

THE PROPHECY OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST



“Jesus will be called King”

“See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. 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.”
Zechariah 9:9-10

Authorities tell us there were many prophets in the Bible. The list usually includes four major prophets and twelve minor prophets. These prophets were defined as someone who gave the declarations of God. They lived hundreds of years, sometimes thousands of years before the birth of Christ and often the words they were given to say were not going to be fulfilled in the life

times of anyone listening. Would we have listened? I doubt it? Today we know things are going to come about and when someone tells us what is going to happen we have to see it first. We may kid about Missouri being the “Show me” State, but we can all claim this title at times.

Approximately 500 years before Christ was born, Zechariah prophesied that Jesus would be proclaimed as King and he would arrive “*lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*” Matthew tells us that Jesus asked two of his disciples to “*Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.*” Matthew records that this was spoken to fulfill the words of the prophet, Zechariah.

Mark records “*When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!’*”

To comprehend this we have to accept that the prophets were not speaking their own words, but words given to them by the Holy Spirit. Each reading of a person in the Old Testament who obeyed God brings a new appreciation.

Zechariah also prophesies other truths about Christ and his time on earth. He tells a story about two shepherds and tells the people “*This is what the Lord my God says:*” In this story recorded in Zechariah 11, we have reference to thirty pieces of silver and the Lord said “*Throw it to the potter—the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the Lord.*” This is also referred to by Matthew in chapter 27 “*Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: ‘They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.’*”



We know that Judas betrayed Christ for thirty pieces of silver, and “*Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, ‘I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.’ But they said, ‘What is that to us? See to that yourself!’ And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.*”

Psalm 8 tells us that the Messiah would be praised by little children. After



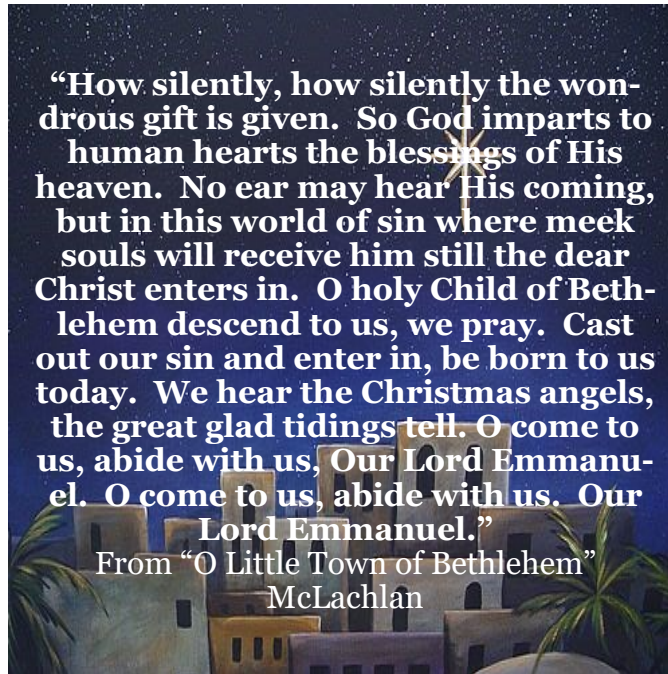
Christ rode into town on a donkey, he went to the temple. And the chief priests were upset because even the children were shouting Hosannas in the temple court and they asked *“Do you hear what these children are saying?”* and Christ replied *“Yes,”* replied Jesus, *“have you never read, “From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise.”* Then we have the wonderful message in Matthew 19:24-15 when people took children to Christ for him to pray for them and the disciples politely asked them to leave. Christ responded: *“Let the children alone, don’t prevent them from coming to me. God’s kingdom is made up of people like these.”*

Psalms and Isaiah tell us that Christ would be falsely accused and remain silent in front of his accusers. We can wonder why he didn’t say who he was. Would they have believed him any more than they believed the “Good News” he had been telling them.

Even Peter denied that he knew him. Pilate’s wife warned him not to get involved, but again the crowd ruled and Pilate listened to the crowd call out *“Crucify Him!”*

What does this all have to do with us and Christmas in this time of celebration as we wait for our Lord and celebrate his birth on earth? Angels told the shepherds and they ran to Bethlehem, but how many really believed. We don’t know, but I think I would have been one of the skeptics.

We sing about the town of Bethlehem each year, but do we really believe? As we sing, we say so much. I have sung some of the lines we sing without really stopping to think what they mean. If we think about the town of Bethlehem and the people. Did they really believe. If they didn’t, how can we expect people to believe that never had a chance to see the birth of the King in Bethlehem. Do we really want him to come as we sing? Is He here?



Prayer: God, we so often don’t stop to realize the suffering you did for us. And we accept that you came to this earth so that someday we may be able to be with you. Help us to stop and talk with you and listen to your love story. Amen

1. Why did Jesus have to be called King? Wasn’t Messiah good enough?
2. What does praise from children tell us? Today, children still praise people, Why? What do they see?
3. We know that David said Christ would be falsely accused, and Isaiah said he would be silent when he was accused. I wonder why David had to prophesy this so many years before Christ was born.
4. Are we ever falsely accused? Is silence sometimes the best way to handle it?
5. The Acronym WWJD was first promoted by a minister in Topeka, KS in 1886. Today it still make us stop and think. What should we do?

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Prophecies in this devotional are recorded as fulfilled in Hebrews, Matthew, Mark, and Luke.