

Palm Sunday 2026

“Jesus the Triumphal King”

March 29th 2026

Introduction – Mark Daniel 9, and Read Luke 19:28-44

- Just as today is seven days before Easter Sunday, the day we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - So this event that we just read about took place 7 days before Jesus’ Resurrection
- The event is known as the Triumphal Entry

This whole week for Jesus is known as Passion Week or Holy Week

- **“Passion” is a word that was used in the Middle Ages to refer to the trials and suffering of Jesus.**
 - Holy of course meaning Holy or set apart
- This week we are celebrating, this week is set apart from all other weeks

And just so you are aware on how the week broke down for Jesus

Passion Week

Sunday – The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

Monday – The Cleansing of the Temple

Tuesday – Examination by the Religious Leaders

Wednesday – The Olivet Discourse

Thursday – Passover Seder

Friday – The Crucifixion

Sunday – The Resurrection

- And we begin this morning by examining the first significant moment in the week, Palm Sunday

To set the scene for you – This was Passover week

- One of the three celebrations that every Jewish male was to attend in the city of Jerusalem

Jesus' route from Galilee to Jerusalem would have had Him enter first into Bethpage and Bethany.

- And the view as you would come through those small communities and you would see **Jerusalem Jesus' day**
- picture
 - At this time the population of Jerusalem would swell to over 2 million people, crowding this small walled city
- At the same time because there were so many Jews, there was an increased presence of Roman soldiers
 - Some historians record it would have been as much as 10 times the normal number of soldiers stationed waiting for any insurrection by the Jewish people

And as Jesus comes to this city, never to leave it again, until after He would be raised from the dead

- Jesus sets up His entry into the city as Jesus had never set up anything before
 - And I want us to look for a minute this morning at why He did that???

Jesus sets this scene up

- He sent two disciples into the city to find this donkey that had never been ridden before
 - They go to a place where donkeys are tied up, and ask to use this donkey, just as Jesus had commanded them
- They lay down their coats on the road to enter the city, the people pick up palm branches, (hence the name Palm Sunday) and they waved them at Jesus and worship Him
 - Singing "Hosanna in the Highest" – singing parts of the Messianic psalms to Jesus

Now this is a miracle

- it is a miracle that Jesus tells them to go into the city, and describes exactly what they would find

- He sees the future in advance

It is a miracle that this guy lets the disciples take the young donkey

- I mean how many of you would give your property to two guys you don't know, because they say, "The Master has need of it."
 - They come for your car, "get away from my car" – "don't worry the master has need" – I would say, "The master can get his own." – you must be crazy, get out of here
- It was a miracle Jesus knew what they would see, it was a miracle they let the disciples have the donkey and it was a miracle that this donkey let Jesus ride on him

Now for those of you who are not into horse ridding

- those of you who had no experience with animals, other than ones you see on TV, let me help you
 - animals don't like to have you ride on them if they haven't been trained to
 - I'm not so sure they like it when they have been trained

I remember on Kauai, on our honeymoon, Christy wanted to go ride horses. She gets on hers, starts hugging it, it kisses her. It was sick. I get on my, its starts growling. Some of you think horses don't growl, they do, it was. Then as we were going it tried to bite me, and then it tried to throw me off.

- **We have a picture of my horse**
 - And that was a trained one – I think
 - Jesus rides in on this donkey that had never been broken in - It was a miracle

But that is who Jesus is

- He made all of the people, He knows the end from the beginning, He created the donkeys
 - He can do with them what He wants

And Jesus uses all of these things to set up this one event – why?

Why did Jesus set up the Triumphal Entry?

#1 – Because it was His time

Multiple times in the gospels, people would try to make Jesus the king

- He would silence them; He would tell them not to tell anyone what He had done in their lives
 - And each time He would make the statement, “My time is not yet”
- When He was feeding the 5,000 – the people cried out to enthrone Him
 - He would say, “My time is not yet”.
- When He raised Lazarus from the dead – the people wanted to make Him king
 - But Jesus said “My time is not yet”
- Over and over and over again
 - As the people would want to make Him king, He would say, “My time is not yet come.”

