

Palm Sunday 2018 "Perfect timing"

John 12:12-28 & Luke 19:41-43

Story of Dad being furloughed... **God has perfect timing!**

1 Peter 1:18 "knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup> **but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.** <sup>20</sup> **He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you"**

Prophecy is one of the many evidences that the *Bible is an integrated message system*, the product of an almighty God. The Bible claims to be authored by the One who alone knows the end from the beginning, despite the fact that it is composed of 66 separate books, penned by some 40 authors, spanning several thousand years.

Mark chapter 8 verse 27 we read, "Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, "Who do men say that I am?" <sup>28</sup> So they answered, "John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ." <sup>30</sup> **Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him. Keep it a secret!**

**Secret... faithful or cautious in keeping confidential matters confidential; close-mouthed.**

It's known as the "Messianic secret".

**John 7:6** Then Jesus said to them, "My **time** has **not** yet **come**". **God has perfect timing!**

**John 7:8** You go up to this feast. I am **not** yet going up to this feast, for My **time** has **not** yet fully **come**." **God has perfect timing!**

**John 16:4** But these things I have told you, that when the **time** comes you may remember that I told you of them. **God has perfect timing!**

*My time has not yet come...*

"Messianic secret". *Don't tell them you were healed... **The right time was set in motion before the foundations of the world... So when would that right time be?***

*Daniel got to see God's day timer and God spelled it out...*

When will the time be? 25 " Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem

Command given on March 14, 445 B.C. Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;

7 weeks and 62 weeks or 69 weeks

69 x 7 = 483 years... or 173,880 days

Babylonian calendar as well as Assyrian, Chaldean, Egyptians, Hebrews, Chinese, Mayans and many more worked on a 360 day year calendar.

116 leap years... and no year 0

Start at March 14, 445 B.C., count 173,880 days, and you arrive at April 6, 32 AD

*Incredibly that's the very day Jesus made His triumphant entry down the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem. We call it Palm Sunday.*

*It was the only public demonstration Jesus ever orchestrated – and He did it to fulfill*

*Daniel's prophecy. It was the day Messiah the*

*Prince presented Himself to the nation Israel. God has perfect timing! Not a minute too soon, not a moment too late... always right on time! Because God is outside of time!*

Each year God had commanded His kids to celebrate "feasts" or "festivals." By the very definition of "feast" they were recitals or rehearsals for a future appointed time. **Passover was a rehearsal for the appointed time when the Messiah would declare Himself God.** He would like the Passover lamb be slain so the angel of death would Passover all covered in the blood of "The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world". This was the Passover of the appointed time. No more secret, fulfillment was now... for **"His time had come"**.

Matthew, in his gospel chapter 21 tells us as Palm Sunday was to begin... that the disciples were to tell the donkey's owner that, **"The Lord needs it"**. Without the slightest hesitation the owners give it...

**I am the one prophesied of by Zechariah and am not like the Kings of the world...** Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

Here a colt Jesus borrows, **before a boat** and also a **boy's lunch**. **The boat for a platform to preach from** and the **lunch served as an appetizer to a meal which would feed thousands**. In a

short week from now it will be a grave He borrows. ***For even in death the son of man has no place to lay His head.***

It was just **yesterday** that a dinner celebration in honor of Lazarus who was raised from the dead had occurred. At this dinner **Martha served... Lazarus fellowshipped... and Mary worshipped...** Attending this dinner were **unanswerable proofs** of Jesus and His claim to be the Messiah. Lives forever changed!

The Pharisees Sadducees and religious leaders had their hit list... Jesus was at the top. **Passover was here...** swarms of people coming to see Jesus and this man whom He raised from the dead... **In this context our King is presented to the world. The secret is out! His time had come! God has perfect timing!**

John 12:12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!"

**Palm branches...** symbolic of victory and **nationalistic** spirit. Clearly, a proclamation of their desire for Jesus to set up His Kingdom and overthrow the evil rule of the Romans. Palm branches were waved at the Maccabee family after they had seen God use them to deliver Israel from the wicked rule of Antiochus 4, **the first Hanukah.**

**Hosanna**, literally means, "**save**", here it means, "save, I pray" **So the people took palm branches crying hosanna... for this was to be a day to crown the new King of Israel.**

Many in this fickle crowd waving palm branches and yelling "hosanna", "save I pray" will be crying in Pilate's judgment hall "we have no king but Caesar"... **release Barabbas and crucify Jesus. Oh how that same kind of betrayal lies in the hearts of all men... we must stay close to Jesus... don't let your relationship with Him grow stale... or you too will find yourself denying Him by a life of non-obedience.** 14 Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, **a conquering King would ride in on a war horse...** Oh the weight was heavy on that donkey for it had never carried a human before... Truly the weight Jesus was carrying was far greater for He knew what awaited Him in Jerusalem. So again 14 Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: 15 "Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt." **Shortened version of what I already read.** 16 His disciples did not understand these things at

first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. John will later tell us that when the Holy Spirit comes He will lead men into all truth... supernatural things are only understood by those who have been made alive in Christ... Before Jesus overthrew the government of my heart none of these spiritual truths made any sense to me. So it was with His disciples they saw clearly only after Jesus was glorified. 17 Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. They saw with their own eyes Jesus call Lazarus from the grave. You bet they bore witness. 18 For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign. Oh but the sloshing joy of the crowds does not spill over into the Pharisees. Their hearts are not filled with delight but rather disdain... for what's in a man's heart will come out of his mouth and what's coming out of theirs is not worship and praise. 19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!" Nothing wasted in scripture... how is this for a magnificent hyperbole... the whole world has gone after Him... John knew this was a little of a prophecy... certainly people of the whole world now have... parts of the whole world are in this very room and how many of you "have gone after Him". Praise God He is the best! So now Jesus forces the hand of the religious establishment. Why? Because His time had come! God has perfect timing! After this public act, they would have to cast a public vote. No more meeting behind closed doors. No more plotting in private. It is time for them to confess Him or curse Him, crown Him or kill him.

