



April 2, 2023

“His Triumphal Entry”

SS 9:30, Service at 10:30 with King’s Kids.

News:

1,000 Sundays Today

Wednesday Evening Classes 6:30-8:00 † Resurrection Sunday Brunch Next Week

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Today is Palm Sunday - the celebration of what’s called the _____ of Jesus.

The Temple was the Holiest place on earth - the permanent physical _____ of God. It stood as the _____ between Holy God and profane man.

Jesus’ entry that day was Him declaring that God’s _____ Tabernacle had arrived (John 2:19, etc.).

Biblical Judaism _____ to exist when Jesus _____ the Temple.

That spiritual reality became a _____ reality 1,953 years ago in 70 A.D.

Jesus was crucified because the Godhead, which includes the Word made flesh, Jesus, unanimously _____ on that course of action long _____ they began creating the physical universe.

There is a thread woven throughout the Old Testament pointing to God’s Salvation by way of His “Anointed One.” Hebrew is, מָשִׁיחַ (mä-shē-āḥ), _____, and Greek Χριστός (ḫřē-stōs), _____, Who was always going to be _____ Himself (Psalm 3:8, 68:20).

In Genesis chapter 49, Jacob (renamed Israel) blessed his 12 sons - the 12 Tribes of Israel. To _____, Israel proclaimed that he was a _____, and that he would rule forever in a land of plenty.

Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.

God Bless You!

The abundance was poetic and indicated a prophetic prediction about the Messiah to come. Can you use _____ like you would use water when Jesus is around? Beyond that, will you _____ your spiritual clothes, so to speak, in the Blood of the Lamb? Will you stay _____ to the True Vine?

The Messiah's colt that He ties to a _____ is the same colt that He _____ to meet His people.

John 12:12-19 ~

Passover was a remembrance, a celebration, and a purification that lasted 8 days. It was the moment when the Messiah was _____ to enter Jerusalem as the perfect King. _____ were extremely high (Zephaniah 3:14-20).

Their expectation was that the Messiah would make Israel great again. It was for them what the "_____ " is for Christians. Yeah, they were excited!

Matthew 21:1-11, blended with Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:29-40, and John 12:12-19 ~

Jesus carefully _____ the entire thing and in doing so sealed His fate. Jesus cleansed the Temple and the chief priests, and the scribes became indignant, and then when they heard children shouting praises to Jesus, they said to Him, "Do You hear what these children are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "_____", and then He quoted Psalm 8, which says that children will praise "Yahweh, our Lord" (Matthew 21:15&16).

The Prophet Ezekiel saw the _____ depart from the first Temple and go through the East Gate of Jerusalem, and rest upon the Mount of Olives. Much later in His Book He revealed that one day the _____ would return from the Mount of Olives. Jesus was the _____ returning.

The first half of the specific prophecy quoted is Isaiah 62:11, applied to Jesus in Revelation 22:12. The second half is Zechariah 9:9. Because many of them got the connection and the others followed suit, the people shouted many highly charged Messianic proclamations. The Hosanna bit comes mostly from Psalm 118 - "Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!" In Hebrew, הוֹשִׁיעָה נָא (hō-shē-ä nä), transliterated into Greek as ὡσαννά (hō-sän-nä), and English Hosanna. You can imagine that just as Matthew reported, when Jesus "entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying ' _____ ?'"

Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

Name _____ Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____



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the gospel of
JOHN

ΕΝ ΑΡΧΗ Η ΝΟΛΟΓΟΣ ΚΑΙ Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ ΗΝ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟΝ
 ΘΕΟΝ ΚΑΙ Ο ΤΗ ΝΟΛΟΓΟΣ ΕΨΥΧΟΣ ΗΝ ΕΝ ΑΡΧΗ ΤΙΣ
 ΤΟΝ ΘΕΟΝ ΠΑΝΤΑ ΔΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΓΕΝΕΤΟ ΚΑΙ ΧΩΡΙΣ



1000

Today is Palm Sunday, of course, but it is also my 1,000th Sunday as pastor at Alêtheia and that means it is the 1,000th Sunday of Alêtheia's existence as a continuously operating church. So, Happy Anniversary to you all! 1,000 Sundays is cool, but Palm Sunday is cooler.



It is the celebration of what's called the Triumphant Entry of Jesus, exactly one week prior to His supernatural bodily Resurrection, the unassailable, incontrovertible, absolute proof that Jesus conquered sin, death, and the grave.



Almost 2,000 years ago, at about this same time of year, Jesus formally made His way into the city of Jerusalem and up onto the Temple Mount to enter the Holiest place on earth – the permanent physical Tabernacle of God. The place where Almighty God and human beings could connect. In a very real sense, the Temple stood as the mediator between Holy God and profane man.



