

Triumphal entry for what?

on Palm Sunday Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem –
FOR WHAT?

Meaning for What Triumph

was this entry of Jesus into Jerusalem?

& what about the crowd that was there

What Triumph - What Victory

were they assuming that they were WITNESSING?

Let's Pray - & we'll see

to understand What Triumph - this entry was for
we have to go back to the Raising Of Lazarus

In John Chapter 11 Jesus was on his way – slowly - to Jerusalem

When his Good Friends Mary, Martha, & Lazarus

Had a life or death CRISIS

& Mary and Martha sent Jesus a message –

his dear friend Lazarus (their brother) was deathly sick

& we read in - John 11:4 (NLT)

4 But when Jesus heard about it he said, “Lazarus’s sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.”

**Then Jesus does something seemingly very strange
in the very next verses**

John 11:5–7 (NLT)

5 So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus,

6 he stayed where he was for the next two days.

7 Finally, he said to his disciples, “Let’s go back to Judea.”

So - **Jesus delays** for **two days** - **seemingly** on **purpose**
and **then** he **tells** His **disciples** – in

John 11:14–15 (NLT)

14 . . . “Lazarus is dead. 15 And for your sakes, I’m glad I wasn’t there, for now you will really believe. Come, let’s go see him.”

Lazarus lived in **Bethany** with his **sisters Mary and Martha**
which is **just** over **the hill** from **Jerusalem**

& **AS** the **Passover** – **AND** the **Triumphal Entry** – were **NEARING** –
Jesus Finally **arrives** at their **home**

And **when Jesus** was **close** - **Martha ran** out to **meet him** –
and **She struggled** with **WHY** Jesus hadn't **come earlier**

And in his exchange with Martha
Jesus speaks these famous words to her

John 11:25–26 (NLT)

25 Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.

26 Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

Guys - this is the SETUP for the Triumphal Entry
and the beginning of the Passover Week

Where Jesus will deliver the Final Triumphal Victory
over Death & the Grave

& when Martha’s Sister Mary - reaches Jesus
she has the same struggle with WHY Jesus delayed

& John 11:33 says - Jesus was deeply troubled

& in Verse 35 it says Jesus wept

& in Verse 37 some of the bystanders said
“*couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying*”

Jesus is Deeply Troubled - but I wonder if it's because he was
putting his Friends thru this difficulty - FOR HIS GLORY

AND as the Final Culmination of PROOF to the people
that He is the MESSIAH, and the GIVER of Life

So - when Jesus finally GOT to the tomb of Lazarus
he told the people in

John 11:39 (NLT)

39 “Roll the stone aside,” Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man’s sister, protested, “Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.”

this really matters - because it is what creates
the Size & the Frenzy of the crowd

**That gathers when Jesus makes
his Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday**

**You see – in the JEWISH Rabbinical Writings there was a belief
that the soul hovered over the body for three days**

& at the end of the 3rd day
the soul left to its Eternal Destination

So - there was a belief - that a person's soul
wasn't permanently separated from their Body

Until the END of the 3rd Day

And so - Jesus waiting for the 4th day to raise Lazarus

was **EVEN MORE indisputable PROOF** –
that Jesus came – As Messiah

To Conquer DEATH & the GRAVE - & GIVE Resurrection Life

**SO - Those who WITNESSED
the Raising of Lazarus – After 4 Days**

**Spread the word
to all who had come for the Passover Celebration**

**Which is what caused the Crowd Size
& the Fever Pitch – of the Triumphal Entry**

And **it seems** to me - the **Raising** of **Lazarus** - **After 4 Days** –
clearly pointed to **WHAT TRIUMPH** this **entry WAS FOR**

Raising Lazarus after **four days** – was **PROOF**
that **Jesus** could **TRIUMPH** over **Death** & the **Grave**

BUT - as **we** often **see** – **both** in **scripture** and **today**
the **people missed** – the **most Eternally Important POINT**

Because their eyes were **FIXED** on the **things** of **this world**

Because their eyes were **FIXED** on the **here & now**

Because their eyes were **FIXED** on **living their best life now**

This **Palm Sunday Crowd** - Truly **Did Believe**
Jesus Was The **Promised Messiah**