20 Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. 21 Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." They must have wondered... Could this Jesus be the Logos Plato longed for? Interesting add on by John... none of the other gospel writers include this mention of "these certain Greeks". It was not uncommon for others to seek truth inside of Judaism. They probably were among those called "God fearers". They were attracted to Judaism for it's high morality and monotheistic beliefs. There was one thing that kept them



from completely converting...



what was it? Ouch! You got it. Circumcision! Their presence at the Passover would not have been unusual... so they are wanting to meet this Jesus they have heard so much about. As R Kent Hughes states it, "John wanted us to see that Gentiles were included in the events of Jesus' incarnation and sacrifice. In the opening chapters of Matthew's Gospel we

read that wise men from the East come to see Jesus, and here in John, shortly before the cross, we see wise men from the West coming to see Jesus. Gentiles framed both sides of Jesus' life."

22 Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus. 23 But Jesus answered them, saying, "**The hour has come** that the Son of Man should be glorified. **This is exciting... Jesus is going to set up His Kingdom... we can't lose...** If the Romans starve us... **Jesus multiplies our food...** we get sick, He heals us... **Even if we die He will raise us back from the dead...** so what is now said must have gone over like a lead balloon.

24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, **Most assuredly...** Verily, verily... truly truly, amen amen Attention... **may I have your attention please...** unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. **The pomp and circumstance comes to a crashing halt.. Jesus throws a wet blanket on the party. Jesus is a King that will rule through death not conquest.**

**25** He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **26** If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him *My Father* will honor. This isn't gonna go down the way you think it is! I'm gonna die...

**As Jesus rides into Jerusalem he knows the proclamations of praise will become shouts of torment. The hands lifted high will lift again but this time against Jesus.**

Look at verse 27 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. **God has perfect timing!** 28 Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, *saying*, "I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again."

The agonies and sufferings of the cross cannot be overstated. The physical trauma Jesus endured is mind boggling. The physical agony of *sweating blood, sleepless nights, being spit upon, punched, flogged, crowned with thrones and crucified would be enough to make any man weep knowing he was to endure such suffering.* I ask, "is that why Jesus was so troubled?"... is that why He asked to be saved from this hour? I believe it was so much more than this.

Jesus knew from birth what His purpose for life was... to die... for the sins of all mankind. But let us look at the emotional trauma He was to endure... it begins on His ride into Jerusalem.

In Luke 19 as He is on this donkey riding into Jerusalem we read... 41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, **Jesus wept over the city**... for behind the walls of the city are **lush gardens** and **lavish palaces**. Herod's palace in all of its splendor... the fort of Antonia displaying the power of the mercenary soldiers. Also behind the walls is the temple, like a huge diamond set in the middle of an ornate ring it shines with gleaming marble.

For all other who approach the city it is a breathtaking sight. For Jesus, it is a panorama of pain. The Bible says, "He wept over it". **How long did Jesus weep? We don't know**. We do know the word Luke uses is a strong one... klah'-yo ... convulsive sobbing... **serious distress!** We pass right over this verse but what knowledge does Jesus have that carries Him to this point of pain? From whence do these tears flow, how deep is the well from which they are drawn?

We know He is going to His death. He knows the extremes crucifixion brings a body too. He knows those who are singing to Him now will be cursing him in a few short days. *He knows the hands of praise will become hands that execute punishment.*

Yet knowing all of this Jesus does not weep for Himself... He weeps for Jerusalem. Verse 42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make for your peace!* But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

*Being God He knows the future...* He sees the soldiers surrounding the city. Their swords drawn with nothing but hate and harm on the edges. The battering rams positioned. Boulders ready to be launched at the mighty walls. **Jesus sees the bloodshed, the death.** He hears the cries as Jerusalem is destroyed and its people are slaughtered.

According to Josephus, **Titus besieged Jerusalem in A.D. 70 when it was full of Passover visitors.** Roman troops surrounded the city and kept anyone from entering or leaving. Cut off from supplies, many of the Jews resorted to **eating the leather** on their belts and sandals. **Many starved.** By August soldiers stormed the city and tore down the temple. Those who escaped the sword fled to higher ground, but by September they too were defeated and the city destroyed. **Over a million Jews died. Those who survived were enslaved.**

He knows the pain, the suffering people choose by rejecting His love. **We don't read much of our Savior weeping.** *It was just yesterday Jesus wept over a friend who died, and now He weeps over a nation that will soon die...* Jesus called them both out of their tombs. **Lazarus came forth.** Jerusalem did not.

Even this which took place before our text was not the total reason for His soul being troubled to the point of sweating blood... I believe the real answer is found on the cross when our Messiah, became the sins of all people... when He carried the suffering of all men, so we could become the righteousness of God in Him. That moment in time to which He had never experienced. The complete abandonment of His Father. The emotional trauma of being alone... totally alone... **My transplant at UCLA... forever changed me...** and yet nothing of what our King and Savior endured.

Bottom line Jesus endured the cross because He loved us... No greater love than this than to lay down His life for all of us...

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, **who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Paul is praying in Ephesians 1 verse 18 that the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the **riches** of the **glory** of **His inheritance** in the **saints**

27 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, *saying*, "I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again."

Don't ever forget it beloved... He did it all... for you!  
Oh How He loves us!  
So many give so little for Him who gave so much!

Whatever is going on in your life... KNOW God has perfect timing!