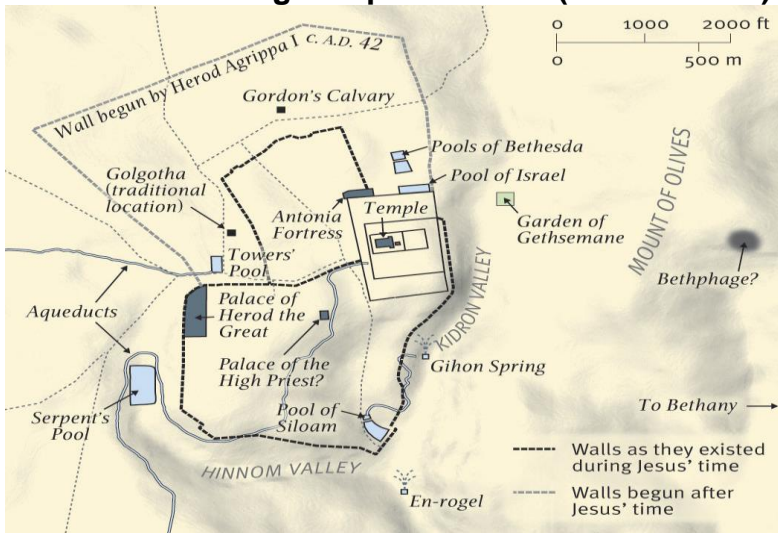


Jesus has made His from Galilee (in the north), south...skirting the border of Samaria, going down the eastern side of the Jordan River through the area of Perea to Jericho, where He was only 12 miles from Jerusalem. And we pick up this morning with Jesus coming to a place called (Beth-FUDGE) Bethphage. I want you to see this map...



See the right-hand side. You'll see Bethphage with a question-mark. See it? That little town (often called a hamlet) is just to the east of the Mount of Olives, which is right across the Kidron Valley from city walls of Jerusalem. Jesus is almost there! It's time for the coronation of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!

Matthew 21:1-11

¹ Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me." ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵ "Say to the daughter of Zion,
'Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "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 entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

Now, I don't know about you, but that didn't seem much like a coronation to me. I mean, try to picture the scene in your mind using this image on the screens...



People's coats and palm branches. Seems a bit shabby to me for the entrance of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. I mean Great Britain does it up better than that! Take a look at this picture...made in 1953...



That's the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Elizabeth ascended the throne at the age of **25**, upon the death of her father, King George VI. Here she is coming into Westminster Abbey...



Oh the pomp and circumstance! They would crown her Queen, June 2, 1953... See them bowing:



Oh what a fabulous crown she wore as queen... See the picture...



That crown was originally made for Queen Elizabeth I in 1838. I want you to see a better picture of the crown... This is Queen Elizabeth II (91 years old) today with that massive crown on her head:



Get this...that center-piece in that crown is made up of a total of 309-carat diamonds. What is more, the Queen's scepter...see it...



That center diamond in that scepter is a 516-carat diamond (called the GREAT STAR of AFRICA) and it weighs a pound and a half! Now, this scepter, along with the crown, I showed you is part of what is called the "Royal Crown Jewels of England"...here's a picture of all the jewels...



Want to know how much the Crown Jewels are worth? \$11 billion!

Now let's juxtapose these images against this...

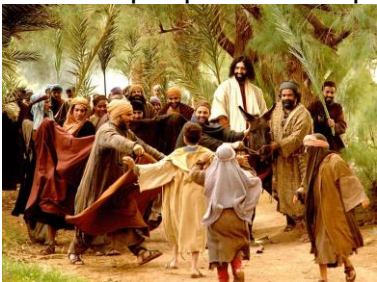


That's not the Queen of England riding into Jerusalem, that's the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! That's the Creator of the Universe riding on a donkey! Not much of a coronation, if you ask me.