But - They **Believed** - **Jesus** Would **Be**
The Messiah - **THEY Envisioned**

they Believed That Jesus would BE the Messiah
they were Told He Would Be, by the Jewish Rabbis

This was an Excited and Passionate crowd

BUT - they had completely Wrong Assumptions
about WHAT TRIUMPH - Jesus was bringing

Because - the Rabbi's taught there would be
THREE things the Messiah would BRING

THESE are the TRIUMPHS
the Rabbi's taught the people to look forward to

- 1) there would be PEACE both politically and militarily
- 2) there would be PROSPERITY for the Jewish people
- 3) there would be SOCIAL JUSTICE in the land

Doesn't that sound familiar?

these people expected the Messiah to bring

- 1) Political Peace
- 2) Prosperity for the Nation
- 3) Social Justice in the Land

isn't that what people in OUR CULTURE expect
from the Messiah that THEY WANT?

The Jewish people in the day of Jesus wanted the EXACT SAME
earthly benefits that people expect from Jesus today

& I've talked to plenty of people who question
if God is a "Loving God" - Or even if he is God at all

because he has NOT Provided the Peace, Prosperity,
and Social Justice – that they EXPECT from him

The Jewish people in the day of Jesus
EXPECTED these things from the Messiah

JUST LIKE so many in our Culture EXPECT from God today

BUT GUYS – Please – LISTEN to me

Jesus Christ DID NOT come to give us
these Temporal & Material things - in this vapor of a life

The TRIUMPH that Jesus came to bring on Palm Sunday

is Absolute Victory over the Ultimate Enemy of all Enemies –
the Enemy of SIN & DEATH

BUT - it was the Political Peace - & Prosperity - & Social Justice

That were on everybody's mind

When Jesus began His Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday

& So – Skipping over to John 12:12
we begin the Triumphal Entry Text

John 12:12–13 (NLT)

12 The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors 13 took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, “Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to the King of Israel!”

So - the news of Jesus sweeps through Jerusalem
& a large crowd – RUNS to MEET Him

This IS the crowd
that was inspired by the Resurrection of Lazarus

But instead of running to meet Jesus
for their OWN RESURRECTION

They're running to meet him
to get what they assume he is offering – FOR THIS LIFE NOW

& - WHY THE PALM BRANCHES?

Most people simply say, these palm branches symbolize
VICTORY and GOODNESS, PEACE, etc

BUT, if you look closer - & ask - WHAT KIND of victory & peace
you'll see what the people were really EXPECTING

The Palm Branches were a symbol of the Nation Of Israel

King Solomon had them carved into
the walls and doors of the original temple

The Psalms use palm branches
to symbolize the Prosperity of God's people

And the Palm Branch was on the coin of the LAST Jewish dynasty
that ruled Israel - the Hasmonaean Dynasty

& so in a deeper way - these palm branches
we're actually a symbol of JEWISH NATIONALISM

they were an expression of welcoming a king
who would provide them Political Freedom and Prosperity

And the people were crying out two lines from Psalms 118
(*which is an AWESOME Psalm*)

They were Crying out HOSANNA, HOSANNA –
which means – SAVE NOW, Lord

(in the NKJV) Psalm 118:25–26 (NKJV)

*25 Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity.
26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! . . .*

Listen guys – For us to sing HOSANNA., HOSANNA - Blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord!

is a GOOD THING - In fact – it is the GREATEST THING

But - the people misunderstood - WHAT TRIUMPH
the Messiah was coming to BRING

We say Hosanna Hosanna to the king - SAVE NOW –

& we're referring to the salvation of our Souls & Eternal Life

Jesus was coming to deliver ETERNAL TRIUMPH
over Sin and Death & the Grave

BUT - the people were coming – For Jesus
to give them THEIR BEST LIFE NOW

Do you see why these people were going to STRUGGLE

with the TRIUMPH Jesus was going to win –
on their behalf - On the Cross?

