

ZECHARIAH 9:9

WE MUST HAVE HOPE

Presently, over 1 million people throughout the world have been infected with COVID-19. A pandemic such as this has not been witnessed since the Spanish Flu of 1918-1920. Our medicine is better, our technology more advanced, and our national infrastructure stronger than it was in the early 20th century. And yet with all these strengths, we as fallen humans still fear something we cannot see. That is why, at this moment, we should look back to the Scriptures and find HOPE.

1) What is Hope?

a) 1 Corinthians 13:13: Faith, _____, & Love. Of course love is the greatest, but faith and hope are joined with love.

b) Greek word Elpis: To have a certain expectation, a trust, and a confidence. Derived from the Greek word elpo which means “to anticipate, to welcome”.

c) Examples of Hope: Paul writes about hope a great deal, but popular cultural provides an allegory of hope: *The Shawshank Redemption*. Andy Dufresne, “Red”, and Brooks Hadlin?

d) Brooks lost _____, Andy had _____, Red gained _____

2) What does Hope and *The Shawshank Redemption* have to do with Palm Sunday and Zechariah?

a) The Jews were imprisoned by the Babylonians until freed by King Cyrus

b) During the exile the Jews were hopeful they would be returned.

c) Once home they looked back to the prophecies of Ezekiel and Jeremiah but became despondent that the temple when the temple was not rebuilt. Then, Zechariah came along.

3) A Message of Hope in Dark Days

a) Who was Zechariah?

b) Zechariah spoke of a _____ coming to save the Jews

c) He would arrive on a _____

d) He would be full of _____ and _____

Conclusion:

With faith in God and bolstered by Zechariah's prophecy, the Jews persisted. Not all would keep the faith, but some would. Then 550 years later the prophecy would be fulfilled. Not just for the Jews, but for all nations.