Through myriad sacrifices, prayers, ceremonies, and rituals, all orchestrated by ordained priests, who functioned as the human element in the mediation process, and all accomplished in that one particular place, and in that single uniquely sanctified structure, people could temporarily be cleansed of their sin. Purified enough, for long enough, that they could connect, to some partial degree, with the Creator and Sustainer of all things, Yahweh God.



It was important for Jesus to make that symbolic, prophecy-fulfilling journey, because Jesus was the true Tabernacle come down out of Heaven, as we saw back in chapter 2 of John's Gospel. There, Jesus "Cleansed the Temple," driving out the moneychangers and the merchants, which put a stop, at least for a short while, to the entire sacrificial system of Judaism. Jesus' point was that God's true Tabernacle had arrived.

The Jewish officials and others were indignant with Him for doing that and so, they demanded to know "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

They, of course, were too dull, too self-absorbed, too opinionated, and too stuck in a rut of protecting their own personal interests to understand what Jesus was trying to tell them. That He was the Temple.

I've said it many times before, but I'll say it again, Biblical Judaism ceased to exist when Jesus replaced the Temple with Himself and ended the repetitive sacrifices for sins with His universally sufficient, once and for all, sin eradicating sacrifice of Himself.



That spiritual reality became a physical reality 1,953 years ago when the Romans did, in fact, utterly destroy the Temple, thereby eliminating the possibility of

making ritual sacrifices for sin anymore. The Romans under General Titus, later to be Emperor, literally wiped the Temple right off of the Temple Mount, just as Jesus foretold, “there will not be left one stone upon another, which will not be torn down” (Matthew 24:2, etc.). You can see some of the rubble from the Temple and the smashed plaza where it all came down. The Jews, ever since that day in 70 A.D., have been unable to be cleansed of their sins, except, of course, in the only way available to any other person, by embracing Christ, as the perfect sacrifice once and for all. As the Bible declares, “Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God, in Him (II Corinthians 5:21).

The Judaism of Abraham and of Moses, and of David, and of Saul before he was Paul, is Christianity and it always was Christianity. Every good Jew knew that. For them it was a Christianity not yet revealed, a Christianity without a Christ, yet. Make no mistake, to them, there would be a Christ, Who would take away the sins of the world. They just didn't know His name.

“Jesus the Nazarene, a Man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death” Acts 2:22b&23



The Bible plainly and repeatedly tells us that Jesus was crucified because the Godhead, which includes the Word made flesh, Jesus, unanimously decided on that course of action long before they began creating the physical universe. It was always the plan! God wasn't caught off guard by Eve eating the Forbidden fruit and by Adam foolishly following suit. It wasn't like God was perplexed, “Oh no, I didn't see this coming, now what am I going to do?” God always knew that He was sending Jesus. How many times did Jesus hint at, allude to, and plainly detail His future long before it happened?

It wasn't like Jesus didn't know precisely what He was doing and why He was doing it. What you'll recognize over the next two Sundays is that Jesus instigated His Own death. One important Biblical note to that, which is applicable to all people, just because it must go a particular way, woe to the people through whom evil is done, but also blessing to the people through whom good is done. Choose today which type of vessel you'll be.

So, all of that to say, that there is an incredibly detailed and interconnected thread that is woven throughout the Old Testament pointing to God's deliverance of His chosen people, by way of His "Anointed One." That "Anointed One" in Hebrew is, מָשִׁיחַ (mä-shē-ax̄), Messiah, and Greek Χριστός (x̄rē-stōs), Christ, Who was always going to be God Himself - "Salvation belongs to the Lord" (Psalm 3:8, 68:20). Who can Save, but God Himself?



In order to paint a little more detailed picture for you, let me just hit a couple of highlights in the Old Testament to help us understand the Jewish expectation on this day 20 centuries ago.



In Genesis chapter 49, Jacob, renamed Israel, gave his blessing to his 12 sons – to the 12 Tribes of Israel. To Judah, Israel proclaimed that “your brothers shall praise you” and that your “father’s sons shall bow down before you.” He then said that Judah is a lion, and that “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet.” These are symbols of kingship, and it is why the King of Israel must be a descendant of Judah.