The Crowd – At the Triumphal Entry on PALM SUNDAY

Wanted A KING that was phenomenally LESS VALUABLE
than the King that Jesus Christ came to be

& so, cont'g - John 12:14–15 (NLT)

14 Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said:

15 “Don’t be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey’s colt.”

This is fulfillment of the famous prophecy in Zechariah 9:9

But long before that - KINGS who were COMING
to BRING PEACE - Rode Donkeys not horses

& Jesus is coming to bring PEACE – AS the Messiah

& Jesus is coming to bring VICTORY and restore Israel
as the palm branches symbolize

& Jesus is coming as the TRUE KING - as the cloaks
being laid down before him symbolized

BUT - THE TRIUMPH that Jesus was bringing
was the True, Ultimate, Eternal Victory

& THE TRIUMPH that these people wanted
was for Jesus to just give them their Best Life Now

and so they completely missed
the Eternally MORE IMPORTANT TRIUMPH

that Jesus Christ was Riding into Jerusalem to bring that day

and maybe we have been – NOT that different
than the people in that crowd on that Palm Sunday

Jesus Christ came to give us so much more than

Political Peace

Prosperity

& Social Justice in JUST THIS LIFE

Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to prepare to be
the final Passover lamb on that Good Friday

where he would take your sin and mine upon himself

& he would pay the full penalty for it

making the ONLY WAY for us to be resurrected to new life –
just as he demonstrated with the RAISING of Lazarus

But this Crowd – MISSED IT

This Crowd wanted to be saved from their present troubles –
because that's all they were focused on

but Jesus Christ came for something
of far more value than that

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NLT)

17 For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

THAT is the **TRIUMPH** - **Jesus rode** into **Jerusalem** to **win**
on our behalf on **Palm Sunday**

HOWEVER – there **IS a TRIUMPH** coming
that **WILL** involve **Palm Branches** again

that is **Bigger** and **Greater**
than the **crowd** on **that day** could **ever imagine**

In Revelation Chapter 7 John is seeing a great multitude again with Palm Branches in their hands

& again standing before this same Lamb of God who is now seated on the Throne in Heaven

Revelation 7:9–10 (NLT)

9 After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands.

10 And they were shouting with a great roar, “Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!”

THAT is the victory - Jesus rode into Jerusalem to win on our behalf - on Palm Sunday

it is the FINAL & Greatest TRIUMPH over Sin & Death and The Grave

the problem with the crowd was they had the WRONG TRIUMPH in mind

they wanted a TRIUMPH - in THIS World

AND - THAT TRIUMPH

that **THIS crowd wanted** in the **1st century**

WILL ultimately come to pass

the **NEXT TIME Jesus returns** to **Jerusalem**

Speaking of the **SECOND COMING of Jesus**

to this **EXACT SAME PLACE**

Zechariah 14:4 says (NLT)

4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem. And the Mount of Olives will split apart, making a wide valley running from east to west. Half the mountain will move toward the north and half toward the south.

& **Verse 9 says**

Zechariah 14:9 (NLT)

9 And the Lord will be king over all the earth. On that day there will be one Lord—his name alone will be worshiped.

& **Verse 11 says**

Zechariah 14:11 (NLT)

11 And Jerusalem will be filled, safe at last, never again to be cursed and destroyed.

At the **SECOND coming** – **Jesus** Christ will **sit TRIUMPHANTLY**
on the Throne of **this World** – **IN JERUSALEM**

But **THAT SECOND** Triumphal Entry – **CANNOT HAPPEN**
Without THE FIRST Triumphal Entry – **HAPPENING FIRST**

This **FIRST TRIUMPHAL ENTRY**
was to **give YOU & I** the **opportunity**

to **Receive** the **Free Gift** of **Salvation** & **Eternal Life** –
BY Putting our **Faith** in **Jesus Christ** as our **Savior & Lord**

John 1:12 (ESV)

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

& **THAT** will give us a **FRONT ROW SEAT**
to the **SECOND TRIUMPHAL ENTRY**

When Jesus comes back again

Let's Pray