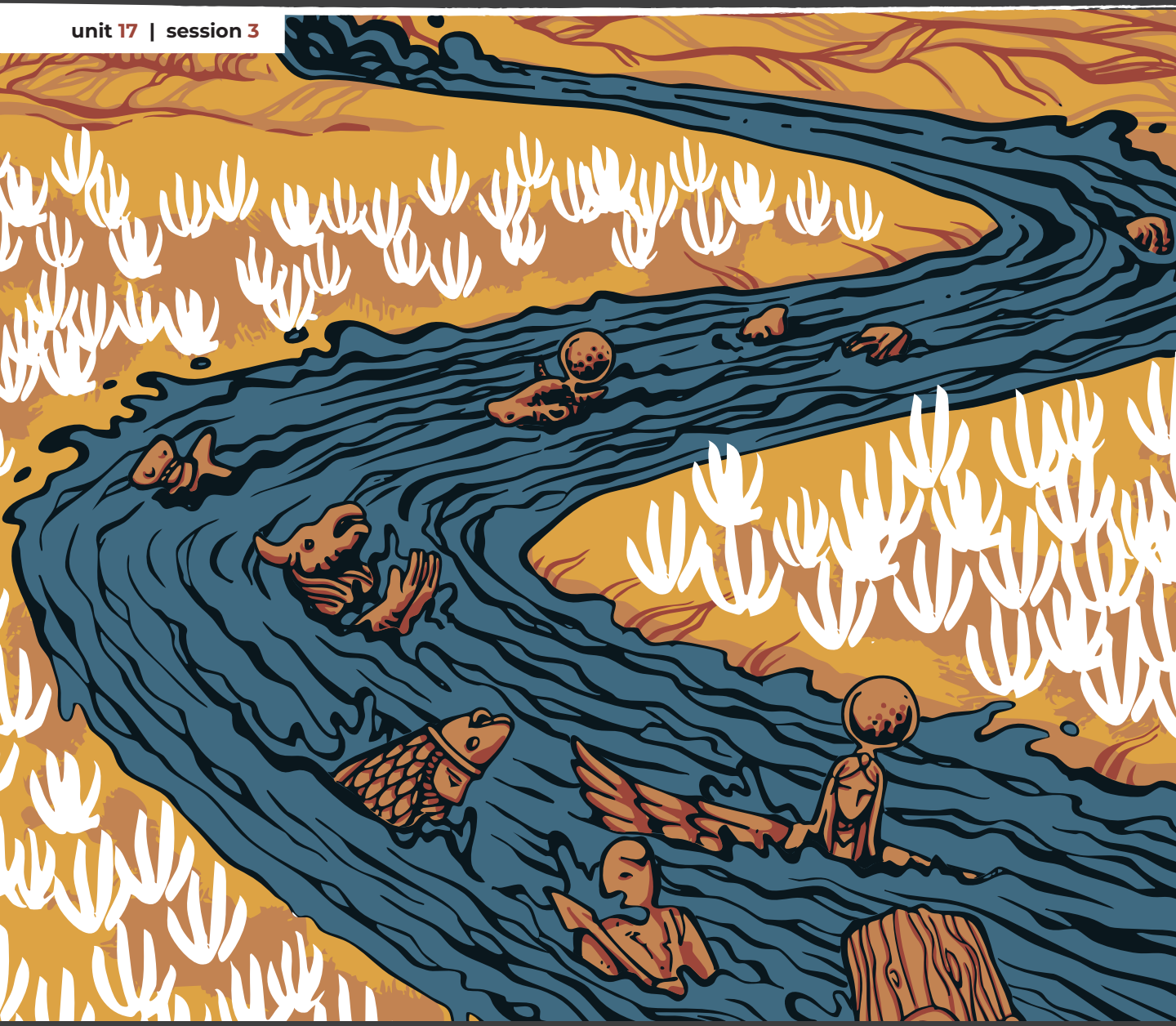
YOUR KING *IS COMING*

unit 17 | session 3



CHRIST CONNECTION

Zechariah prophesied about the Messiah, saying He would be a humble King who would build a new and better kingdom. Jesus is the Messiah King. Those who trust in Him are forgiven of their sin and welcomed into His kingdom.