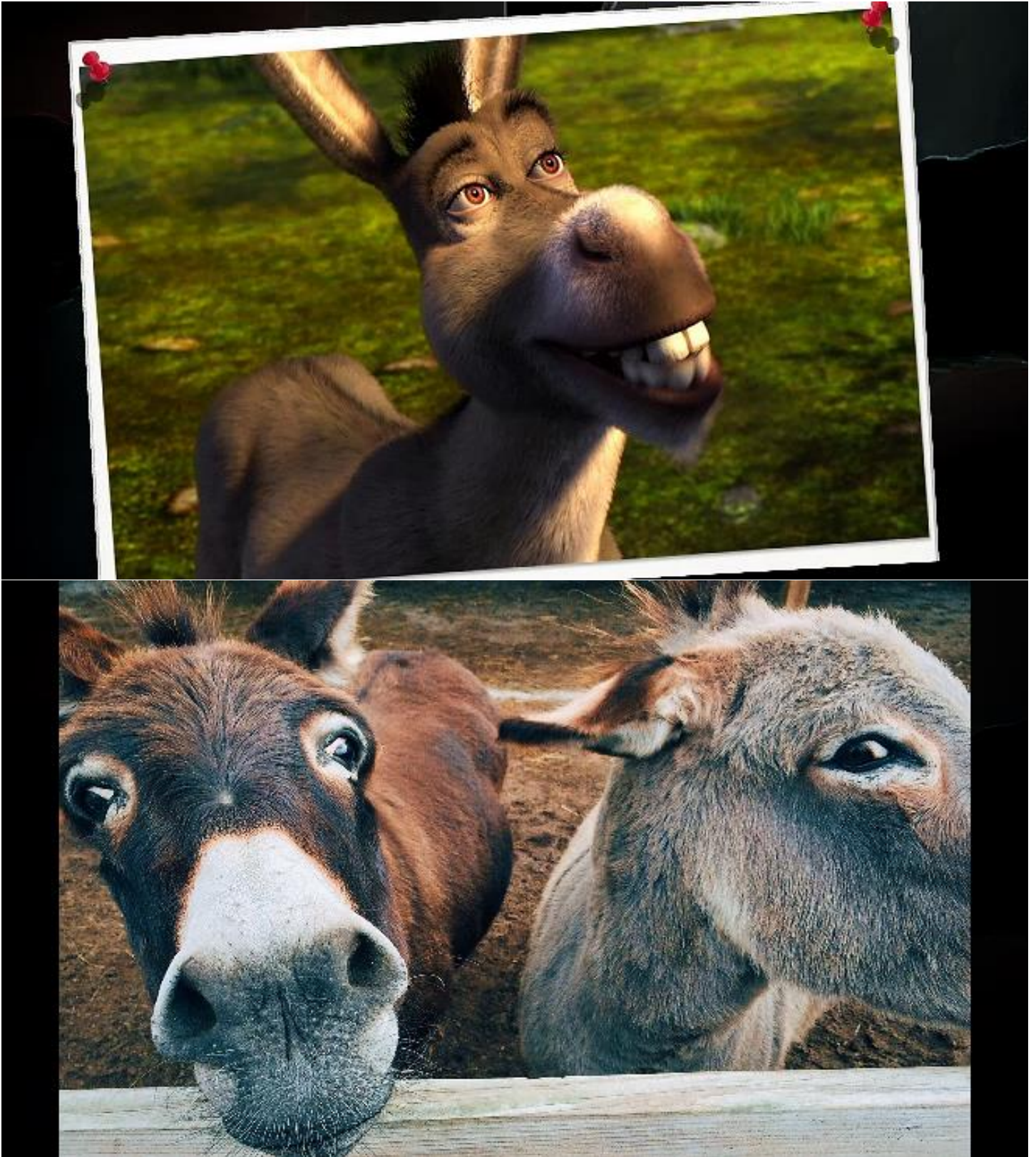
Then Israel said that “Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey’s colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes.” That last bit is weird to us, but it’s Jewish poetry, where in this case, we have couplets that essentially mean the same thing. The whole thing taken together means that when the final perfect expression of the King – the Lion of Judah rules, there will be unimaginable abundance.

Tying a donkey to a grape vine is a horrible idea because the donkey will eat and trample the thing to the roots. The idea is that the vineyard will be so expansively large and so incredibly lush and so

limitlessly productive that it won't matter that a donkey destroys a few vines.

The same is true in the second couplet where grapes are so plentiful that the wine made from them will be as common as water. There is such abundance that you could wash your clothes in wine, and it wouldn't matter.

The symbology used was prophetic and was expanded upon by later prophecies. Because of that, you should immediately see some connections between this initial Messianic prophecy and the ministry of Jesus. His first sign was to turn ordinary water into wine. Can you use wine like you would use water when Jesus is around? Beyond that, there is the concept that we wash our spiritual clothes, so to speak, in the Blood of the Lamb, Who is Jesus. There's more, but let's look at the Donkey bit.



The Triumphal Entry in all four Gospels was specifically atop a foal, a donkey's colt. Strange way to put that,

but it tracks with the Hebrew poetry we read in Genesis 49, where we have, again for poetic purposes a couplet including the descriptions, a female donkey's "foal," and a female "donkey's colt." They both mean the same thing.

