

## **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”*

**Matt McCullough** – *“The advent season calls us to savor the sweet promises of the gospel by looking to Christ through our longing for something more.”*

**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 the conventional means of advancement (v. 10)**

**Tim Keller** – *“Sin has caused our affections to stray, propelling us to worship relationships, achievement, and work – everything but God, which will eventually lead us to places of bondage.”*

**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.”*

**Scotty Smith** – *“The Gospel in NOT: Jesus did His part, now you do your part. The Gospel is Jesus in obedience to the Father and in line with the Scriptures did His part, now we are called to trust fully in that part.”*

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

**Romans 5:1** – *“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

**Isaiah 26:3** – *“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.”*

**Philippians 4:6-7** – *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

**John 14:27** – *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”*

**John 16:33** – *“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”*

**Sinclair Ferguson** – *“My security, peace and hope as a Christian does not reside in the strength of my faith but in the indestructibility of my Savior.”*

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

**John 15:1-11** – *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full..”*

### Response:

1. Come to the table and cease striving.