I mean, I titled the message today, "The Triumph of Jesus." Did I mistitle the message? I mean in many Bibles, you have a heading (above Matthew 21) that says, "The Triumphal Entry." Really! On a donkey...clothes and branches... Where are the crown jewels? Where's the pomp and circumstance? I mean, even our Presidents get some pomp and circumstance... Remember last January, our President and the first lady,



...walking down Pennsylvania Ave. during the inauguration parade with all those people...all the pomp and circumstance! See it one more time...



Wow! That's not much, is it? **And that's the point!** You see, Jesus came to this earth the first time, meek and lowly, but when He comes again...He's coming in power...the likes of which this world has never seen! More on that in a bit! But for now, let's look at this humble entry and how Jesus orchestrated every minute detail of it. **See verses 1 and 2 again.**

Matthew 21:1-2

¹ Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me."

Now, at this point in Jesus' life...He's down to the last week of His life. So, when do you think this event took place in relation to that last week of Jesus' life? Hint: they are laying down palm branches. This is Palm Sunday. Jesus is five days away from His death. And it's five days from the Passover. Remember, scholars tell us, there are 2,000,000 people headed to Jerusalem with thousands of lambs on ropes...that will be killed to cover the sins of the people during the annual Passover sacrifice. Yet, the final Passover lamb is on His way. And there are so many people you can't stir them with a stick. And so, Jesus sends two of His disciples to get a donkey and its mother.

Now, who did the two disciples have to see to get the donkeys? No one! They're tied up right at the entrance of the village. Jesus said, "Untie them and bring them to me." Is that a miracle? Maybe. Maybe Jesus caused them to appear. I have no problem with that. He turned water into wine and He walked on water. But, it's also true that He could have arranged it on a previous trip to Jerusalem, for this very day. You say, "Wait a minute! Jesus had this all planned?" Yes, from the beginning of time. There are no accidents with Jesus. He knows everything about everything and His timing is perfect and He misses NO details... Right down to tied donkeys.

Oh, don't you believe that Jesus doesn't have a plan for your life...right down to the most minute details. He has a plan...will you obey and trust Him in it? It seemed out of whack to go get donkeys... Yet, the 2 disciples did exactly what Jesus asked. And Jesus gave them one further instruction...

Matthew 21:3

³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once."

Even the person that they might meet will know that Jesus has need of these two animals. By the way, Jesus knows what you have "need of" as well. Jesus, had to borrow these donkeys. The King of Kings, the Creator of the universe, had to borrow two beasts of burden. You might be struggling today financially... Don't you dare believe that Jesus doesn't know your need! He had a need. That's why He said, "The Lord needs them..." and they were supplied. I'll say it again: You trust Him... You obey Him and He'll take care of you. I've seen this happen over and over in my life and I'm grateful that to this day I still have to trust Jesus to supply my needs and I'm okay with that.

By the way, why a donkey and a colt. A momma donkey and it's colt (which is considered a male donkey less than four years of age)? Well, the colt is young and it's going to be used by Jesus to ride into a throng of people and the momma donkey will help calm it and settle it down. Even Jesus knew that would be needed. He misses nothing in His plans!

Is there a plan here? It seems that Jesus is orchestrating all of this. Is He? Sure He is. According to plan. What plan? Biblical prophecy. **See verse 4.**

Matthew 21:4

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet

Yes, this entire scene... (Jesus on the donkey) is prophesied in Scripture! Jesus is following what was spoken of over 500 years before it happened, by the prophet Zechariah. **Would you turn with me to Zechariah's prophecy, chapter 9, verse 9.** (Zechariah is the second to last book in the OT.)

Zechariah wrote what we're getting ready to read somewhere around 538 years before Jesus came to this earth via the womb of Mary in Bethlehem. What we're going to read is a Messianic prophecy. A promise about the coming Messiah, the Lord Jesus...

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Think about that. When Jesus sent two of His disciples to get these donkeys, they were fulfilling prophecy from over 500 years earlier. Folks, I'll say over and over again... NEVER, EVER FORGET, this book is a book of FULFILLED PROPHECIES. No other "religious text" can make that claim. In other words, there is no way to prove the authenticity of any other "holy book" if there is nothing to judge it against. We have in the Bible over 300 Messianic prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus Christ! You can take this book to the bank! It's the Word of God and the fulfilled prophecies prove it!

