

## The Greatest Story (Part 36):

The Coming King

**Zechariah & Malachi**

Memory Verses: *Malachi 3:2*

## MANUSCRIPT

### Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

In the beginning God created the world and all of humanity; full of his glory and perfect. But almost immediately humanity would betray God and would be separated from his glory. **Genesis 3:15** tells us that all hope is not lost though. One day a King will arise, a child born of a woman, and he will crush the evil one and make all things right. The Old Testament is essentially the story of God's attempt to restore humanity to this glory through a covenant people and this coming King.

Every week since the first week of this year, 35 sermons, we've been talking about this coming King. For over 170 Facebook live daily devotionals I've been speaking about this coming King. For 251 days, today is the 251<sup>st</sup>, we've been reading through the Old Testament and almost every chapter speaks in some way to the fulfillment of God's promise to send us this coming King.

So as we come to the last two books of the Old Testament and our last sermon this year in the Old Testament, it should not come as any surprise as to our topic. If there is anything that the prophets Zechariah & Malachi needed to share with the Israelites it was this... do not lose hope; the King is coming!

Go ahead and turn over with me to Zechariah. This morning we are going to be skipping through these two books rather quickly looking to see what evidence they share to prove to us that all of the promises of this coming King are still legitimate.

Here's what you need to know. For those who have trouble keeping up with the chronological timeline; The Israelites have been exiled in Babylon for 70 years. The line of Davidic kings has been broken and now they are ruled by foreign Kings and provincial governors. Here in Zechariah the Israelites are about to go back to Jerusalem led by Zerubbabel. It was Zerubbabel's job to lead the efforts to rebuild the temple, Haggai's job to stir Zerubbabel to finish the job, and Nehemiah's job to rebuild the walls. It was Ezra's job as priest and scribe to restore a right worship amongst the nation by re-instituting the sacrificial system, and it was Zechariah & Malachi's job to keep the people's eyes on the prize of the coming king; that even though their current situation found them without a King, one day the King would return to reestablish the throne of David and fulfill the covenants of God. Their motto was

predominantly – the King is Coming; the King is Coming.

And why was that? Why was keeping the people's eyes and minds focused on the coming king, so important during this time in redemptive history? Because as they re-built the temple and the walls the temptation would be to put their trust in a building and a place. As they re-established the sacrificial system the temptation would be to place all of their trust in sacrifices, festivals, and religious ceremonies. But the only thing that truly saved as it truly had for thousands of years and would for thousands more to come was a faith in this coming King!

I think God wants to show us something this morning as we as a Church enter a very critical time in our transition. As we build our new building on our new property we will be tempted to put all of our trust in that building... we must not. As we establish a new name and relaunch as a new church we will be tempted to put all of our trust in our marketing and our new shine... we must not. The only thing that will make us successful as individual believers and as a church moving forward is if we keep our eyes on the Coming King! And so... our reminder today is this... **When Tempted to Focus on Lesser Things... Keep Your Eyes on the Coming King.**

### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing I want us to recognize here that Zechariah and Malachi are showing us is... **The Coming King Will Remove Our Sin**. There are other reasons and things for the coming King to accomplish, but this is by far the most important. Without the remission of the sins of humanity we are doomed. All of the Old Testament saints were putting their faith in the coming king who would take away their sins because if he didn't come there was no hope. Zechariah & Malachi were thus inclined to constantly remind the people that he was indeed coming and that he would take away their sins.

Let's first look to **Ma. 3:1**. We see here that first there is a messenger, a forerunner, who will come and prepare the way for the Lord; here described as the Messenger of the Covenant. We know that messenger to be John the Baptist who heralded in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Next in **Ze. 9:9** we see the king will come filled with righteousness and having salvation. He will be humble and riding on a donkey, a symbol of his humility. The king when he first comes, will not be a conquering king but a humble king... he will win his followers not through his might but through his meekness. Of course this prophecy comes to fruition in **Mt 21:1-11** where we see Jesus enter into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday riding on a donkey.

Now turn over to **Ze. 11:12-13** where we see that the king will be betrayed by those he loved for a price of 30 pieces of silver. To the hearers

of this prophecy this must have sounded confusing. How can the King bring salvation if he is betrayed and captured? How can he save those who do not want to be saved and sell him out for 30 pieces of silver? Interestingly enough this is the same reaction that the disciples had when this actually happened in [Mt 26:15](#) where Judas betrays Christ for 30 pieces of silver.

But this was all part of the plan. The servant must be captured and more... so that God could accomplish his plan through him. Turn over to a very important passage in [Ze 3:8-9](#). Here we see the coming king referred to as the servant branch. As a branch he brings life to all that are attached to him. He is a branch and a stone. As a stone he is ascribed as having 7 eyes. Eyes which symbolize his wisdom and 7 which symbolizes perfection. He has perfect wisdom. And this stone is engraved. Many theologian believe this refers to the afflictions pf the savior and the marks which were made in his flesh. And get this... through these afflictions the iniquities of the world would be removed in a single day. On the day that this king would be afflicted we would be saved. You see he had to be captured, and beaten for us... by the wounds of the perfect and wise servant branch we are healed.

[Ze. 13:7](#) says that not only would this king be captured, and beaten... but he would have to be killed as well. He will be slain and the sheep will scatter. His death would cause his disciples to go on the run for a while. In fact this prophecy was again referenced by by Christ himself at the last supper in [Mt 26:31](#).

Why did he have to be captured, beaten, and killed? Look at [Ze. 13:1](#). The blood that he shed through his death would become a fountain of salvation for the whole world. He had to die so that we could live.