That Messianic prophecy was expanded by the Messianic prophecy of Zechariah in his eponymous Bible Book, chapter 9, verse 9, "Rejoice greatly, daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is righteous and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The reference is the same. The final perfect King will be the ultimate Lion of Judah and He will rule forever. He will conquer all, but when He comes to His own, it will not be on a fiery warhorse, nor in a magnificent battle-chariot, but humble and gentle and approachable, riding on a female donkey's foal, on her colt.

A few years ago, I wouldn't need to mention this, but times have changed in the Flathead. A foal is baby horse or donkey, and it is either a colt, meaning male,

or a filly, meaning female. Mom is a mare, and dad is a stallion. Horses and donkeys are not gender-confused.

The Messiah's colt that He ties to a grape vine is the same colt that He rides to meet His people. The point of that is the well-known reality that rulers are oftentimes harder on their own people than they are on the enemies of the nation. Certainly, we've seen that throughout history, and in relatively recent history with Stalin, Pol Pot, Idi Amin, Saddam Hussein. We've seen it much less violently in America where our rulers care far more about lining their own pockets, and staying in power, than they do about any of us. So, the perfect King, while an unstoppable conquering force against the nation's enemies, is completely accessible to His own. Well, let's read the account in John and then we can talk some more...



John 12:12–19, 12On the next day (that’s after the anointing by Mary), when the large crowd that had come to the feast (that’s the Passover) heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13they took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and began shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, indeed, the King of Israel!” 14Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: 15“do not Fear, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.” 16These things His disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things for Him. 17So the

people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify about Him. 18For this reason also the people went to meet Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign. 19So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are not accomplishing anything; look, the world has gone after Him!”

That’s fairly straightforward, but to give us greater insight, let’s add the other accounts. Because they are all very similar, I’m going to do it by folding into Matthew’s Gospel all the unique additional information found in Mark, Luke, and John, reading it as a single blended narrative...

Before I begin, I want to go back to painting a picture, because I want us to go there and be a part of the scene, I want us to, as much as possible, experience the event as it was experienced then.

Remember that the Jews had three great religious festivals every year and while Passover was not the most joyous, it was the most important. Jews from all around the Roman Empire and beyond would flock to Jerusalem. The city would burst at its seams with over a million people converging there. It was such a huge

event that even non-Jews would attend, coming from all over Europe, Asia, and Africa, just to observe the spectacle and perhaps do a little commerce.

Passover was a remembrance, a celebration, and a purification that lasted 8 days. Coupled with all of that, it was a spring fling. Even around the Mediterranean winter is long a dreary - obviously, nothing even close to what we endure here, but nevertheless, spring was and is a time of newness and excitement that lends itself to joyous celebrations.

Add to all of that, you have the moment on the calendar, occurring once per year, when the Messiah was most likely to enter Jerusalem as the perfect King. Expectations were extremely high, but expectations of what exactly?

There probably wasn't a Jew anywhere on earth, other than Jesus Himself, who did not expect the Messiah to come into the city and then up to the Temple and declare Himself King of Israel and immediately free the Jewish people from every form of bondage, servitude, subjugation, humiliation, difficulty, distress, and disease. We're talking the Kingdom of Heaven come to earth centered in the Holy city on Mount Zion.

Here's an example of the prophecies in Scripture that the people clung to with such hope. Zephaniah 3:14–20, 14Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 15The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. 16On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. 17The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. 18I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. 19Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 20At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord.

Can you imagine the exuberant joy of His disciples and of those who followed Him from Bethany, and those

rushing out of Jerusalem to meet Him on His approach? “Finally, this is it, the moment we’ve all been waiting for since we were born. The Messiah is here, the day of our redemption is at hand. This is it, now everything will be perfect forevermore.”

Quite literally, their idea was the Messiah has arrived to make Israel great again. That was what they expected from God and His “Anointed One.” It was for them what the “Second Coming” is for us. Yeah, they were excited!

So, this is Matthew 21:1-11, blended together with Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:29-40, and John 12:12-19, (12On the next day, when the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13they took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, - Jn). 1When Jesus and His party had approached Jerusalem and had come to Bethphage, (by way of Bethany - Mk & Lk) at the Mount of Olives, Jesus then sent two disciples, 2saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately (as you enter it - Mk) you will find a donkey tied there and a colt with it. (On which no one has ever sat - Mk & Lk) Untie them and bring them to Me. 3And if anyone says anything to you, you shall

