

## Daily Reflection

April 5, 2020

The Bible can be very confusing. Psalm 24:8 from today's Daily Office, <https://www.missionstclare.com/english/April/whole/morning/05m.html>, extols how strong and mighty God is in battle. Many parts of the Old Testament present God as a form of divine Pentagon strategist, determining who will win and lose wars.

But then there is today's lesson from Zechariah, describing the object of our hope as a humble pacifist:

He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the warhorse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the nations. *Zechariah 9:10*

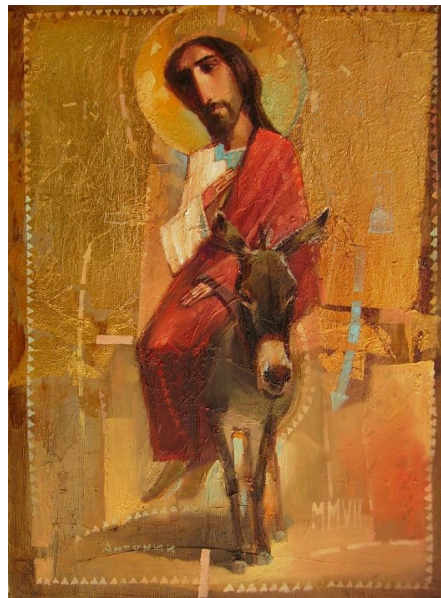
So which is it? Is God prone to do battle or make peace? Or, might God have evolved as the stories were written?

Views differ about that, but we can be sure of one thing: Humankind evolved as the stories were written. In earlier periods, communities were inclined to attribute everything that happened, good and bad, to God. They viewed victory or defeat in war as God's favor or God's punishment. But they began to experience God more fully, as bent on redeeming not punishing, on *restoring* not *destroying*. They saw themselves being guided toward the "peace of all nations."

And what of us? Are we evolving now? Are we seeking and finding the God who is bent on restoring? A reader of these reflections reported today that she is feeling more connected to other people, both strangers and friends, than at any prior time. May we nurture such seeds of peace this spring.

*Pastor Kathleen Kelly,*

Interim Rector



A Humble Messiah,  
art by Oleksandr Antonyuk