

# GOD'S PEOPLE LONG FOR A KING

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: LIVING IN COMMUNITY  
SERIES: GOD'S PEOPLE ARE THE CHURCH

## BIG TRUTH: GOD'S PEOPLE LONG FOR A KING

1 Samuel 8:1-9; Exodus 2:23; Ezekiel 34:12; Deuteronomy 17:14; 2 Samuel 7:12; Psalm 2:10-12; 110:5

## BIBLE VERSE: ZECHARIAH 9:9-10

*"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. 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."*

## BIG IDEAS

- The desire and need for a rescuer is woven into the human heart.
- God's people are tempted to look to men instead of Him for help.
- Throughout Scripture, the hope of God's people is the promised king, a son of David.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: ZECHARIAH 9:9-17

## UNITE: LIVING IN COMMUNITY

The Unite year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are brought into the family of God- seen throughout the Old Testament as "God's People" and in the New Testament and today as the church (Exodus 6:7; Colossians 1:18). We are set free from our sin to walk in freedom in Christ (Galatians 5:1) and use our influence to call others to do the same.

## SERIES AIMS



### Every student should know...

- God has always been making and keeping a people for Himself
- In this age, the church is God's people
- Being a part of God's people should inform every aspect of our lives



### Every student should strive to...

- Study the connections between God's people in the Old Testament
- and the church in the New Testament
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Invite others into God's people, the church



### Every student should feel...

- Love for God and the people of God
- Accountable to God and to the church to pursue holiness
- Responsible to use their influence to make much of God alone



### Every student should want...

- Be marked by their faith
- Talk about God every day, in every setting and circle of influence
- Live as a faithful member of their local church

## GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



Property of Tri-Cities Baptist Church  
171 Promise Land Dr. Gray, TN 37615

**BIBLE VERSE: ZECHARIAH 9:9-10**

*"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. 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."*

**God's people have a King who is coming.**

*"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."*

- The prophet Zechariah foretold of the coming of a king to rescue his people. This prophecy was to tell of the coming of the Messiah, God's promised salvation to mankind. The Messiah, God's Son, is the one true King who was coming to ancient Israel. God's people were expecting a king to come and rescue them from their oppressors. They were looking for someone to come and set them free from the rule and reign of the earthly men who lorded over them.
- God's people today have a king who is coming. Jesus is returning to His people, and God's people trust in and wait for His return. It is in His return that our hope lies for a new heaven and new earth in which we will spend our eternity.

**God's people long for that King.**

*"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."*

- The ancient Israelites longed for the promised king who would bring justice and peace to them. They longed for the one who would free them from the oppression of living under the rule of foreign kings. Their promised king would provide them with the freedom to freely worship the one true God.
- God's people today long for Jesus' return because He is the true Ruler of all things. They long for His return to set right all the wrong that sin has caused in this world. They long for His rule and reign to be established so that His glory might be known in all the world, and they might be free to live fully for Him as He designed.

**God's people rejoice at His coming.**

*"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!"*

- The news that God was sending a King to the Israelites would have produced rejoicing. This news is good news because God was sending salvation.
- God's people today rejoice that Jesus, the true King, is returning one day. He will make all things new and gather His people to Himself for all of eternity.

**BIG IDEA #1: THE DESIRE AND NEED FOR A RESCUER IS WOVEN INTO THE HUMAN HEART.<sup>1</sup>****[ THIS ]**

In Exodus 2:23-24, the people of Israel suffered greatly under the rule of Egypt. The Egyptian king enslaved them and treated them terribly. These two verses in Exodus show us that in their despair, they cried out to God. In their hearts was written the need for rescue and salvation from their circumstances. They cried out to the one true God, the only one who could save them from their bondage. In these verses, we read that God heard them and He saw them, and He knew. He knew their condition even better than they did. He understood that they did need rescuing from their immediate physical condition of bondage, but He also knew they needed spiritual rescue. When God set the Israelites free from Egypt, He didn't just remove them from their slavery, He called them to Himself as His people and promised them a greater salvation and freedom that would last for all eternity.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Read Exodus 2:23-24 again. How do these verses help you see that God knows what we need?**

In these verses, God knows the Israelites' situation and their circumstances. He understands and knows what they need because He is their Creator. Isaiah 64:8 and Jeremiah 10:12 help us understand the significance of God as Creator. Because He is the Creator, He alone knows us and understands what we need.

**[ THIS ]**

Not only does all of mankind need to be rescued from their physical circumstances, but they also need to be rescued from their spiritual circumstances. When God promised the coming King in Zechariah 9:9-17, He promised a Redeemer who would rescue the nation of Israel, but also a Redeemer who would rescue all of mankind. Inside of every person is the need for rescue because of our sinfulness. We all have a sin nature that leaves us separated from God. God is our Creator and because we are separated from Him, we are left empty and in need of rescue from our current spiritual emptiness. God knows this and promises to send His Son as our Savior. When Jesus came, He was the fulfillment of this promise. God's people today long for the return of Jesus as their rightful King. He reigns now as the King of their hearts and they long for the day He returns and rules as the rightful King over all things.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**How does our spiritual debt leave us needing to be rescued?**

We need rescue because we cannot save ourselves. Ephesians 2:8 and Titus 3:5 teach us that all are in need of salvation, and none can save themselves because salvation is given only through faith alone. We are not saved by our works but by faith in the work that Jesus does.