RESTORED AND REFINED

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

Zechariah

OUR KING IS COMING

ZECHARIAH 9:9-12

9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout in triumph, Daughter Jerusalem! Look, your King is coming to you; he is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. 10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem. The bow of war will be removed, and he will proclaim peace to the nations. His dominion will extend from sea to sea, from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth. 11 As for you, because of the blood of your covenant, I will release your prisoners from the waterless cistern. 12 Return to a stronghold, you prisoners who have hope; today I declare that I will restore double to you.

OUR KING WILL RESTORE US

ZECHARIAH 13:1-2,9

1 "On that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the residents of Jerusalem, to wash away sin and impurity. 2 On that day"—this is the declaration of the LORD of Armies—"I will remove the names of the idols from the land, and they will no longer be remembered. I will banish the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land. . . . 9 I will put this third through the fire; I will refine them as silver is refined and test them as gold is tested. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'"

MAIN POINT.

God calls us to live like His promises are real.

THEOLOGY *CONNECTION*

THE SCRIPTURES

All Scripture is a testimony to Jesus, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

DISCUSSION

OUR KING IS COMING

ZECHARIAH 9:9-12

- **What do you think ancient kings were like? How do they compare with the king in this text?**
- **What causes us to doubt the Bible? Read Matthew 21:1-6. How does this passage help us trust God's Word?**
- **Why do you think God wanted His people to hear about a future king? Why is Zechariah's prophesy helpful for us to hear even now?**

OUR KING WILL RESTORE US

ZECHARIAH 13:1-2,9

- **What did Zechariah say the fountain would do (v. 1)? Who might this Fountain be?**
- **What would it be like to live in a world without distractions leading us away from God?**
- **What does it mean to be refined? Why and how does God refine His people (us)?**

HOW SHOULD BELIEVING GOD'S PROMISES ABOUT HEAVEN AND JUDGMENT AFFECT OUR CHOICES, MINDSETS, AND PRIORITIES NOW?

CULTURAL *CONNECTION*

Think about your relationship with God: When do you grow closer to Him? When do you pull away? Sometimes, we experience spiritual growth during seasons of joy, when life is good; sometimes, we become spiritually lazy and forget to depend on God when life is good. But what about when life hurts? When you walk through painful seasons of heartache, stress, disappointment, sickness, or loss, do you forget what you believe about God—what Scripture teaches about Him? About eternity? If so, you're not alone. Many of us walk through these times as if we have no hope. We focus on what hurts and on what's difficult, forgetting God's promises rather than clinging to them. But what if we changed all that? What if when we experience the darkest seasons of life, we run to God and walk closely beside Him? What if instead of pulling away, we cling to our promise of eternity with God—free of pain, sin, and sorrow? What if we lived like God's promises are real? It would change everything.

DAY ONE

ZECHARIAH 3

Have you ever felt like someone judged you for the way you dressed? Or felt like you weren't good enough to stand in someone's presence or to enter certain rooms? The Lord gave Zechariah, a prophet to the Israelites when they first returned from the exile, a series of visions to show the people what the kingdom of God would look like someday. Some of the visions' imagery is very interesting (and even strange!), but the vision in Zechariah 3 is fairly clear. The vision was of Joshua, the high priest and one of the leaders helping to rebuild the temple, in filthy clothes standing before the Lord. Can you imagine how it would feel to stand in front of the King of the universe in dirty clothes? Having your imperfections and mistakes laid out before God would bring a lot of shame! Even worse, Satan was there too, waiting to accuse Joshua. The beautiful, unexpected twist in the vision was that God didn't shame Joshua or send him away for being filthy. The Lord *removed* his filth, giving him new clothes so he could stand before God. In the vision, God promised Joshua that if he followed the law and walked with God, then he would rule over the temple with power granted by God. Regardless, God promised a day when He would remove His people's sin entirely and replace it with robes of righteousness.

Do you sense the incredible hope and joy in this passage? Without Jesus, we stand before God covered in the filth of our sin and shame. Satan stands to accuse us, whispering lies of shame and guilt. However, when we place our faith in Jesus, God only sees His Son when He looks at us. Our old sin and guilt are taken off of us, and we are made new. How? Because Jesus took all of it on His shoulders and carried it when He carried our cross. All our shame is gone by the grace of God and because of His great love for us!

