

zechariah | a lenten reading

On that day a fountain will be opened for the dynasty of David and for the people of Jerusalem, a fountain to cleanse them from all their sins and impurity.

On that day even the harness bells of the horses will be inscribed with these words: HOLY TO THE LORD. And the cooking pots in the Temple of the Lord will be as sacred as the basins used beside the altar. In fact, every cooking pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the Lord of Heaven's Armies. All who come to worship will be free to use any of these pots to boil their sacrifices. And on that day there will no longer be traders in the Temple of the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

Rejoice, O people of Zion!

Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem!

Look, your king is coming to you.

He is righteous and victorious,
yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—
riding on a donkey's colt.

I will remove the battle chariots from Israel
and the warhorses from Jerusalem.

I will destroy all the weapons used in battle,
and your king will bring peace to the nations.

His realm will stretch from sea to sea
and from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth.

Because of the covenant I made with you,
sealed with blood,

I will free your prisoners
from death in a waterless dungeon.

Come back to the place of safety,
all you prisoners who still have hope!

I promise this very day
that I will repay two blessings for each of your troubles.

Judah is my bow,
and Israel is my arrow.

Jerusalem is my sword,
and like a warrior, I will brandish it against the Greeks.

The Lord will appear above his people;
his arrows will fly like lightning!

The Sovereign Lord will sound the ram's horn
and attack like a whirlwind from the southern desert.

The Lord of Heaven's Armies will protect his people,
and they will defeat their enemies by hurling great stones.

They will shout in battle as though drunk with wine.

They will be filled with blood like a bowl,

drenched with blood like the corners of the altar.
On that day the Lord their God will rescue his people,
just as a shepherd rescues his sheep.
They will sparkle in his land
like jewels in a crown.
How wonderful and beautiful they will be!
The young men will thrive on abundant grain,
and the young women will flourish on new wine.