And just incase some would be left wondering... so the king will die and through his death we will be saved... through osmosis... how exactly does this work? Well... I'm glad you asked. Turn to [Ze. 12:10](#) which tells us clearly that we receive this salvation through grace, mercy, and repentance. Through the grace and mercy of God we place our faith in this atoning sacrifice and then we repent of our sinful lifestyle and make this King the Lord of our lives. You must believe and repent.

So as you can clearly see... Zechariah and Malachi show us that **All of redemptive, history prior to and after, points to the death and resurrection of the king of kings for the remission of our sins**... and that if you would only believe and repent you can be saved. This is what it's all about... there is no need to focus on anything else. Buildings, programs, property and marketing all pale in comparison to this one message... this is the Gospel. So... **When Tempted to Focus on Lesser Things... Keep Your Eyes on the Coming King.**

The next thing that these prophets show us is.... **The Coming**

**King Will Rear The Church**. Even 500 years before this King would come, these prophets are concerned that we don't miss a very important part of the plan. Yes, the focus is the Gospel of the death and resurrection of Christ for our sins. But, accomplishing the plan to see the whole world come to Christ could not be done without the vehicle of the church. So many people in today's culture think that they can be a Christian without being a part of the church. This is not only non-biblical, but it is a horrible plan.

Look at [Ze. 6:12-13](#) the branch who would be afflicted would also be the branch who would build the temple. Not the physical building but the spiritual temple of the body of believers. [1 Cor 3:16-17](#) and [1 Peter 2:5](#) both attest to this. The Church is the temple and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. And get this in [Ze. 6:13](#)... it is through the church he will bear honor and glory. The church is the avenue through which the world will come to this King. It is a huge responsibility that we be a holy and acceptable temple to the world for this King. **The Church exists for one reason... to shine a light on the Glory of Christ**. So our chief focus is the glory of this King... but in order to accomplish that we must also focus on the church as a means to bring him glory. God is not building a building... he is building a body! So... don't focus on the building... but the body! **When Tempted to Focus on Lesser Things... Keep Your Eyes on the Coming King.**

Now... we shift a little. As I've said before, when looking at prophetic literature we must understand that there are current and future applications. So far the application has been attributed to the first coming of this king. But Zechariah and Malachi also prophecy to a second coming of this king and we must pay just as close attention to this second coming. We have already seen his first coming... but we are still anticipating the second coming of this coming king.

So I want you to see here that... **The Coming King Will Refine the World**. Look to [Ma. 3:2-3](#). Here we see that on (the day of his coming) he will cause some to stand and others to fall. Just as I said a couple weeks ago, anytime we see, "the day" used by the prophets it refers to the second coming of the King. And here we see that on that day he will bring judgement to all humanity. He will cleanse the world like soap and he will refine the world like silver.

Turn over to [Ma. 4:1-3](#) on (the day that is coming) the Lord will be a consuming fire that will burn the evil and redeem the righteous. He will cleanse the world and refine the world judging the evil and the righteous. The evil will be swept away in holy fire and the righteous will be blessed with heavenly glory.

Be assured... there is still coming a day of judgement. Are you ready for that day? If your eyes are fixated on the King you have nothing to worry about... but if your eyes have fallen from the King and have focused on

lesser things then you may need to readjust your focus. Everything depends upon us keeping our eyes on Christ as we await his second coming. **When Tempted to Focus on Lesser Things... Keep Your Eyes on the Coming King.**

Lastly, **The Coming King Will Restore Paradise**. Turn again to **Ze 3:10**. The servant branch (in that day) will create a utopian society of peace where everyone will invite everyone to fellowship together in peace and love. The lion will lay down with the lamb, swords will be turned into pruning hooks... it will be the end of violence and war for all time.

What was lost in the garden will once again be restored and the King will reign over it all. Look lastly at **Ze. 6:13**. This king will sit on the throne as priest and king. There is only one priest king... there is only one who can judge our sins and rule over us as Lord... and one day he will rest on his throne. This King has Come to Justify us through faith in his death and resurrection. This King has ascended and now sits at the right hand of the Father to Sanctify us. One day he is coming again to complete his Covenant work and Glorify Us. What a day that will be. **We were justified, are being sanctified, and will be glorified all through the works of the coming King.** So don't focus on the trials and struggles of this world... they are lesser things. Rather keep your eyes on the prize. **When Tempted to Focus on Lesser Things... Keep Your Eyes on the Coming King.**

### **Application (Resolution, You)**

Get this this morning... The King is still Coming... he's coming again... but this time He will not come riding a donkey he will come riding a white stallion. He will not be alone and rejected, he will have the hoards of heaven at his side. He will not be clothed in swaddling linens but he will be robed in white, crowned in glory. And he will not be crucified... he will conquer the world.

Zechariah and Malachi anticipated the coming king and his second coming... their eyes were focused on the only thing that mattered, and they knew that faith in the coming king was the only thing that could save. So... who or what are you placing your trust in today? If possessions they will crumble, if power or pleasure it will fade, these are lesser things. Stop and refocus... **When Tempted to Focus on Lesser Things... Keep Your Eyes on the Coming King.**

Who or what is our church placing our trust in? If a building it will crumble. If new publicity it will fade. These are lesser things. **When Tempted to Focus on Lesser Things... Keep Your Eyes on the Coming King.**

### **Conclusion**

So.... **Are you prepared for the coming King by accepting the King who has already come?** Today is the day of salvation. Simply place your faith in the king who has already come, died, and rose again for your sinfulness. Repent of your sins and turn to him. Stop focusing on lesser things and turn all of your attention to Christ. And then one day when he comes again you will reign beside him in Glory forever and ever. **When Tempted to Focus on Lesser Things... Keep Your Eyes on the Coming King.**