Now let me ask you something...before we leave this text in Zechariah 9. It says there in verse 9, that the "King is coming to you...on a donkey." Do king's ride on donkeys? No! They ride on horses, right? War horses! Often white horses, symbolizing victory! No. It was prophesied that Jesus would ride on a donkey, "humble," and that's the idea.

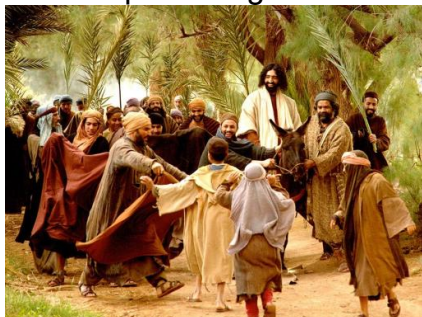
Church, Jesus came the first time to this earth in humility. Not as a conquering King. That's what everyone wanted! Overthrow Rome! Set-up your throne! Rule and reign! Not yet, not yet. It's coming...but, not yet. The first time Jesus came...He came as a humble Savior. The first time His entrance into Jerusalem was as a Suffering Servant. Oh, but next time...next time when He come...He'll come as Conquering King! No! He had not come to make war with Rome, He had come to make peace with God for you and for me. He came on a donkey offering peace for the soul who would receive Him.

Oh by the way, Mark 11:2 says the colt had never been ridden. Do you know what that means? It had been reserved specifically for this purpose. You see, it was a great honor to ride on an animal that had never been ridden. And so, the donkeys are brought to Jesus... **Look back now at Matthew 21...**

Matthew 21:6-8

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

See the picture again...



When a King was coming...in that day...you would line the thoroughfare with your outer garments and palm branches. And I note to you...the wording of verse 8. Did you catch it about the crowd? "MOST of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road..." MOST... Not all... Not everyone was excited about this event. You see, some in the crowd weren't. They were the religious leaders. The Pharisees and the Sadducees...and they hated Jesus and they were scared to death of Him. Why? **Turn to John, chapter 11, verse 43.**

Between His trip from Jericho to Bethphage, Jesus made a quick dash to Bethany at the bequest of two sisters, Mary and Martha... Their brother was sick and they wanted Jesus to come heal him. The brother's name was...you know it...Lazarus. And what did Jesus do?

John 11:43-44

⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

This, my dear church family, was the pin being pulled in the grenade. This would set the events in motion that would bring about the death of Jesus. Keep reading...look at verse 45...

John 11:45-48

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."

You understand, once Jesus showed He had power over death, the Pharisees and Sadducees were so intimidated that they knew the only way to silence Jesus would be to kill Him. Otherwise, they were going to lose all their power!

You see, the resurrection of Lazarus made the crowds following Jesus even larger. His popularity was at its zenith. Jesus is riding a tremendous wave of popularity amongst the people. What were they saying? **Go back to Matthew 21.**

Matthew 21:9-11

⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "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 entered

Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

Did you catch verse 10?

Who is this? There were people asking, "Who is this man?" It's kind of like the guy at a party that says, "Hey, this is a great party, what are we celebrating?" It's almost ridiculous in my mind... Many were celebrating and they didn't even know what they were celebrating! They had just gotten swept up in all of this and they didn't even know who Jesus was. In fact, five days later, many would be shouting, "Crucify Him!" Again...just swept up in the moment.

How about you? Who is Jesus to you? Do you understand who Jesus is? Really? If you do... If you truly grasp who He is...then you'd be a fool not to give your life to Him. You'd be a fool not to give your allegiance to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. You see, Jesus is not just some man...He's God...He's everything! He's the most important person who ever lived or ever will live. The God/Man, Jesus Christ! Oh, He's much greater than Queen Elizabeth or any president, or Emperor or King who's ever lived! He is preeminent over all!

Yes...see the scene again, it's a celebratory scene, no question about it...



