

Devotion 41:

## **Our Father Has A Plan**

Zechariah 1—14

As we near the end of the Old Testament, a reoccurring theme stands out in the book of Zechariah. It is not unique to Zechariah, but it takes clearer shape there. Our Father has been moving and looking forward throughout history. He has a Plan and He drops hints about it here and there. Listen to Zechariah 9:9-10b:

*“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey...He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.”*

There are two things to note in the above verse. First, this King will come in peace. That is a stark contrast to most of the kings we have read about for the past 37 books! Second, His rule will be more comprehensive than any king’s before Him:

*“The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.” 14:9*

Can you sense the movement? The Plan, ever since before the Garden of Eden even, has been for our Father to establish one King for the entire world. Listen to this refrain in Philippians 2:9-11:

*“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

Our Father’s Plan has been that all people everywhere should worship and serve Jesus as Lord. And ultimately all will acknowledge Him as Lord whether willingly or not! Why Jesus, you ask? Why not Solomon or David or Joshua or Moses? Listen to Colossians 1:15-20:

*“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to*

*himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”*

It is now clear to me that my quest is not finished, but perhaps just beginning. I began reading the Old Testament in hopes of getting to know our heavenly Father better. That has happened some, but the picture is not complete. Like proceeding on a treasure hunt and finding scraps of clues, we now are being directed to the New Testament. *“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.”* (Heb. 1:3) If we really want to know our Father, we will have to get to know His Son.

Some Christians today are tempted to read and study the Bible in hopes of making life work. That is, they hope to find and implement the formulas and plans whereby success can be achieved in family, work, government, church, and indeed any area of endeavor. John 5:39 cautions against such purpose for reading God’s Word so we don’t miss our Father’s Plan:

*“You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”*

So, have we wasted our time pouring over 1,400 hundred pages and 38 books, with one more to go? I think Jesus would say, “No.”

*“He said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.’ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, ‘This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’”* Luke 24:44-45

This journey is exciting, like the proverbial scene of two lovers running toward each other with open arms in a field of golden wheat. Here we are, reading God’s Word to find Him; and now we see that the entire point of God’s Word, the Plan, has been to reveal Himself to us!