

NOTE ON ZECHARIAH 9:9–10

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גִּילִי מְאֹד בַּת־צִיּוֹן הִרְיְעִי בֵּת יְרוּשָׁלַם
הִנֵּה מֶלֶכְךָ יָבוֹא לָךְ
צָדִיק וְנוֹשֵׁעַ הוּא עָנִי
וְרָכַב עַל־חֲמֹר וְעַל־עִיר בֶּן־אֲתָנּוֹת:
וְהִכְרַתִּי־רֶכֶב מֵאֶפְרַיִם וְסוּס מִירוּשָׁלַם
וְנִכְרַתָּה קֶשֶׁת מִלְחָמָה
וְדָבָר שָׁלוֹם לְגוֹיִם
וּמָשְׁלוּ מַיִם עַד־יָם וּמִנְהַר עַד־אֶפְסַי־אֲרָץ:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on an he-ass, (and)* on a colt the “son” of a she-ass.
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 command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

* The ׀ in the Hebrew is an emphatic *waw*, for which see Mitchell Dahood (1966), *Psalms I*. Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, p.24 and *waw emphaticum* in the index.

Matthew 21:5

Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee,
meeke, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

גִּילִי was read as מָלוּ (מָלַל “to speak” = Εἶπατε)

John 12:15

Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt.

גִּילִי הִרְיְעִי was read as אֵל הִרְעִידִי

C. J. Gadd (1973. "Hammaurabi and the End of His Dynasty." In *The Cambridge Ancient History*, vol. 2, pt. 1, pp. 176-227, edited by I. E. S. Edwards, et al. 3rd ed., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) noted:

Horses were kept for royal cars [= chariot] both by Iasmak-Adad and by Zimrilim, although a fashion of the time forbade the latter to use these as mounts—the dignity of an Akkadian king could be preserved only by riding in his chariot or (strangely) by sitting upon a mule, a very unexpected reversal of the esteem generally accorded to the *caballero*.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO THE MULE

II Samuel 13:29 “ Then all the king's sons arose, and each mounted his mule and fled.”

II Samuel 18:9 “Absalom chanced to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding upon his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak, and his head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on.”

Isaiah 66:20 “And they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD”

I Kings 10:25 (II Chronicles 9:24) “very one of them brought his present, articles of silver and gold, garments, myrrh, spices, horses, and mules, so much year by year. And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen”

I Kings 18:5 “And Ahab said to Obadiah, "Go through the land to all the springs of water and to all the valleys; perhaps we may find grass and save the horses and mules alive, and not lose some of the animals.”