say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them on immediately." 4Now this took place so that what was spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled: 5"Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold your King is coming to you, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' " 6The disciples went and did just as Jesus had instructed them, (They went away and found a colt tied at the door, outside in the street; and they untied it. And some of the bystanders ((and its owners - Lk)) were saying to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" And they told them just as Jesus had said, ((“The Lord has need of it.” - Lk)) and they gave them permission - Mk) 7and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their cloaks on them; (And they put Jesus on the colt - Lk), and He sat on the cloaks. 8Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others were cutting (leafy - Mk) branches from the (palm - Jn) trees (in the fields - Mk) and spreading them on the road. (And as soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen - Lk). 9Now the crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; (Peace in heaven and glory in the

highest! - Lk). (Indeed, the King of Israel! - Jn)
"Hosanna in the highest!" (These things His disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things for Him. - Jn) 10When He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?" 11And the crowds were saying, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee." (and the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify about Him. - Jn) (And yet some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples!" Jesus replied, "I tell you, if these stop speaking, the stones will cry out!" - Lk). (So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are not accomplishing anything; look, the world has gone after Him!" - Jn).

Again, it's all pretty straightforward and so I'll just clarify a few of the points and then try to give an overall impression and application.



The first thing that must be understood is that Jesus carefully orchestrated the entire thing and in doing so sealed His fate. He entered The Holy City and the only true Temple on earth at that time and declared Himself both Messiah and eternal King of Israel, if not in word, certainly by His actions. This is why Matthew, Mark, and Luke, all place the “Cleansing of the Temple” and the complete disruption to the Jewish sacrificial system immediately after Jesus’ Triumphal Entry. The point is that the ultimate and final sacrifice for sin has entered the building.

In Matthew’s Gospel Jesus cleansed the Temple and “the chief priests and the scribes became indignant,

and then when they heard children shouting in the temple area regarding Jesus, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they said to Him, “Do You hear what these children are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes.” Get that. The Chief Priests and experts in Biblical Law rebuked Jesus by saying “Do you hear what these kids are saying about You? That they are declaring You to be the Messiah and the King of Israel?” Jesus said to them “Yes. Have you never read in Scripture, ‘From the mouths of infants and nursing babies You have prepared praise for Yourself’?” (Matthew 21:15&16). Praise for Who exactly? Well, that’s Psalm 8 and it starts like this... “Yahweh, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, You who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!” Do you see that Jesus just informed them that He was God?



Bethphage is ܒܝܬ ܦܓܝ (bāt-fä-gē) in Aramaic, meaning the House of unripe figs. It is in a deep ravine just off of

the ridgeline of the Mount of Olives - pictures never do justice to the steepness of terrain. Jesus from up on the ridge would have pointed out the Donkeys to a couple of His guys and said, see that donkey and her colt? Yeah, go fetch them for Me. Well, it's not very far, but the vertical is a killer.

Here's what's relevant for us. The Temple that was destroyed by the Romans was called the Second Temple because the First one that was built by King David's son Solomon was destroyed 600 plus years earlier by the Neo-Babylonians in 586 B.C.

The Prophet Ezekiel recorded His supernatural visions in his eponymous Bible Book. Ezekiel saw the Glory of God depart from the first Temple and go through the East Gate of Jerusalem, travel across the Kidron Valley and rest upon the Mount of Olives. Much later in His Book He revealed that one day the Glory of God would return from the Mount of Olives and back through the city's East Gate and into the Temple. Jesus was the Glory of God returning.



The colt “on which no one has ever sat.” That was necessary for the King, but note the miraculous taming of that never before ridden beast of burden. Not one word about a rodeo.

“The Lord has need of it.” Lord was used as a respectful salutation, “Hello sir, may I help you?” It was used as an address for a person in authority over you like a master, but here it is used in the third way, which was a title for the Messiah. Imagine that you’re the owner of the pair living on the Mount of Olives. You have at least a vague idea about the various prophecies concerning a donkey’s colt as a vehicle to return the Glory of God in His eternal King from the

Mount of Olives to the Temple. Some guys arrive, point to Jesus on the ridge and essentially say the Messiah needs them.



The first half of the specific prophecy quoted is Isaiah 62:11, “Behold, the Lord has proclaimed from one end of the earth to the other: Say to the daughter of Zion, “Behold, your Savior is coming; behold, his reward is with him.” Jesus said in Revelation 22:12, “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me.” The second half of the prophecy quoted comes from Zechariah 9:9, “Rejoice greatly, daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is righteous and endowed

with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey,
Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