**What behaviors in your life have revealed your own desire for a rescuer?**

1 John 3:4 teaches us that prior to knowing Christ, our lives reveal our sinfulness. These sinful behaviors show that we are in need of rescue from our sin debt and from ourselves. Romans 3:23-25 reminds us that we all have fallen short of God's glory and righteousness. None of us can make ourselves right before Him. This means that we are all in need of His salvation. Our pursuit of worldly things reveals this.

1. Psalm 22:5: *The need for rescue is written deep within every person because of our sin debt. Every person is in need of being filled with something that rescues them from their current condition. God is that something.*

**BIG IDEA #2: GOD'S PEOPLE ARE TEMPTED TO LOOK TO MEN INSTEAD OF HIM FOR HELP.<sup>2</sup>****[ THIS ]**

In 1 Samuel 8:1-9, the Israelites make the mistake of demanding an earthly king instead of trusting in God as their King. The Israelites had experienced the wicked judgment of Samuel's sons who were not righteous or good judges, and so they justified their request for a human king. His sons took bribes and perverted justice. Because of their sinful actions, the Israelites desired a better ruler. Instead of turning to God whose justice is perfect and judgement is always right and true, they insisted on an earthly king to rule them. They insisted on the tangible, someone who could be physically seen and heard, instead of trusting in the one true God. This desire to look to other people for help is a temptation to us all.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**How does fear and a lack of trust lead us to look to men for help instead of looking to God?**

Fear and a failure to trust God lead us to look to ourselves or others to help us in our times of trouble. Proverbs 29:25 and Hebrews 13:6 help us understand that we do not have to fear man or man's approval. Instead, we can trust God as our rescuer and help.

**[ THIS ]**

Just as the Israelites desired an earthly person to lead them rather than trusting God to lead them, people today may lean more heavily upon their pastors, church leaders, and friends. Though these people can offer support and help, a believer's ultimate source of help and hope is found in God. Other times, people are tempted to look to themselves or the world for help, seeking to find solutions for their issues in the same ways and places that nonbelievers find them. This only leads them to make choices and decisions that are not aligned with God's will and lead them to befriend a fallen and broken world. God's people turn to Him as their only source of wisdom and help.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Read James 4:1-4. How has the truth of these verses been true in some of the relationships and choices that you have made?**

In James' letter to the displaced believers, he reminds them that aligning their hearts and minds with the world is in direct opposition to following Jesus. When we look to the world for truth or reason, we are turning away from God's truth. When we choose to seek comfort and understanding in the world instead of from God's Word, we are choosing to look to men for help instead of God.

**What are some daily habits you can incorporate to help you turn to God's Word and prayer for help instead of men?**

When we order our lives to allow us time to read God's Word and pray, we will turn to Him for help instead of others. God promises we will find Him when we seek Him as we see in Psalm 14:2, 9:10, and Luke 11:9-10.

**How should we balance seeking counsel from others with only trusting in the Lord for help?**

Proverbs 11:14 speaks to the importance of allowing others to speak truth into our lives and seeking godly counsel. However, we must always weigh their advice against Scripture. Trusting in God and leaning upon the wisdom found in His Word is the greatest foundation for a person's life.

2. 1 Samuel 8:4: The Israelites sought help and rescue from an earthly king. We also seek help and rescue from earthly things instead of seeking God.

**BIG IDEA #3: THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE, THE HOPE OF GOD'S PEOPLE IS THE PROMISED KING, A SON OF DAVID.<sup>3</sup>****[ THIS ]**

In Zechariah 9:9-17, the hope presented is that God would rescue His people from their oppressors. Throughout the Old Testament, the history of God's people reveals that God is their rescuer and the One who redeems them from the nations who oppose and enslave them. The picture that is painted in their history is that God is the redeemer of His people. It points to the hope that is in God's people for the promised Messiah. This hope is in every person. God's people long for their King. The Israelites struggled against nation after nation and even more so against themselves. Their hearts would wander away from God and their disobedience would lead them into desperate situations. It was in these moments that God's promise of a king would rise up and they would long for the son of David promised to them so long ago.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**What are some distractions in your own life that lead you to wander away from complete obedience to God?**

When we turn our eyes away from God and His purposes, we are prone to wander from Him, and this leads us to disobey. What keeps us focused on the hope we have in Him is our obedience to Him. 1 Samuel 15:22, Luke 6:46, and James 1:22 help us understand this truth.

**[ THIS ]**

When God spoke through His chosen prophets to foretell the coming of the Messiah, He promised that the king would be a son of David. This meant that the Messiah would come through the line of King David. When God sent His Son to the earth to take on flesh and become like man, Jesus was born into the line of King David, fulfilling God's promise and prophecy. This fulfillment is part of the hope that all people can have in God's Word. What God says He will do, He does. When God promises, He fulfills His promises. After Jesus' birth, death, resurrection, and ascension, the hope of God's people is still placed in the return of a son of David—Jesus, the one true King. New Testament Christians hope in the return of Jesus and the new heaven and earth that He will bring. This restoration is our eternity where Jesus will reign as our King. This is the hope we all cling to.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**How does the hope of Jesus' return give you joy today?**

In 1 John 2:28, Revelation 1:7, and Titus 2:13 we see the truth that Jesus is returning. This promise should give us joy today as we live our lives for Christ because we can know that God's promises are true. Our hope is in our king who will come again to make all things new.

**What makes it challenging to hope in the coming of the one true King?**

It is often a challenge to remain focused on Jesus' return because of the distractions of this life. Matthew 16:27 and 24:42-44 remind us that we all must remain awake and focused on our relationship with Jesus to be ready and prepared for the return of the King.

3. Matthew 12:23: Jesus is from the line of David and the promised son of David who would save the world from its sin.