

Sermon Series: Hope Secured in These Crisis Times

April 5, 2020

Sermon Title: Hope Rides on a Donkey

Today's Scripture: See insert

Introduction: Hope crushers today: 1) Economy crashing, 2) Corona virus spreading, 3) Possible civil unrest with troops being called up, 3) Powers that pull strings behind the government that some call conspiracy including Bill Gates and others like him that want to eliminate mass portions of humanity . . .

Context: In Israel's day they faced enormous threats to their lives just like we are facing today. If the tiny remnant that was left after the exile and return from Babylon was going to survive, if there was going to be any hope at all for their tiny little nation they somehow had escape the clutches of Alexander the Great. They knew he was a tyrant. Murdering the men of the cities he captured, then taking away the women and children to serve as slaves in a foreign land. This king was on his way to Israel. Read verses 1-8

Share Josephus's account of Alexander's entrance into Jerusalem (attached)

Main point: Our King is Victorious Over All.

Scripture: Zechariah 9:9–10

[9] Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. [10] I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. (ESV)

1. We are commanded to rejoice. *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!*
 - Cooped up in their homes and ours is no reason not to sing songs of rejoicing.
 - The daughter of Zion refers to the inhabitants and future descendants of Israel, Zion being another name for Jerusalem. The word daughter implies being the recipient of a father's dearest and most protective love.
 - Can we take this promise as our own? No. Because her King had already come on Palm Sunday. But the salvation he brought with him is now applied universally to every believer on planet earth.
 -
2. Because Christ came (and is coming again) for his bride. *your king is coming to (for) you;*
 - Coming to implies only approach, which is welcome enough. But the Hebrew word implies coming for. It was to Israel's benefit that Jesus came for her and the same applies to us as His bride.

- In order to appreciate that arrival we need to focus on our need of a rescue. Sin trapped us and held us in bondage. Lust, murderous thoughts, anger, pride, cruelty, vindictiveness, selfishness, all of the above and more kept us in its chains. As Israel was kept in the bondage of Babylonian, then Persian captivity and eventually Roman conquest, they were anxiously awaiting their King's arrival to set them free.
- We pay a lot in taxes, but nothing compared to the Israelites who could barely survive the tax collector's demands. Think how they must have hungered for their Messiah to free them from their burdens.
- Much in the same way we too are taxed by our sins. Every idol you have demands time, money and affection, some of it taken away from your family and some from the Lord your God. Wouldn't you rather be free of those idols who own you even now when you discovered the power of the chain-breaking gospel?
-

3. Our coming King is a Just ruler. *righteous and having salvation is he*

- The word righteous can and ought to be translated "just".
- I bet you are extremely anxious for our King to be the just leader ruling over all the earth. I am fed up with senators who cash in and make millions by hearing a classified report about the coming Corona virus and sell their stock in transportation and hotels making millions. Way to go Mr. corrupt Senator Burr and others.
- We also receive reports about the horrible child sex trafficking going on all over the world. I can't wait for the King to bring justice to those children for all the suffering they have gone through.
- But as we pause just long enough to consider our own anger at these low-life's and scum of the earth, shouldn't we also be thinking about our own justification. How is it that our sins have been paid in full by the just King?
-

4. And, He is bringing salvation with him. *righteous and having salvation is he*

- For Israel this meant an overthrow of the powers over them. That's why they were so confused but they shouldn't have been. John the Baptist made it very clear that Jesus' first coming was all about bringing spiritual salvation from our sins.
 - This he heard from his father Zechariah - *Luke 1:[77] to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, (ESV)*
- This all happened at the cross. Here's the gospel again. We need to repeat it often. The only way to heaven is on your knees of repentance. I had to cancel Good Friday Services this year because our national situation, but that does not mean that you can't take some time this Friday between 11:30 and 1:00 to meditate, worship pray and listen to songs to think about all that happened that Friday (actually Thursday).
- Almost every non-believer thinks to himself that they are good enough to get into heaven because they are not monsters. They are not child molesters, or murderers, or sex traffickers. This is because they have believed that God is a God of Love and wouldn't send anyone to hell who didn't truly deserve it. Right? Every sin is heinous no

matter how small. Every act of unforgiveness is an affront to the God who forgave us so freely and undeservedly.

5. He came in peace. *humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*
 - With all the power of the universe at his disposal this amazing King of ours came peaceably to His people. He did not force them to believe or receive Him. That would not be true devotion. He was intent on capturing hearts not forcing surrenders.
 - Roman emperors would come into a conquered nation on war horses. This entrance was the total opposite. He was displaying his plunder in gold and silver and human bodies. He was coming as a lamb along with the several hundred thousand lambs that were entering the city that day, all of them to be used as Passover sacrificial lambs.
 - When Jesus called you, did he threaten, you? Did he say, if you refuse me I'm sending you directly to hell? He wooed you. He spoke softly to you. He charmed you with his love and grace and that's how the Holy Spirit brought you into the Kingdom.
 - And that is how we approach others as we invite them to join us in this victory parade with Jesus.
 -
6. He came as the Lord of all creation. *on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*
 - Here's a donkey that has never been ridden on before. All of you who know horses know you don't just walk up to an unbroken horse or donkey and think you are going to casually mount it for a gentle ride. I don't need to show you a Youtube video of that happening for you to know it is true.
 - Only an unriden donkey that had never been put to work was fit for the Messiah. Animals that were to be used for spiritual purposes had to be without blemish and never ridden. **Numbers 19:2 "This is the statute of the law that the LORD has commanded: Tell the people of Israel to bring you a red heifer without defect, in which there is no blemish, and on which a yoke has never come. (ESV)**
7. He reigns now and will reign on earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. . **[10] I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. (ESV)**
 - When Jesus comes again towards the end of the Great Tribulation, yes, you will likely go through it with his protection and power, but you will still go through it, He will disarm all nations including Israel. There will be no more need for F-15's F-16's F-35s flying over the nation. No more need for tanks and in reality Jesus will de-nuclearize the tiny nation. Why? Because he is going to do it to all the enemies of Israel.
 - Whoever is left at the end of the Tribulation when Jesus comes on his white stallion, all he has to do to the generals is say, lay down your weapons. The answer will be "Yes Sir!"
 - He will reign in absolute power across the globe. There will be no village or hamlet on the face of the earth that will be without his commanding presence and that will be those who come with him in power. Are you one of those?

Application

Where does the Corona virus fall in my list of threats against us as individuals?

Here's my list:

1. Loss of religious and civil freedoms curbing our ability to meet and witness. (A pastor friend in Crosby told me a member of his church was stopped by police after shopping at Menards and was asked if his trip was essential).
 2. Loss of income for all as the economy crashes leading to hardships of
 3. Loss of nutrition and healthcare, shelter
 4. Loss of our Republic if global masters get their way and shred our constitution like it is being walked on now.
 5. Loss of our way of life and country if the coalition of Muslims, Marxists and LGBTQ forces succeed in taking over our country.
 6. Loss of American lives if China attempts to go to war with us and now is the perfect time.
 7. Loss of many sister churches as they breathe the Marxist socialist air of social justice and seeing them lose the gospel in the process.
108. Getting sick with the corona flu.

Is Jesus Lord over all 7 and on down to number 108? Then if he is let's live it in front of our neighbors and friends.