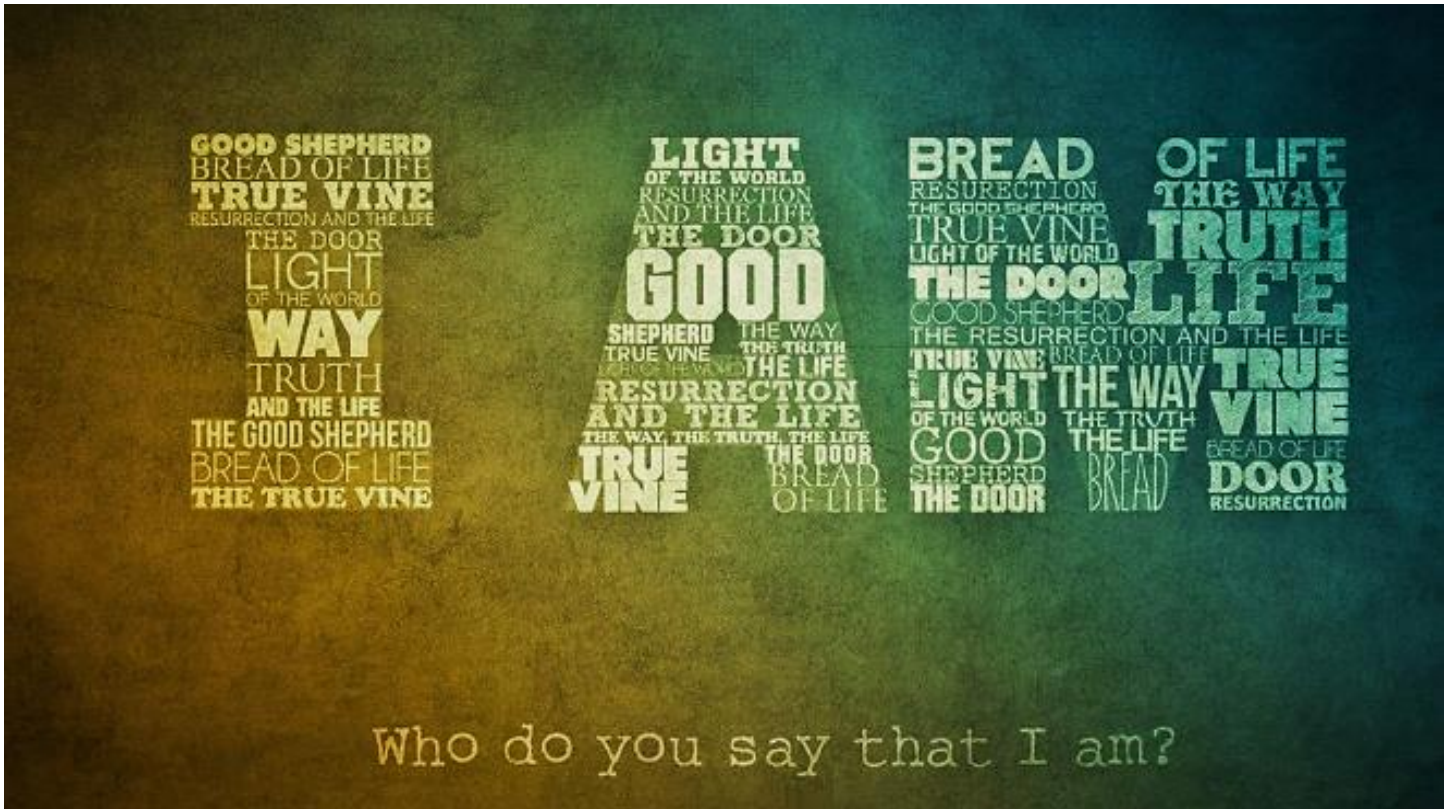


Because many of them got the connection and the others followed suit, the people shouted “Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; (Peace in heaven and glory in the highest! - Lk). (Indeed, the King of Israel! - Jn)
”Hosanna in the highest!” All highly charged Messianic proclamations. The Hosanna bit comes mostly from Psalm 118 - it is a prayer that they repeatedly shouted, “Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!”

In Hebrew, אֲנָּהּ יְהוָה הוֹשִׁיעָה נָּא (ä-nä Yä-wěh hō-shē-ä nä). It means “O Yahweh Save us now, please.” The הוֹשִׁיעָה נָּא (hō-shē-ä nä) part is “Save us now, please.” It was transliterated into Greek 300 years before Jesus was born as Ὡσαννά (hō-sän-nä). That’s as close as Greek can get to the sound. That then was Anglicized as the familiar Hosanna.

Hosanna is still our cry, “Come now Lord, please save us now.” You can imagine that just as Matthew reported, when Jesus “entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying ‘Who is this?’”

That’s the question of the day, “Who is this?” It isn’t just wondering what His name is, or being curious about where He’s from, or being interested in His qualifications. The question then as now is “Who is this?”



