.

Thus: Zechariah 9:9 prophecies the time when the TRUE king would enter Jerusalem, fulfilled by Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem.

II. What preserves people through all the evils of this world's rulers and difficulties of life? Of their own sin?

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. Zechariah 9:11-12

God first promise was accompanied by animal sacrifice, but His final victory and promise is through the blood of the _____ of God.

In Romans 7:21-25 – What saves us from our own corruption and evil, our own inner war against God? Our efforts? Or? See verse 25.