

## WHY WE'LL BE WAVING PALM BRANCHES IN HEAVEN

### I. [Revelation 5:1-14](#) [Revelation 7:9-12](#)

A. Palm Sunday launches us into Holy Week as we celebrate Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection. The triumphal entry reveals Jesus as the chosen Passover Lamb, the fulfillment of every rite, ritual, festival, and Messianic prophecy instituted and foretold by the Law & the Prophets. As He rode into Jerusalem that day to shouts of *Hosanna*, the unmentioned sound through those cheers was the bleating of lambs being led or carried into the city in preparation for the Passover. The Lamb of God rode in among them even though the branch-wavers were clueless.

B. Victorious Roman conquerors would ride into cities triumphantly on warhorses or chariots before such crowds but Jesus rode in on a humble donkey. It was all planned. It was prophesied. It's was now unfolding. Sin and death were about to be conquered. The inauguration of the Kingdom of God was underway as the King of kings rode in. One Day we will see this Kingdom fully consummated. The original Palm Sunday not only included palm branches but cloaks. People paved Jesus' route into Jerusalem with cloaks as well as those beautiful branches. On that Sunday of destiny, people were worshipping aloud so the rocks didn't have to!

C. Augustus Toplady, an Anglican pastor of the late 1700s and author of the hymn, *Rock of Ages*, said this of Jesus' triumphal entry: "*When Christ entered into Jerusalem the people spread garments in the way: when He enters into our hearts, we pull off our own righteousness, and not only lay it under Christ's feet but even trample upon it ourselves.*" (If we place any hope in our own righteousness, this day and every day of worship becomes a hopeless endeavor. Idolatry was Israel's demise and self-righteousness is the worst kind of idolatry.)

D. So what is Jesus, the Lamb of God, about to accomplish? John gives us a glorious picture in [Revelation 5:1-14](#) (ESV) **1** Then I saw in the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. **2** And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" **3** And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, **4** and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. **5** And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals." **6** And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. **7** And He went and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne. **8** And when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. **9** And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, **10** and You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." **11** Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, **12** saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth

*and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" 13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" 14 And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.*

**E. Jesus rode into Jerusalem, on the back of a donkey, to accomplish that! And to put it more personally, you are among those He came to ransom by His blood! As for what was written in that scroll with seven seals, there's much debate. That it contained the will of God and the rendering of His judgment upon mankind is certain. That His judgments are eternally horrible for the lost and eternally glorious for the redeemed makes that event so separately profound for all. But we have the Lion of Judah, the Lamb of God, upon a donkey, entering Jerusalem, bound for a cross, to ransom you by His blood! To God alone be the glory!**

**F. So will there be palm trees in heaven? Evidently. As John's amazing heavenly preview continued, he saw the martyred saints waving palm branches. Where'd those come from? Revelation 7:9-12 (ESV) tells it: **9** *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation (**Your salvation!**) belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."* **(For those in Christ Jesus, for those ransomed by the blood of the Lamb, this is a glimpse of your glorious future! Heaven will be an eternity of everyday Sundays. Palm Sundays! Resurrection Sundays! Glorious Sundays! If you don't like Sundays now, how much will you like them then? Waving palm branches today was just for practice--we were merely rehearsing for what's yet to come! Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!)****

\* Close with the lyrics of an old hymn titled, "*Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!*" written by Henry Hart Milman in 1827, followed by Prayer...

## [Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

### [Revelation 5:1-14 \(ESV\)](#)

**1** Then I saw in the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. **2** And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" **3** And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, **4** and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. **5** And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals." **6** And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. **7** And He went and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who was seated on the

throne. **8** And when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. **9** And they sang a new song, saying, "*Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.*" **11** Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, **12** saying with a loud voice, "*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!*" **13** And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "*To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!*" **14** And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

### **Revelation 7:9-12 (ESV)**

**9** After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, **10** and crying out with a loud voice, "*Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!*" **11** And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12** saying, "*Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.*"

### **Quote by Augustus Toplady**

"When Christ entered into Jerusalem the people spread garments in the way: when He enters into our hearts, we pull off our own righteousness, and not only lay it under Christ's feet but even trample upon it ourselves."

