

“Four Verses That Change Everything!” Luke 19:41-44 & Daniel 9:24-27

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to John 12:12-16

Today is Palm Sunday and we just read the scripture where it gets its namesake. It has many traditions prescribed to it. It is when the story of the so called “Triumphant Entry” is taught and it officially starts what is known as “Passion” week. Many churches will have many religious activities this week meant to reflect on the person and work of Jesus Christ. The first century church practiced these things in conjunction with Passover but as the church became more antisemitic it purposely changed the dates to no longer be part of Passover and in the process utilized pagan practices. Paul warned us not to focus too much on particular days...

Colossians 2:16-17

So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

And also, he said...

Romans 14:5

One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.

We are not here to judge how some want to practice their faith but to remember that our faith does not rest on a particular day or event but on the finished work of Jesus Christ. (Talk about trust in things vs trust in Him)

So why even mention it then? Because for us Palm Sunday has a very important meaning that is lost to most churches. Most churches today do not believe that God has any future plan for Israel and in most cases believe that the Church has superseded or replaced her in every way. Today we are going to show you that fulfilled prophecy that has already happened will destroy the folly that God is done with Israel. It also gives us a pattern that proves we can trust in these things to come to pass. It is not by accident that we have come to this passage on this particular date! Two weeks ago, we left off with this passage...

Luke 19:41-44

Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 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. For days will come upon you when your enemies will

build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 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.”

Last time we mentioned that Jesus prophesized that the city would be destroyed. This was fulfilled literally in 70 AD.

Remember this picture?

But there is an even more important thing that Jesus is pointing out that would have been discovered by these disciples as we read in John today...

John 12:16

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.

Did you notice a couple of things Jesus said as he is riding into the city?

Luke 19:41-44

Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 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. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 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.**”

Jesus sees the city and weeps over it. His comment is not to the people but to the city. The people are included because they are in the city, but this is about the city. He mentions two things that we are to pay attention to. First, it is “Your Day”. This is a specific day. A particular 24 hour moment on our calendar. Then he says, “The Time”. Could be a particular season but can be used as a fixed and definite time. Why use this language? What day and time were they supposed to know? If we have a place to connect all this to would that not help? We do and it really does change everything!

Take your \* bibles and turn to Daniel chapter 9 and keep the handout nearby as we show you today how important this day is and how it relates to what Jesus is saying in Luke 19.

First let’s look at the context. Daniel is a prophet during the time of Judah’s captivity. He is a contemporary with Jeremiah

that we are studying on Mondays. Half of the book is history of Daniel's life, and the other half are prophecy given to him in dreams and visions written down that deal with the gentile nations and some about the future of the Jewish people. Chapter 9 is towards the end of Daniel's life when he was an old man. It starts off like this...

### Daniel 9:1-2

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Daniel was reading the various writings of Jeremiah that would later become one book in our Bibles. This is something we dealt with already in our Monday study. One of those places that he would be reading is a letter that was sent to those in captivity, which Daniel was one of them...

### Jeremiah 29:10-12

For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts

that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

Now you can understand Daniel's long prayer that takes up most of the chapter. What our focus today will be how this prayer is answered...

Daniel 9:20-21

Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God, yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.

Daniel 9:22-23

And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:.."

So, here is the set up for what the angel Gabriel is going to tell us. This will help us put the pieces together and connect it to

what Jesus says in Luke 19. Let's take a look now at the four verse that change everything! Please use the handout as we go through this.

Daniel 9:24

“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy...”

The first thing we need to learn from this is that the weeks being mentioned here are weeks of years. In the Hebrew it would be 490 years. Since the years that they were in captivity were 70 literal years then we must make these 490 literal years. But notice who they are for, the church? NO! The city of Jerusalem and the Jewish people. Not just Jerusalem or just the Jewish people but both together. Very important. But also notice what the end of the 490 years is to bring? Let me ask you, have any of these things come to pass yet? Of course they haven't. But if we take the Bible seriously, which we should, then we should be looking for when this time will come. It's a good thing Gabriel doesn't leave us hanging!

Daniel 9:25

“...Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times...”

Well, that’s pretty specific. The angel is telling Daniel that he can know the exact time the Messiah would come. He even gives him a starting point to start the clock. Can we find that date in history? Now we are going to focus on only one but any way you add it up it comes to the time of Jesus. Some says this date was when Cyrus issued his decree in 536 BC and the 483 years come to the birth of Jesus which we do not have a date. But Jesus said this day, did He refer to that being a day prophesied? I think he did! We do have a date mentioned in scripture that gives us the time a decree went out to rebuild the wall.

Nehemiah 2:1,7-8

And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes...Furthermore I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah, 8 and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king’s forest, that he must give me timber to make

beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy.”

There is some discussion about the exact day of this decree, but Harold Honer makes the best argument for March 14, 444 BC. The problem is our calendars are all messed up. Some say 445 BC but that is not accounting for there is no year zero and so technically you go from BC 1 to AD 1. Here is the chart found in a good commentary:

Todd Hampson’s “A Non-Prophets Guide to the Book of Daniel”:

$62+7 = 483$  Babylonian Years (360 days)

$360 \times 483 = 173,880$  Days

Solar Year =  $173,800$  divided by  $365.2422 = 476.068$  years

$.068 \times 365.2422 = 25$  Days

476 years and 25 days from March 5, 444 BC is March 30, 33 AD or Palm Sunday!

So, if this is correct then it brings great light to Jesus’s words. It also sets up a trend of prophecy being fulfilled literally as seen in the next verse...

Daniel 9:26

“...And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined...”

As we know and will find out as we finish Luke that the Messiah will be cut off and not for Himself but for you and me. And as He said in his words while riding into Jerusalem that the city would be destroyed afterwards and that happened literally in history by the Romans in 70 AD. And it was a total destruction! Just as Gabriel has said. But what about the final seven years? If the 483 years have come and gone then there must be a final 7. That is found in our last verse...

Daniel 9:27

“...Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”

Who is the “he”. The prior verse tells us that he is the prince who is to come from the people who destroyed the temple. Who is that? Rome! Now this raises the question, when will

this happen? What is the one thing needed in this passage that does not exist for it to happen? The Temple! If all of this is literal, which it has to be to be true, the former temple has been destroyed it is assuming a new one will be built. This is why the fact that Israel is back in the Land, and they have access to the Temple mount and control of Jerusalem is a huge sign that this is close to being fulfilled. Never in history since 70 AD has there been a Jewish temple for this to fulfilled in. Why a gap? This gap is the mystery known as the church age. After Paul taught the rapture of the Church in 1 Thessalonians false teachers came in saying that they had missed it and were already in the Tribulation Period. This is why Paul wrote the second letter...

## 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

Notice Paul is referring back to Daniel 9:27. The Day of the Lord, or as known as the seventieth week of Daniel, will start with an apostasy or falling away. That is this covenant that the nation of Israel will sign to start the seventieth week. This will be followed by the Abomination of Desolation in the middle of the week. Why is this important? Because Palm Sunday reminds us that Prophecy was fulfilled and will be fulfilled literally. He came the first time and He is coming again! First for the Church and then with His church at the second coming. Daniel 9:24-27 changes everything and gives you and I a key to unlock all of the other prophecies and especially the book of Revelation. As Jesus was telling his disciples about these things he reminded them and reminds us this day...

Mark 13:32-34

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.

Mark 13:35-37

Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”

Are you watching? You should be because that day is closer than ever!