

Large portions of the Old Testament were committed to memory by the people in the time of Jesus' birth. In particular, people were alert to the passages that related to the coming Messiah--the One whose coming would signal great freedom and well-being for God's people.

Because the Jews had come to conclusions about the *nature* and the *means* of their deliverance, they missed the salvation God planned for them. Before we are too critical of those people who "missed it," we should remember how easily we jump to conclusions about what God will do/use for our deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> But I will camp around My house because of an army;  
Because of him who passes by and returns;  
And no oppressor will pass over them anymore  
For now I have seen with My eyes.

One who drives, taxes, tyrannizes

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout *in triumph*, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your king is coming to you;  
He is just and endowed with salvation,  
Humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

(See Jn. 12:12-17 and Ps. 118:22-25)

Open, wide, free; Defend, preserve, rescue, deliver  
Lowly, poor, "down"; Depressed in mind/circumstance

<sup>10</sup> And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim,  
And the horse from Jerusalem;  
And the bow of war will be cut off.  
And He will speak peace to the nations;  
And His dominion will be from sea to sea,  
And from the River to the ends of the earth.

Shalom--safety, wellness, rest, favor, prosperity, wholeness

<sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of *My* covenant with you,  
I have set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

Captives bound, yoked

<sup>12</sup> Return to the stronghold, O prisoners who have the hope;  
This very day I am declaring that I will restore double to you.

Cord--attachment, expectancy

Zech. 9:8-12

1. Why will God encamp around His people? Based on this principle, how might you pray for your life's situation?
2. To where is the King coming? What is true of Him? What is the significance of the manner in which He comes?
3. What is the nature of His dominion? What does He have, and speak?
4. By what means does He set the prisoners free and double our portion?

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