But, again...it's honestly, kind of pitiful for a King. Just a donkey...people's overcoats, and palm branches. Not much of a coronation, if you ask me! But, the truth is...it was never intended to be a great coronation. It was prophesied to be just a donkey...and a humble King, offering His life for those who would receive Him by faith. Yes, that's why He came the first time. He came "to seek and to save that which is lost." That's why He came the first time. To die as the Passover Lamb of God...the ultimate and final sacrifice for our sin...that's why He came...the FIRST TIME. The first time...

You know He's coming again, don't you? And do you know **HOW** He's coming the next time? Not a donkey...not meek and lowly...no...the next time...He's coming as the Conquering King! **Turn in your Bibles to the Book of the Revelation, chapter 1.** And we'll end in the Book of the Revelation today. The Revelation as it is titled is the "book of the revealing of Jesus Christ as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!"

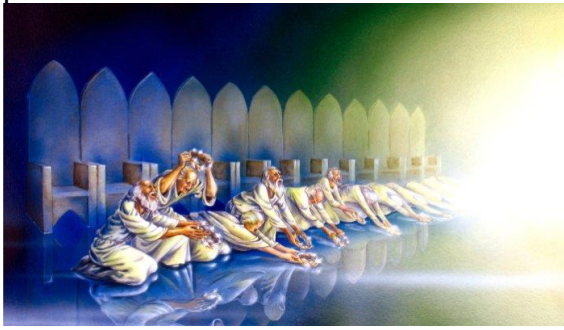
Revelation 1:4-8

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. ⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Oh yes! He's coming again...and the next time He comes...He'll come in all of His glory and all of His magnanimous and majestic power and those who don't know Him...they will "wail on account of him." Why? Because when He comes the next time, He will come as the Lion of Judah...to set up His kingdom on this earth and He will crush all those who rejected what He did on the cross for them.

And do you know what we'll do? Those of us who have given our lives to Him. We'll do exactly as Pastor Brad shared from this same book, just a few weeks ago...while I was gone to the Philippines. Remember the 24 elders pictured in Revelation, chapter 4? **Turn there. Revelation 4.** Those 24 elders represent all of Christendom...Old and New Testament believers. See the picture...



We'll lay our crowns at the feet of King Jesus!

Revelation 4:10-11

¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

This all happens in heaven around the throne of God, right after we receive our crowns. And then after this...the events of the Tribulation period that's been unfolding on the earth will culminate with the Battle of Armageddon. And guess what...we get to come back with Jesus to this earth as part of His grand coronation...and we will rule and reign with Him as He marches into Jerusalem through the Eastern Gate, just as has been prophesied in Zechariah 14. Zechariah 14:9 tells us He will be King over the earth... See it...

Zechariah 14:9

⁹ And the Lord will be king over all the earth. On that day the Lord will be one and his name one.

Listen, Jesus Christ will be King over all the earth...you can count it as much as you will count on celebrating Christmas in one month. Just as sure as you and the entire world notes the coming of Jesus the first time by celebrating Christmas...the world will see Him come again! By the way, did you know that when He returns again to this earth and we're with Him...do you know how we get here? You're still in the book of Revelation. **Go to Revelation, chapter 19.** Oh this is so powerful! This is right at the conclusion of the Battle of Armageddon on this earth...

Revelation 19:11-16

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

See this picture... What a great depiction of this scene...



Now that's a coronation fit for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

I want to close with a picture of the last scene from our Passion Play. This picture was taken back during the 2014 season.



I love that scene! And folks, that's how it all ends. The crown on Jesus' head, as depicted by Kelly Nichols, was no longer a crown of thorns, but a diadem...a Kingly Crown that's going to be so much more stunning than the crown jewels of England...we can't fathom. It will be a crown fit for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! And...we will bow before Him!

Hey...but, in order for you to be in that scene...You must bow now. You must call Him King now...surrender your life now! It's time for us to humble ourselves and call Him by His rightful title: King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the triumphant one: Jesus Christ!