- Augustus Montague Toplady (1740 - 1778) was an Anglican pastor and hymn writer. He is best remembered as the author of the hymn, "*Rock of Ages.*"

### **Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!**

Henry Hart Milman (1791-1868) written in 1827

1. Ride on, ride on, in majesty!  
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry.  
O Savior meek, pursue Thy road,  
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

2. Ride on, ride on, in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin  
O'er captive death and conquered sin.

3. Ride on, ride on, in majesty!  
The angel armies of the sky

Look down with sad and wondering eyes  
To see the approaching Sacrifice.

4. Ride on, ride on, in majesty!  
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
The Father on His sapphire throne  
Expects His own anointed Son.

5. Ride on, ride on, in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die.  
Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain.  
Then take, O Christ, Thy power and reign!

### **Bonus Stuff**

**"Ride On! Ride On In Majesty!" by Henry Hart Milman - King's College Choir, Cambridge**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-qDQSjnzH8>

**Palm Sunday: Why is it Significant? - Doug Eaton**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACjo5BJ7JWk>

**Palm Sunday - Spirit Juice Studios (Very Moving!)**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3Vor55BoE0>

**The Triumphal Entry of Jesus Christ - R.C. Sproul**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xsu35uDLLY0>

**Nothing Has Snuck Past God - Trip Lee - The Gospel Coalition**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFVZaBKG\\_Og](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFVZaBKG_Og)

### **Zechariah 9:9 (ESV)**

**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.

### **Psalm 118:24-26 (ESV)**

**24** This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. **25** Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success! **26** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless You from the house of the LORD.

### **Martin Luther on Psalm 118**

"This is my psalm, my chosen psalm. I love them all; I love all holy Scripture, which is my consolation and my life. But this psalm is nearest my heart, and I have a peculiar right to call it mine. It has saved me from many a pressing danger, from which nor

emperor, nor kings, nor sages, nor saints, could have saved me. It is my friend; dearer to me than all the honors and power of the earth."

- Quote by Martin Luther, cited by C. H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David* [Baker], 5:337. Luther's motto was verse 17: *"I shall not die, but live, and recount the deeds of the Lord."*

### **Matthew 21:1-11 (ESV)**

**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."

### **Mark 11:1-10 (ESV)**

**1** Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples **2** and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. **3** If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" **4** And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. **5** And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" **6** And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. **7** And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and He sat on it. **8** And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. **9** And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, *"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"*

### **Luke 19:28-44 (ESV)**

**28** And when He had said these things, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. **29** When He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples, **30** saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. **31** If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.' **32** So those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them. **33** And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" **34** And they said, "The Lord has need of it." **35** And they brought it to Jesus, and

throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. **36** And as He rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. **37** As He was drawing near--already on the way down the Mount of Olives--the whole multitude of His disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, **38** saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" **39** And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." **40** He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." **41** And when He drew near and saw the city, He wept over it, **42** saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. **43** For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side **44** and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

### **John 12:12-19 (ESV)**

**12** The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. **13** So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying out, "*Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!*" **14** And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, **15** "*Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!*" **16** His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about Him and had been done to Him. **17** The crowd that had been with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. **18** The reason why the crowd went to meet Him was that they heard He had done this sign. **19** So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him."

### **What Palm Sunday Is All About**

By Tom Barnard

The crowd was clueless. They never got it right. They shouted praises. He wept. They looked for a warrior-king riding a white stallion. They got a carpenter riding a donkey. They wanted hype. They got a healer. They wanted a prophet. They got One who fulfilled prophecy. They wanted a scepter. They got a Savior. They got nothing they asked for but everything they needed. Only they never got it. They were clueless. Jesus was the only One there who really knew what was happening on that first Palm Sunday.

It's so easy to become like those people in Jerusalem. We think we know what's going on, but we really don't have a clue. We have a bad week, and we blame God. Our kids act out, and we blame the school. We work two jobs and wonder why things aren't better at home. Jesus comes to our town, and He wants to help; but we don't recognize Him for who He is. We think He will be impressed with our boats and our businesses and our stuff. He is not. He wants our hearts. That's what Palm Sunday is all about.