

— Matthew 21.1-13 —
Palm Sunday 2026
Behold, Your King

Matthew 21¹ Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples,² saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me."³ And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."⁴ All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" ⁶ So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them.⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them.⁸ And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road.⁹ Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"¹⁰ And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?"¹¹ So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."¹² Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.¹³ And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

► **What are** some of the things that happened during Passion Week, beginning with Palm Sunday?

► **Why did** Jesus stay away from Jerusalem when people were telling him to go there, then insist on going when his disciples were telling him to stay away?

► **When Jesus** enters Jerusalem, virtually everything he says and does conjures up memories of OT events and prophecies, and everything amounts to a claim that he is _____ of Israel, the Messiah, the long awaited Son of David; and not only that, but that he is the LORD himself, the great _____, and King of all _____.

► **Six claims** or affirmations of Jesus' kingship:

1) Jesus riding into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey (2-7).

¹⁷ [Nor] wives ... nor ... silver and gold ... ¹⁹ ... that he may ... fear the LORD ... ²⁰ [and] his heart ... not be lifted above his brethren

1Kgs 1³³ "[H]ave Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and ³⁴ ... let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel

Zec 9⁹ "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.

2) The crowd shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David," and Jesus receiving it (9).

3) And "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD" (9).

Psalm 118²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.

4) The people laying their clothes on the donkey beneath Jesus and on the path before him (7-8).

2King 9¹³ Then each man hastened to take his garment and put it under him on the top of the steps; and they blew trumpets, saying, "Jehu is king!"

5) And cutting branches and spreading them on the road (8).

Lev 23³⁹ [W]hen you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days ... ⁴⁰ And you shall take for yourselves ... branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days ...

6) When Jesus gets to the temple, he acts like he _____ the place (12-14), because he does. And that's really the point. He is not only the Messiah, David's promised Son, he is the _____ himself, Immanuel, God in the flesh.

Dt 17¹⁵ you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses ... ¹⁶ But he shall not multiply horses for himself ...

Mal 3¹ "[T]he Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. ² "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderer's soap. ³ ... He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them ..., that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the LORD, as in the days of old

► **Why did** Jesus drive out the money changers and those who sold sacrificial animals? (12)

Acts 21²⁷ [T]he Jews from Asia, seeing [Paul] in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, ²⁸ crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place."

Isa 56⁷ "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

Num 15¹⁴ [I]f a stranger is sojourning with you, ... and he wishes to offer a food offering ... to the LORD, he shall do as you do. ¹⁵ ... [T]here shall be one statute for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you"

Jer 7⁹ "Will you [break all My commandments] ... ¹⁰ and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered to do all these abominations'? ¹¹ Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves [*lit., brigands*] in your eyes? Behold, I ... have seen it"

► **In Jesus' day**, as in Jeremiah's, the temple had essentially been commandeered and turned into a symbol of Jewish ethnic pride quite divorced from allegiance to _____, his _____, and his _____ for all nations. Jesus isn't against a love for country, as long as it is built on a love for _____. God promises to make Israel the envy of the nations, but it is contingent on Israel loving and obeying _____ (Deut 4.5-9). There is a certain Israelite exceptionalism here, but it is the exceptionalism of God's grace and blessing, and it is available to any nation. In fact, God calls all nations to it, and Israel was to echo that call. It was _____-based exceptionalism, not _____-based exceptionalism.

► **All of this** was outside God's will, but it was not outside his _____. It was part of God's proof to mankind that there is only one way for _____.

Zec 9⁹ "Behold, your King is coming to you; ... lowly and riding on a donkey ... ¹⁰ ... He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be 'from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.' ¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of My covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit." [ESV]

Mat 16²¹ Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

Jn 3¹⁴ "[A]s Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

► **What is** the key difference between the crowd that welcomed Jesus as King, and the crowd that said, "Crucify him ... We have no king but Caesar"?

John 6⁶⁶ [M]any of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. ⁶⁷ Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" ⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Deut 30¹⁹ "[C]hoose life ... ²⁰ by loving the LORD your God, by obeying his voice, and by clinging to him, for He is your life"

Acts 2⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers ... ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.