

Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion!

‡ **Your King comes!** (v.9)

‡ **His peace is proclaimed...** (v.10)

In the name of Jesus Christ the LORD, dear **Daughter of Zion**:

Few things in life can make a man more angry than someone mistreating his daughter. Years ago one elderly Christian was incensed at his former son-in-law to the point of seeking revenge. Any man can easily understand if it happens to your daughter. We have to be careful with our emotions. But when God feels anger at the mistreatment of His **Daughter**, watch out. God is holy. God is almighty. And you're in trouble if He's looking at you when *this is what the LORD Almighty says: "I am very jealous for Zion; I am burning with jealousy for her."* (Zechariah 8:2 NIV84)

But since you are His **Daughter** by faith in Jesus, what if you had been mistreated for many years, far from home in a foreign land? How would you feel to hear God was coming to help you and bring you home again? So it was for the nation of Israel. God's chosen people had rebelled against Him. They stopped going to church. They stopped giving their offerings. They stopped praying to God and trusted their money, their power, their earthly rulers. Looking back was nothing but sadness and heartache.

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Suddenly, in the LORD's good time comes mercy and grace: *"This is what the LORD says: 'I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain....I will save my people....I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God.'*" (8:3,7f) **Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Your King comes!**

You might wish for a better time on earth – more wealth, better health – what else is new in the human spirit? But God has something better for you to outlast a stock market crash, to survive the ravages of cancer. To His **Daughter** God has this to give: *"As you have been an object of cursing among the nations, O Judah and Israel, so will I save you, and you will be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong....I have determined to do good again to Jerusalem and Judah. Do not be afraid....Therefore love truth and peace."* (8:13,15,19) **O Daughter of Zion, Your King comes!**

You rebelled against your Father. You would not listen. You finally ran away. Your whole life fell apart until you had to go back and admit your guilt. But when you came home, you did not find your Father angry. You saw His eyes well up with tears of joy to have you back and hold you close in His arms. You tried to explain, but no need. He was happy to have you home. Now you want to tell all your friends so they can meet Him too. *"Let us go at once to entreat the LORD and seek the LORD Almighty. I myself am going." And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the LORD Almighty and to entreat him.* (8:21f) **Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Your King comes!**

All around you is anger – angry people at work, teachers upset, classmates complaining, mom and dad arguing, brothers and sisters fighting. Such was the strife surrounding Israel, with enemies that wanted her dead, destroyed, gone. But God's Word turns enemies into friends, restores families, and make allies of former foes. God disciplined the surrounding nations that harmed His **Daughter of Zion**. But He kept some alive to bring them to faith in the God of Israel. *"Those who are left will belong to our God and become leaders in Judah...."* (9:7) Many non-Jews serve God's people today.

“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

Bible critics mock and say, “Other kings rode donkeys instead of horses.” God’s **Daughter** answers politely, “Good sir, won’t you learn to read? This was not a riding animal. This was an unbroken colt on which no one had ever ridden (Mark 11:2; Luke 19:30) with mother beside, both gentle for my kind and gentle Creator and King. You want to stay in sadness, in darkness, death and gloom. But God my Father calls me to **rejoice greatly** because my Lord and King is coming with **righteousness** to give me a right relationship with God. Jesus is bringing what His name means, **salvation** full and free, that I might be saved from sin, death and hell. What of all your theories and academic degrees can save a single soul from death? I rejoice to see my King ride on in majesty to die.”

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Multitudes of men and their daughters would have settled for an earthly peace. They wanted no more than worldly wealth, pomp and power. The crowds that went ahead and those that followed shouting, “Hosanna!” seemed to see no more than an earthly king to free them from hunger by making bread and from the occupying Roman army by His power. Such were the earthly dreams even of Jesus’ own disciples hearing the LORD say through His prophet: ***“I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. 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.”***

That is the earth from which man was taken and with which he was cursed because of Adam’s sin. God said, ***“Dust you are and to dust you will return.”*** (Genesis 3:19 NIV84) To dust went the body of the rich man whose unbelief prevented him from helping poor Lazarus at his gate. But the rich man’s soul woke up in hell. In that fire he could not find a single drop of water to cool the tip of his tongue. From such an end Christ came as King to save us one and all. In the verse right after our text He tells it clear and plain to the **Daughter of Zion**: ***“As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.”*** (9:11) Ride on, ride on in majesty to die.

Before He dies, Jesus will say to His disciples: ***“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*** (John 14:27 NIV84) He will break the bread and by His Word give it to them with His body. He will drink the cup and by the power of His Word give it to them with His blood, His blood of the covenant poured out for the forgiveness of sins, with life everlasting and His holy peace to surpass all understanding.

We sing our glad Hosanna’s today because Jesus knew why He came to suffer. He was determined to die and rise again as God promised. Will you sit at His table this Thursday and listen to His mandate that we love one another as He has loved us? Will you be there on Good Friday to see Him pour out His life blood for you? Will you come early to see the tomb is empty on the great day of our Easter triumph? Do you know anyone sad and lonely who really needs to hear God’s call to holy joy?

“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest!”

(Matthew 21:9 NIV84)

The **Daughter of Zion** cries, “Yes! It is so! Amen! and Amen!”