Well, He's the One Who recently raised a well-known dead man from the grave. With His entry into the city and then the Temple, He's the One Who just fulfilled multiple prophecies confirming that He is the long-awaited Messiah and eternal King. He's the One Who refused to silence the shouts of praise directed His way and when emphatically asked by the Chief Priests, "Do you hear what they are saying?" Jesus said, "Yes." And then applied Psalm 8 to Himself, which begins and concludes with "Yahweh, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth!" He's the One Who declared, "Before Father Abraham was born 2,000 years ago, I AM" (John 8:58).

The implication behind the question “Who is this?” and the implication of all that Jesus had already done, is that now everyone must figure out what that means. In other words, Jesus has forced the issue and ever since people have been required to choose what they are going to do with Him. More to the point, what are you going to do with Jesus?

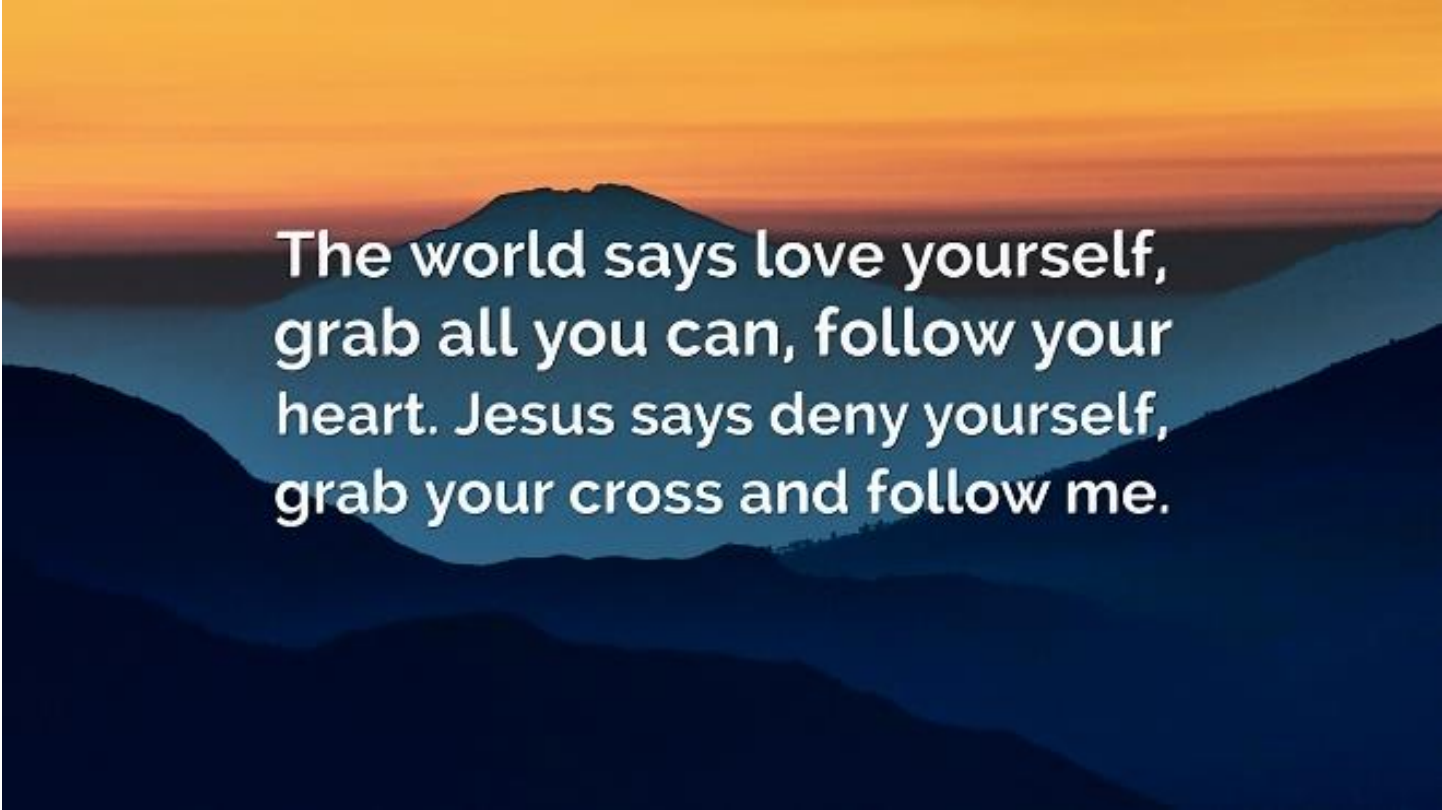
Do you know why God orchestrated 2,000 years of Judaism? 2,000 years of God’s Own Covenant People set in the crossroads of the ancient world as His special possession, His beloved bride?

It was to show the utter inability for any human to do right by God. That in turn demonstrated the absolute necessity of God Himself providing Salvation based upon His righteousness and not ours - hence Jesus.