- **HOW HAS THE LORD FREED YOU FROM SHAME? WHY SHOULD THIS RADICALLY CHANGE HOW YOU LIVE EACH DAY?**
- **HOW DOES YOUR LIFE SHOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN MADE NEW?**

PRAY

GOD, THANK YOU FOR REMOVING MY SIN AND SHAME SO THAT I CAN STAND BEFORE YOU UNASHAMED AND UNAFRAID. HELP ME TO FOLLOW YOU CLOSELY BECAUSE OF YOUR GREAT LOVE FOR ME.

DAY TWO

ISAIAH 11:1-10

God's Word is full of important promises to His people. One of God's most significant promises was that someone from David's family line would be on the throne forever (2 Sam. 7:16). God's people knew this promise, but after returning from exile, they couldn't see how God could carry it out. In today's passage, Isaiah presented an image of the stump of Jesse. Think of a tree stump. Do you expect much growth from them? Probably not. In fact, usually trees are cut down into stumps to prevent them from growing—a lot like what other nations did to Israel and to David's line. From a worldly perspective, the nation had been cut down, and since it was still under Persia's control, the chance of God fulfilling this promise seemed low. But here's the truth: We must remember that God ordained their cutting down. He was sovereign over it.

Think about Zechariah's vision from yesterday. From a human perspective, Joshua should've been cast out of the king's presence because of his sin and uncleanness. However, the Lord did something unexpected, unimaginable: He cleansed Joshua and made him new. Isaiah 11 teaches that God was going to do something unexpected again by bringing a shoot, a tiny branch of *new* growth, from the stump of Jesse (David's line). What does this mean? Even though all that remained of Judah was a stump, God would keep His promise through a tiny shoot—a remnant branch of David's family line. The Lord fulfilled this promise through Jesus, a descendant of David! Ultimately, God will fulfill the promise of all His children being gathered when Jesus returns. The people of Israel were able to hope in the future Messiah during the exile, and in the same way, we can hope in Jesus's return during hard times in our lives. We can trust God to bring life and meaning even when all we see is a stump. Our God never fails, and He never breaks His promises to us!

- **WHERE DO YOU LOOK FOR HOPE DURING DARK TIMES?**
- **WHAT SITUATION IN YOUR LIFE FEELS A LOT LIKE A STUMP, LIKE NOTHING GOOD CAN COME FROM IT? HOW CAN YOU TRUST IN GOD'S ABILITY TO BRING MEANING TO THIS AREA?**

PRAY

LORD, THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS FULFILLING YOUR PROMISES AND GIVING YOUR CHILDREN HOPE. HELP ME TURN TO YOU IN DIFFICULT TIMES AND LEAN ON YOUR FAITHFULNESS.

DAY THREE

REVELATION 22:12-16

Today's passage, some of the very last verses in the Bible, parallels Zechariah's vision (from two days ago). In the same way that Joshua's robes were washed clean in Zechariah's vision, believers are washed clean and brought into the city of God. The image from Isaiah that we studied yesterday comes up too! Jesus explained that He is the shoot from Jesse's stump (Isa. 11:1) and David's descendant, and therefore, He is the fulfillment of the promise in Isaiah's prophecy (v. 16). In these four verses, the Lord reveals how He will bring believers into eternal life and fulfill the promises He has made since the beginning in Genesis.

When we think about Jesus returning, we may struggle even imagining what the new heaven and new earth will be like. Sin and brokenness are so ingrained in our world that complete freedom from them feels impossible. Sometimes, being unable to imagine this reality of freedom causes us to doubt God or to become lazy in our walk with Him; we don't see the purpose in living faithfully or obediently when we're uncertain of future redemption. In that struggle and doubt, we must recall God's perfect faithfulness throughout history; we can look back to move forward in hope. Leaning into God's faithfulness in the past can help us walk in obedience. God fulfilled the promise in Isaiah of a Messiah, and He will fulfill the promise of redeeming the world and bringing believers into eternity. We can't know if Jesus will return in our lifetime, but this hope in God's faithfulness should drive the way we live. Obeying the Lord, sharing the gospel, and growing in our relationship with Him will always be worth it because He is good and has promised to make all things right one day.

