

THY KINGDOM COME?

Mark 11:8–10

8 And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down branches off the trees, and strawed them in the way. 9 And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: 10 BLESSED BE THE KINGDOM of our father David, THAT COMETH in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

This was the day that Israel celebrated Jesus as their promised Messiah. This was the day that had been hoping for, a day that their Messiah would come and set up His kingdom and deliver them from their enemies. But had He? Had He come to set up the kingdom *at this time*? Jesus certainly didn't think so!

Luke 19:11

11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because THEY THOUGHT THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD SHOULD IMMEDIATELY APPEAR.

Apparently, Jesus knew many would see Him enter Jerusalem and assume that He had come to set up the kingdom. Therefore, He gave a parable explaining how the kingdom would not *immediately* appear (or come)!

Luke 19:12

12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman WENT INTO A FAR COUNTRY to receive for himself a kingdom, AND TO RETURN.

According to this parable, before He comes to set up His kingdom he *first* has to travel to a far country to receive the kingdom!

Luke 19:13

13 And he CALLED HIS TEN SERVANTS, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, OCCUPY TILL I COME.

While He's away He expects His servants to "occupy" until He returns. That is, He expects His servants to *exchange* the goods He's given them for a profit.

Luke 19:15

15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to

whom he had given the money, that he might know HOW MUCH EVERY MAN HAD GAINED BY TRADING.

When He returns, He will reckon with His servants or *judge* what they've done!

Mark 11:11–12, 15

11 And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when he had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, HE WENT OUT unto Bethany with the twelve. 12 And ON THE MORROW, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: 15 And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus WENT INTO THE TEMPLE, and began to CAST OUT them that sold and bought in the temple, and OVERTHREW the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves;

Jesus is basically performing the same events that we read the king performing in the parable. He entered the city, but later departed into Bethany for a time. When He returned He executed judgment upon those in the temple.

Knowing the order of events, what should be our expectation? For example, should we be looking for the kingdom to come? Or, should we be looking for Christ to come and judge His people?

1 Peter 4:17

17 For the time is come that JUDGMENT MUST BEGIN AT THE HOUSE OF GOD: and if it FIRST begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

Notice where judgment *begins*? —At the House of God (or the temple)! Now, most people assume this judgment will be *in heaven*. But, is this what the Bible says?

Luke 19:15

15 And it came to pass, that WHEN HE WAS RETURNED, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

According to this parable, judgment takes place *on earth*, not the *far country*! Why does it take place on earth? Because the king must first see who's *worthy* to inherit (inhabit) the kingdom!

2 Thessalonians 1:4–5

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: 5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, THAT YE MAY BE COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, for which ye also suffer:

Unfortunately, most people don't know this, just like they didn't know it then!

Luke 19:41–42

41 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and WEPT over it, 42 Saying, IF THOU HADST KNOWN, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

He knew that His people were ignorant of His mission. They didn't know that this was not a happy visit. It was to bring judgment. And because they didn't know His mission, many rejected His judgment of them. This rejection caused them to be rejected by God!

And I fear many will make the same mistake today. Because they don't know that Christ is coming to judge His people, they will end up rejecting His judgment. But someone may say, "I would NEVER reject Christ." Well, it's not Christ you should be afraid of rejecting. It's the one He will use that you should be afraid of rejecting.

When most people read the story of Christ's triumphal entry they miss the main character. The main character of this story, at least for us today, is really the ass (donkey)! Don't you find it interesting that Christ chose to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey and not a horse? Part of the reason why He chose a donkey and not a horse is because He wanted to reveal His mission. He was coming to His people to *judge* them. (Israel's judges rode on the back of donkeys!)

Judges 5:10

10 Speak, ye THAT RIDE ON WHITE ASSES, Ye THAT SIT IN JUDGMENT...

This donkey was not only revealing Jesus' mission, it also served as a *picture* of those God will use in the last days to bring judgment upon His people!

2 Peter 2:15–16

15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 But was REBUKED for his iniquity: THE DUMB ASS SPEAKING with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

Most people see the story of the donkey speaking to Balaam as just another peculiar event in the Bible. But, the donkey in this story serves as a picture of the people God will use to judge His people in the last days. In fact, we learn a lot about these people by simply examining where this donkey was found!

Mark 11:4

4 And they went their way, and found the colt TIED BY THE DOOR without IN A PLACE WHERE TWO WAYS MET; and they LOOSE HIM.

Three things we learn from this verse...

1. The 'colt' (young donkey) was tied to a *door*. (Jesus said, "I am the door.") Therefore, these individuals will be people who are 'yoked' to Christ. Meaning, they will *know the ways* of Christ.
2. The colt was "in a place where two ways meet." This is a complicated way of saying it was *around the corner* (behind the house, in an alley). Therefore, these people will be relatively *unknown* (i.e. not in prominent positions).
3. Lastly, the colt was "loosed." In one gospel it says the colt was loosed from its 'mother.' Therefore, these people will be separated from their religious traditions. Paul said, "When it please the Father to DELIVER ME FROM MY MOTHER'S WOMB...THAT I MIGHT PREACH Christ among the heathen" (Galatians 1:15, 16). Here "mother's womb" meant his Jewish religion!

God is 'coming' to judge His people. What should we do?

- We must prepare for coming by 'bringing forth' fruit. (He will not accept any excuses.)
- Understand that Christ is going to use 'men' to judge His people. They will not be in prominent positions. Yet, their message will be instrumental to our peace (put us in a right relationship with God)!