But on this day

- He invited the worship,
 - In fact, He set up the whole event
 - And the reason????
- Because His time had come!!!
 - This was why He had come to earth
- Not to be an earthly king
 - Not to overthrow Rome
 - And not simply to heal the sick and the lame
- But He came to die for the sins of the world

And this was His time!!!

- He set up these events because it was His time and also...

Why did Jesus set up the Triumphal Entry?

#1 – Because it was His time

#2 – Because prophecy was being fulfilled (Two in particular)

Prophecy #1 – Zechariah 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.” – Zechariah 9:9

Here Zechariah foresees when Israel would have her king. And he describes this Messiah, not charging in royally on a white steed, but humbly coming to Jerusalem on the back of a donkey

- It was a radical prophecy
- The religious leaders should have known what they were seeing

But not only was Jesus fulfilling Zech 9, but Daniel 9 as well

Prophecy #2 – Daniel 9:24-27 – turn and read

- Now this passage of scripture is known as Daniel’s 70th week prophecy
 - Daniel is given a prophecy that would cover the rest of Jewish history as it concerned the Lord
- Daniel is told 70 weeks of years are determined
 - The phrase is **“heptad” = “a 7-year period of time”** or 70 – 7-year periods of time were determined left in their history prophetically

Then God breaks up the 70 weeks of years

- He said the prophecy is broken up into 69 weeks of years or 483 years, and one 7-year period of time
 - By the way that last 7-year period is yet to be fulfilled, it is the 7-year tribulation.

But concerning the first 483 years – God says, “From the going forth of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah, (until your Messiah comes) is 483 years.

- He tells them the exact date the Messiah would come and when to start the countdown – at the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem

Now when did that happen? – It happened when a Persian King by the name of King Artaxerxes commanded not only the temple to be rebuilt in Jerusalem but also the city and the wall as well

Now the next question is when did that command take place, when do we start counting these “seventy sevens?”

- Well we are told in Nehemiah Chapter Two, verse one...

“It came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes...” – Nehemiah 2:1

- In the 20th year of King Artaxerxes
 - **King Artaxerxes reigned from 464 BC to 424 BC. Making the 20th year of King Artaxerxes – 444 BC.**

We also know that when the Bible does not indicate the day of the month, as it does not in Nehemiah 2:1, it is referring to the first day of the month

So we can Biblically prove that the Decree of Artaxerxes to go and rebuild and restore Jerusalem happened on the 1st of Nisan, 444BC

The equivalent of the 1st of Nisan, 444 BC, on our Gregorian Calendar is March 5th, 444BC.

- Now keep that date in mind and look back at verse 25...

From the command, there will be 7 weeks and 62 weeks

- Remember I said Daniel breaks the 490 year period into three parts – here is the first two parts
 - The first 7 weeks of years – or the first 49 year period of time is how long it took to rebuild the temple and the walls and the city
 - It was a huge project

Then once the temple and city were rebuilt you would have another 62 weeks of years or 434 years until, verse 25, the coming of the Messiah

So to review so you don't get lost because you really need to understand this

For Review...

- **70 sevens or 70 weeks of years or 490 years of prophecy is determined on the people of Israel.**
- **From the time of the command to go and restore Jerusalem, until the Messiah comes will be... 7 weeks (49 years) plus 62 weeks (434 years) or a total of 483 years.**
- **The Date to Start Counting? – The Degree of Artaxerxes – March 5th, 444 BC.**

So now armed with that information

- **Take 483 years and multiply them by the 360-day calendars of the world, and you come up with 173,880 days.**

173,880 days from the command to go and restore Jerusalem until the Messiah was going to come.

You start counting – March 5th, 444 BC

You arrive, 173,880 days later, on March 29th, 33 AD
The exact day, Jesus rode into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, the one day, Jesus not only allowed Himself to be worship as God, He arranged it

Wait a second, how do you know Jesus rode into the temple on March 29th 33 AD?, my Bible does say that – did you just start counting on March 5th 444 BC and whatever date was 173,880 days later you declared to be the day Jesus entered Jerusalem?