- **DO YOU EVER STRUGGLE WITH DOUBT? HOW DOES DOUBT IMPACT THE WAY YOU LIVE AND ROB YOU OF JOY?**
- **DOES YOUR LIFE REFLECT THAT YOU'VE PLACED YOUR HOPE IN JESUS'S RETURN? WHY OR WHY NOT?**

PRAY

GOD, HELP ME ALWAYS TO HOPE IN YOUR PROMISES AND IN MY ETERNITY WITH YOU. HELP ME TO WORK THROUGH ANY DOUBTS I MAY HAVE BY TURNING TO YOU AND REMINDING MYSELF OF YOUR FAITHFULNESS IN THE PAST.

DAY FOUR

MATTHEW 21:1-10

One of the coolest things is when TV shows or movies call back to some small detail from earlier, showing why it mattered. Something that seemed minor or unimportant turns out to be relevant and exciting, and real fans pick up on these details. Reading the Bible from cover to cover works a lot like this! For example, the prophecy from Zechariah 9 that we talked about in our lesson may seem unimportant or maybe a little strange, but when you reach this passage in Matthew 21, you see how God threads all events together to accomplish His plans for redeeming the world. The Lord fulfills all His promises even down to Jesus's riding into Jerusalem on a donkey!

Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey might seem a little random, but this action tells us so much about Jesus's character. Most kings would make a grand entrance and draw a lot of attention to themselves to show their power and status—to prove they were higher than the people and worthy of being served. Our King Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey—not a very regal or powerful animals but symbols of peace and humility. Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey displayed how very different He was from earthly rulers. Though He is absolutely higher than us, He lowered Himself to identify with us. He is our Prince of Peace and humble Savior. The Creator and King of the universe came in the form of a man and humbled Himself, even in His entrance to Jerusalem—His holy city, to die for the sins of the world. Just like the people of Israel in this moment, we should worship our King. Our King doesn't hold His power over us or cause strife, but He loves us deeply and brings peace and mercy to all who believe. Our lives should be an act of worship to this King, the One who deserves all glory and honor.

- **WHY IS JESUS'S HUMILITY SO IMPORTANT?**
- **HOW DOES UNDERSTANDING JESUS'S HUMILITY CHANGE WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU TO "LIVE LIKE JESUS"?**

PRAY

LORD, THANK YOU FOR THE MERCY YOU SHOW ME. HELP ME TO SEEK TO BE HUMBLE AND MERCIFUL AND TO ALWAYS WORSHIP YOU FOR THE WAY YOU HAVE LOVED YOUR PEOPLE.

DAY FIVE

1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11; REVELATION 1:5-6

You might have had a moment in life when your struggles and sins felt overwhelming or inescapable no matter what you tried. The people of Israel could only pay for their sin through the sacrifice of animals. The blood of the animals was a temporary atonement for their sin, so the people had to place their hope in the coming Messiah and the salvation He would bring. Zechariah 13:1 says, "On that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the residents of Jerusalem, to wash away sin and impurity." God promised that a day would come when all of His children would be able to wash away their sin. These passages in 1 Corinthians and Revelation show us that Jesus's life, death, and resurrection make it possible for God's people to be washed clean.

An old hymn written in 1772 talks about this fountain promised by the Lord. The people of Israel didn't know what the fountain would be when God made the promise, but we do: Jesus's blood is the fountain that washes us clean. A lyric in the hymn says, "There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins; and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains."[2] The lyrics may seem strange at first glance, but the image is incredibly beautiful. The fountain God promised to wash the sins away from His children would be filled with Jesus's blood, spilled for us out of obedience to the Father and out of His great love for us. Jesus didn't just sacrifice some of His time or energy; He gave His life so we can have a relationship with the Lord and spend eternity in His presence. Praise the Lord for the fountain filled with the blood of Christ!

- **WHY IS BLOOD THE REQUIRED PAYMENT FOR SIN?**
- **HOW DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL THAT JESUS SACRIFICED HIS BLOOD FOR SINNERS TO BE MADE CLEAN? WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE IN YOUR LIFE?**

PRAY

GOD, THANK YOU FOR THE BLOOD OF CHRIST THAT COVERS OUR SIN. HELP ME NOT TO FORGET YOUR SACRIFICE AND WORSHIP YOU EVERY MOMENT.