

ZECHARIAH 9:9-13

FROM STRIVING TO ABIDING

Zechariah 9:9-13 – *“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, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. For I have bent Judah as my bow; I have made Ephraim its arrow. I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and wield you like a warrior's sword.”*

Advent – *“a coming into place, view, or being; arrival”*

Because of his advent, Jesus our Savior brings us from striving to abiding.

Strive – *“to exert vigorously, or try hard; to make strenuous efforts toward a goal”*

Jeremiah 2:13 – *“For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”*

Abide – *“to remain, continue, or stay”*

3 Truths About Jesus' Advent:

1. Jesus' rule puts an end to our feeble efforts or attempts for success (v. 10)

Success – *“the favorable or prosperous termination of attempts or endeavors; the accomplishment of one's goals”*

Paul Tripp – *“Independent ability, like independent righteousness, is a delusion.”*

Canon Glenn – *“Striving endeavors to earn God's good graces, achieve God's promises, and fulfill God's vision all in our timing and in strength. Abiding in Christ is holding steady in the presence of Christ, trusting his promises by faith irrespective of the challenges, trials, and tribulations of our lives.”*

2. Jesus' rule speaks peace into the chaos of our condition (v. 10)

John 14:6 – *“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”*

John 10:10 – *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”*

Hudson Taylor – *“To let my loving Savior work in me His will, my sanctification, is what I would live for by His grace. Abiding, not striving nor struggling; looking off unto Him; trusting Him for present power...resting in the love of an almighty Savior, in the joy of a complete salvation.”*

John 15:4-6 – *“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.”*

3. Jesus’ rule is a stronghold of hope for his covenant people (vv. 11-12)

Psalms 18:2 – *“The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”*

Philippians 1:6 – *“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”*

Alexander MacLaren – *“Being in Christ, it is safe to forget the past; it is possible to be sure of the future; it is possible to be diligent in the present.”*

Response:

1. Respond to Jesus’ invitation.
2. Rest in the peace Jesus brings.
3. Worship and Celebrate that Jesus is your stronghold.