- **Of course, is there another way?**
 - **No – listen, listen, stay with me...**
 - **John Chapter 12, verse one...**

“Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead..... The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 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!” – John 12:1, 12-13

John indicates that Jesus rode into Jerusalem five days before the Passover

- John 12 starts out with Jesus in Bethany six days before the Passover
 - And then in verse 12 we are told the next day was what we would call the Triumphal Entry, the Day, Jesus presented Himself to the city of Jerusalem and to the Jewish people
- The only year this works out mathematically in Jesus’ ministry was 33 AD

According to Luke 3:1, John the Baptist began his ministry in the 15th year of Caesar Tiberius’ reign (29 AD). Jesus began His ministry shortly thereafter.

We have the dates Passover fell during that period of history...

Passover of 29 AD fell on a Sunday (April 17th)

Passover of 30 AD fell on a Thursday (April 6th)

Passover of 31 AD fell on a Tuesday (March 27th)

Passover of 32 AD fell on a Monday (April 14th)

Passover of 33 AD fell on a Friday (April 3rd)

Passover of 34 AD fell on a Tuesday (March 23rd)

Passover of 35 AD fell on a Monday (April 11th)

(dates provided by Dr. Harold Hoehner of Dallas Theological Seminary)

The date that works with everything we know about Jesus’ passion Week fits with Passover being on Friday April 3rd 33 AD

And if you take five days before, you arrive at March 29th 33 AD

- 173,880 days after King Artaxerxes gave his command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem in the book of Nehemiah, just like the prophet Daniel foretold

You see the Jews are still waiting for their Messiah, but no one living today or next year or ten years from now can be Him

- For the day Messiah would be presented to the Jewish people was March 29th 33 AD – and guess what, that day there was a Carpenter from Galilee riding into Jerusalem on a donkey – just as the Bible said he would

This was His time, this was His day

- spoken of by the prophets
 - set aside before the foundation of the world
 - people in the streets declaring Him the coming King

But I do want to point this morning, some hearing that date of March 29th 33AD, you will say, my pastor taught Daniel 9 years ago and he had a totally different date, what gives? – And that is a good question, so let me briefly explain....

The first Bible scholar to take Daniel 9 and try to figure it out with history and math which date God was talking about was a man by the name of **Sir Robert Anderson – picture**

- And through his research he put the date of Artaxerxes 20th year at 445 BC, and this put his date for the Triumphal Entry at April 6th 32 AD

That is the date you hear on all older Bible studies that deal with this subject - And no one is lying, they are working with the information, they had when Sir Robert Anderson wrote in 1888

However **Dr. Harold Hoehner (picture)** from Dallas Theological Seminary in the year 2000 went back over Sir Robert Anderson's work when Archeologist discovered the way they previously dated the Kings of Persia was slightly off (how they counted when "reigns" began)

- Sir Robert Anderson begins counting with Nehemiah chapter 2 happening on **March 14th, 445 BC, giving us a Triumphal Entry date of April 6th, 32 AD**

The more accurate date we have now of Nehemiah chapter 2 is **March 1st, 444 BC, almost a year later, giving the Triumphal Entry the date as March 29th 33 AD - And some of you say who cares?**

- Here is why that is important
 - One you need to know why great Bible teachers before the year 2000 and many today who don't do their updated homework, come up with a date of April 6th 32 AD for the triumphal entry
- But the other reason it is important to be accurate, it is the dirty little secret about Sir Robert Anderson's calculations they don't line up with when we now know Passover fell during the time of Jesus ministry

If April 6th 32 AD was the date for the Triumphal entry as Sir Robert Anderson suggests with the research, he had available to him at the time, that would make the triumphal entry 8 days before the Passover, not 5 days before the Passover as John 12 says it was – or it would be Palm Wednesday, not Psalm Sunday

- But with the latest information from the science of archeology concerning how they date the reigns of the Kings of Persia, that puts the date of the Triumphal Entry at March 29th 33 AD, five days before the Passover as John 12 says and 173,880 days after King Artaxerxes gave his command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem in the book of Nehemiah, just like the prophet Daniel foretold

God is keeping His Word to fulfill His promises to the very day friends, this book is so amazing! And if the story would have ended there – it would be a glorious one