But the specific sins of the Jews for 20 centuries is easily summed up as the sin of betrayal, of infidelity, of cheating, on God. God often talks about the people going astray and serving other gods and even had the prophet Hosea intentionally marry a promiscuous woman to illustrate the point.

The god that topped their list was Baal. They couldn't help themselves, they always seemed captivated by worshipping Baal. Now that seems strange to us, doesn't it?

Baal was the god of fertility. Fertility means more kids, considered then to be a blessing. But, fertility also means more livestock and more crops, which means more wealth. It was almost unheard of for a Jew to abandon Yahweh in favor of Baal, but what they would do is add a little Baal to their worship of Yahweh. Let's worship the one true God, but let's also do what we can, what is reasonable, to ensure a happier, more productive, and richer life as well.



The world says love yourself,
grab all you can, follow your
heart. Jesus says deny yourself,
grab your cross and follow me.

How are we any different? Over the next week as we recognize Good Friday in preparation for Easter Sunday, I'd like you to think of the subtle and perhaps not too subtle ways in which you cheat on God with a Baal by another name.

The question, what are you going to do with Jesus, doesn't simply mean how will you try to mix Jesus into your life, how will you blend Him with everything else that you love, it means will you respond to Him as your God and Savior, or not?



April 2, 2023

“His Triumphal Entry”

SS 9:30, Service at 10:30 with King’s Kids.

News:

1,000 Sundays Today

Wednesday Evening Classes 6:30-8:00 † Resurrection Sunday Brunch Next Week

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Today is Palm Sunday - the celebration of what’s called the Triumphal Entry of Jesus.

The Temple was the Holiest place on earth - the permanent physical Tabernacle of God. It stood as the mediator between Holy God and profane man.

Jesus’ entry that day was Him declaring that God’s true Tabernacle had arrived (John 2:19, etc.).

Biblical Judaism ceased to exist when Jesus replaced the Temple.

That spiritual reality became a physical reality 1,953 years ago in 70 A.D.

Jesus was crucified because the Godhead, which includes the Word made flesh, Jesus, unanimously decided on that course of action long before they began creating the physical universe.

There is a thread woven throughout the Old Testament pointing to God’s Salvation by way of His “Anointed One.” Hebrew is, מָשִׁיחַ (mä-shē-āḥ), Messiah, and Greek Χριστός (ḫřē-stōs), Christ, Who was always going to be God Himself (Psalm 3:8, 68:20).

In Genesis chapter 49, Jacob (renamed Israel) blessed his 12 sons - the 12 Tribes of Israel. To Judah, Israel proclaimed that he was a lion, and that he would rule forever in a land of plenty.

Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.

God Bless You!

The abundance was poetic and indicated a prophetic prediction about the Messiah to come. Can you use wine like you would use water when Jesus is around? Beyond that, will you wash your spiritual clothes, so to speak, in the Blood of the Lamb? Will you stay connected to the True Vine?

The Messiah’s colt that He ties to a grape vine is the same colt that He rides to meet His people.

John 12:12–19 ~

Passover was a remembrance, a celebration, and a purification that lasted 8 days. It was the moment when the Messiah was most likely to enter Jerusalem as the perfect King. Expectations were extremely high (Zephaniah 3:14–20).

Their expectation was that the Messiah would make Israel great again. It was for them what the “Second Coming” is for Christians. Yeah, they were excited!

Matthew 21:1-11, blended with Mark 11:1-10, Luke 19:29-40, and John 12:12-19 ~

Jesus carefully orchestrated the entire thing and in doing so sealed His fate. Jesus cleansed the Temple and the chief priests, and the scribes became indignant, and then when they heard children shouting praises to Jesus, they said to Him, “Do You hear what these children are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes,” and then He quoted Psalm 8, which says that children will praise “Yahweh, our Lord” (Matthew 21:15&16).

The Prophet Ezekiel saw the Glory of God depart from the first Temple and go through the East Gate of Jerusalem, and rest upon the Mount of Olives. Much later in His Book He revealed that one day the Glory of God would return from the Mount of Olives. Jesus was the Glory of God returning.

The first half of the specific prophecy quoted is Isaiah 62:11, applied to Jesus in Revelation 22:12. The second half is Zechariah 9:9. Because many of them got the connection and the others followed suit, the people shouted many highly charged Messianic proclamations. The Hosanna bit comes mostly from Psalm 118 - “Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!” In Hebrew, הוֹשִׁיעָה נָא (hō-shē-ä nä), transliterated into Greek as ὠσαννά (hō-sän-nä), and English Hosanna. You can imagine that just as Matthew reported, when Jesus “entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying ‘Who is this?’”

Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

Name _____ Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____