

Palm Sunday



Matt 21:1-11 NKJV

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."

Significant Events of Passion Week

Info:

This Sunday morning marks the beginning of a very significant week for those of us of the Christian faith. Today is Palm Sunday, and it is the beginning of the commemoration of the Passion week of Christ.

There may be some here among us who are unfamiliar with the events of passion week. Because these events are extremely important and each are of great significance, I would like to lay out a quick chronological timeline.

(Also please allow me to say that the day-by-day events are recorded in the scripture but their perfect chronological order fall under great scrutiny and are still widely debated today).

Nonetheless, these events are very important for each of us as followers of Christ.

Passion Week (Conceptual) Time line:

- Day 1: Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday
- Day 2: On Monday, Jesus Clears the Temple
- Day 3: On Tuesday, Jesus Goes to the Mount of Olives
- Day 4: Holy Wednesday
- Day 5: Passover and Last Supper on Maundy Thursday
- Day 6: Trial, Crucifixion, Death, and Burial on Good Friday
- Day 7: Saturday in the Tomb
- Day 8: Resurrection Sunday

Message:

No matter if this is the exact chronological timeline or not, what we do know is that each of these events are recorded in Scripture and verified by first-hand witnesses that they did indeed occur.

This morning as we begin passion week, we begin with our focus towards Jesus' triumphal entry back into the city of Jerusalem for his last visit and one that has begun to be known since that fateful day as "Palm Sunday."

I. Triumphal Entry: (Palm Sunday), Matt 21:1-11 NKJV.

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." Matt 21:1-11 NKJV

- This was Jesus' last ministry trip to Jerusalem.
- He was coming to celebrate Passover in the city with His disciples.
- He came riding on a donkey (an animal of peace).
- This fulfilled messianic prophecy, Zach 9:9.

"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." Zach 9:9 NKJV

- The crowds cheered and cried "**Hosanna**" meaning to save.
- This was a phrase reserved for the coming Messiah, Ps 118:25-26.

²⁵ Save now, I beseech thee, O Lord: O Lord, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. ²⁶ Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord: we have blessed you out of the house of the Lord. Ps 118:25-26 NKJV

- They also cut and threw palm branches on the road before Him.
- This was how conquerors and kings were celebrated.
- Jesus came not only to celebrate Passover but to become our Passover, I Cor 5:7.

For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: I Cor 5:7 NKJV

- Jesus came in peace riding on a donkey to save humanity from sin, death, and the grave.
- The next time He returns to Jerusalem it will be on a white horse, Zech 14:4.

And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. Zech 14:4 NKJV

- The next time He will come to not to die but to rule the world, Rev 19:11.

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. Rev 19:11 NKJV

****The reason Jesus came to Jerusalem that final time wasn't just to celebrate Passover, but to become our Passover.***

****This triumphal entry was filled with symbolism, prophetic imagery, and fulfillment of messianic promises. However, for the masses this was not the messiah they were looking for.***

Now, let's talk about the Jewish feast/celebration of Passover.

II. Passover: (Salvation through substitution), Ex 12:1-12 NKJV.

12 Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, ² “This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. ³ Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: ‘On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man’s need you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. ⁷ And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. ⁸ Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹ Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. ¹¹ And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So, you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord’s Passover. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.

- The Jews have been in Egypt for centuries.
- They are now slaves and are in bondage.
- God hears them and remembered His promises to them, Ex 2:23-25.

²³ Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. ²⁴ So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them. Ex :23-25 NKJV

- There have been 9 plagues and the Jews have been kept from them.
- However, the 10th judgment is coming and no one will be exempt.
- God’s provision is a lamb.
- The Jews are instructed to take a first-born male lamb, spotless and perfect; and sacrifice it to use its blood on the doorpost.
- Then when the death angel passes and sees the blood, they will pass over those under the blood.
- Now God has provided us a lamb, John 1:29.
- He is a first-born male, Luke 3:23.
- He is spotless and sinless, I Pet 1:18-19.
- None of His bones were broken, John 19:26.
- He died outside the gates of Jerusalem.
- He died for our sins, I Cor 15:3.

**On that first Passover, God devised a way in which he could be both just and merciful at the same time. We might call it salvation through substitution.*

**This Lamb was no beast—he was fully God and fully man—like us in every way except he was without sin.*

**This is what Paul means when he says that “Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.” Our salvation comes through his substitution. That’s why God can say to us, “When I see his blood, I will pass over you.”*

Go with me now to the setting of the last supper.

III. Communion: (Commemoration of salvation through Christ substitution), Matt 26:17-30 NKJV.

¹⁷ Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸ And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples."'" ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. ²⁰ When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. ²¹ Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." ²² And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?" ²³ He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. ²⁴ The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." ²⁵ Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it." ²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." ²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." ³⁰ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

-Jesus gathered in Jerusalem to keep the Passover as commanded in the Law, Deut 16:16-17.

¹⁶ "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed. ¹⁷ Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you. Deut 16:16-17 NKJV

- The Passover table has many elements on it.
- All of which were significant.
- A roasted shank bone, represents the Pescah Lamb (Passover) sacrifice.
- A hard-boiled egg, represents mourning.
- Bitter herbs, represent the bitterness and harshness of slavery.
- Charoset, an applesauce-like mixture with wine, nuts, apples, etc. represents the mortar & brick used by the Jewish slaves in Egypt.
- Karpas, often parsley, represents hope and renewal.
- Matzah, an unleavened bread, represents the bread the Israelites took with them when they fled Egypt.
- Salt Water, placed on table beside plate, represents the tears of the slaves.
- However, at this last supper Jesus also institutes the Lord's supper or communion.
- He said the bread, which represented His body, would be broken, Matt 26:26.

²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Matt 26:26 NKJV

-He said the cup, was now the cup of the new covenant in His blood, Matt 26:27.

27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins Matt 26:27-28 NKJV

****Jesus is our Passover. He is the fulfillment of God's just and merciful plan of human redemption.***

****It is at this meal that we celebrate and commemorate the ultimate Passover lamb. The one that freed us from the bondage of our slavery of sin and has brought us into the reality of this new hope of God's Kingdom.***

Musicians to platform:

Conclusion:

On this first Sunday of Holy Week, may we recognize the significance of this day. May we receive our true Passover Lamb and may we each remember Him and what He has given us to become our new reality.

Ministry time:

1. Jesus is our deliverer; He may not have come how humanity thought He would have come, but He had done what no one thought He could do. **(Recognize Him).**
2. Jesus died our place, to forgive us, to spare us, to save us, to heal us and to put us in right standings with God. **(Receive Him).**
3. Today we each have an opportunity to commemorate and celebrate all He has done for us. **(Remember Him).**

Benediction:

Num 6:24-26 24 "The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; 26 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

II Cor 13:14 14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

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03/28/21
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