- the people have received their King
 - let's go home and rejoice

- but notice what we read next in **Luke 19:41-44**

Jesus had a very different reaction to the Triumphal Entry – He weeps

- And of course, there is the weeping where gentle tears are coming down, oh I love this city
 - That is the not the Greek here
- The word Dr. Luke uses for weep there in verse 41 speaks of a sob, a weeping, a whole body is crying out
 - All of us have been there a time or two in our lives – extreme sorrow

Why is He weeping? – the answer is given for us in verses 42-44, we just read

- They did not know this their day
 - They should have
- They did not know the time of their visitation

Jesus marched into Jerusalem, fulfilling prophetic pictures of what the Messiah would do, because He knew people's hearts

- Without this they would say, we didn't know, how were we to know, you weren't clear
 - Wait a second – you cried out – “**Hosanna**” **means save now** – it is title of the Messiah - You sang the Messianic psalms...
 - Ah we didn't understand!!!!

But that is human nature – I didn't know

- And Jesus weeps because they should have known

They should have known! This their day of visitation that should of brought peace, but they missed it!

They missed it....

#1 - Because of ignorance

What more could God have done than to give them the very day Messiah would enter Jerusalem?

- the very day Messiah was to enter Jerusalem was there in their own scriptures
 - but they missed it, because they were ignorant of the scriptures

They missed it....

#1 - Because of ignorance

#2 - Because of indifference

- Jesus wept because there was a city that was busy about their lives, they just didn't care about the most significant day in human history up to that point

They were...

- Concerned with their homes
 - Concerned with what they were going to eat
 - Concerned with their children's well being
 - Concerned with their careers
- And though those are wonderful things to be concerned with
 - Jesus knew all of those things would come to nothing because of the coming storm

It would be less than 40 years from that day until Titus Vepagien would invade Jerusalem

- And those homes they were concerned with would burn
 - Their children would be brutalized and murdered
 - Their business and lives would be over!

And Jesus wept, convulsed, sobbed

- Because all of it was so unnecessary – if they had only recognized this their day, that made for peace
 - And as I was thinking and mediating over this, this week, I wondered...

What if Jesus came to the North County San Deigo – I believe He would weep - He would weep because of ignorance

- what more could He provide - a county full of good teaching
 - full of opportunities to learn – churches, radio stations - and yet there is willful ignorance

And there is total indifference – we just don't care

- We care about....
 - Our homes
 - Our children
 - Our careers
- And don't misunderstand me these are good things to care about
 - But we live in a sea of people who that is all they care about
 - And Jesus would weep because He knows what is coming
- And He knows so many are not prepared because of ignorance and indifference
 - And Jesus would weep, that all of this was unnecessary if we would only recognize this our King – recognize the things that make for your peace

What will you do?

- The choice is up to you? - Will Jesus rejoice or weep over your choice of Him?

What about you and me – How will we respond to our Triumphant King?

There were three responses to Jesus that day

#1 – The Pharisees rejected Him

- they were prideful, they did not want Him to be their king
 - They rejected him, and sadly as Jesus foretold, their day of destruction came.

There were three responses to Jesus that day

#1 – The Pharisees rejected Him

#2 – The crowds wanted to use Him

- They were singing Hosanna
 - Hosanna again means ‘save now’
 - These people wanted Jesus, but they wanted Him for the wrong reasons. They wanted Him to overthrow Rome, hence the “save now
- And as this crowd began to see throughout the week, that was not what Jesus was there to do
 - This temporary reception, became permanent rejection
- This same crowd that was crying out “Hosanna” will soon cry out “crucify Him”

There were three responses to Jesus that day

#1 – The Pharisees rejected Him

#2 – The crowds wanted to use Him

#3 – The disciples received Him

- though they would fail, they were far from perfect, they were in it for the long haul

And God turned the world upside down with these men

- They recognized their day of visitation, and they grabbed onto it.

What will you and I do???? - You see God is here

- wanting and desiring to work in our lives
 - to make a triumphal entry into our hearts
 - this is your day

This is your day; this is your time we are entering into – this is your day of visitation – what will your response be? Will you reject Him, want to use Him, or receive Him as Lord and King?

(answer to the question, 444 BC to 33 AD is 476.38 years, not 483? 360 day prophetic years 483, if you use 365 day years you get 476.38 year in 173,880 days)