

FOR WHOM DID JESUS RIDE INTO JERUSALEM?

I. Zechariah 9:9 John 12:12-19 Revelation 7:9-12

A. Zechariah 9:9 in the Amplified is a messianic prophecy that goes like this: 9 *Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O Daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King (Messianic King) is coming to you; He is righteous and endowed with salvation, humble and unassuming [in submission to the will of the Father] and riding on a donkey, upon a colt, the foal of a donkey. (We'll pick up today 500 years later.)*

B. Many times over we've celebrated Palm Sunday together. It's beautiful and it's solemn. It's both sad and celebratory. It leads us to something awful yet something glorious. The first Palm Sunday was misunderstood. The people thought they were cheering their insurgent king but Jesus was THE King of kings!

C. Pastor Tom Barnard writes this about that first Palm Sunday: "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." **(Today we'll hear of the Triumphal Entry from John...)**

D. John 12:12-19 (ESV) is our main text: 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!" ("Hoshiya na!" a single word which we translate, Hosanna! It's a cry for help wrapped in exaltation. Pleading + Praising.) 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." (But public opinion changes in the blink of an eye!)*

E. Why palm branches? In Leviticus 23:33-44 God instructs Israel to celebrate the Festival of Booths, living in shelters for 7 days, a harvest festival recalling God's care for them in the wilderness. Palm fronds were used in their festival worship... Joshua later leads Israel into the Promised Land. Jericho, the City of Palms, was the first city conquered. Palms have long since symbolized the Promised Land... In Nehemiah 8:13-18, Ezra restores the Festival of Booths following Babylonian & Persian exile--building rooftop shelters with what? Palm branches! (Remember all our church campouts?!) And based on Revelation 7:9-17, palm branches became a symbol for martyrs and many tombs of martyred Christians have palm branches carved or chiseled on them. So these beautiful palm branches bear great significance!

F. So Jesus climbs on a donkey. The crowd is in a frenzy. The notion of revolution was in the air. "Out with the Roman occupiers!" "In with the long promised Messiah-

King!" But something far greater was unfolding! A far greater revolution! So let me ask some questions: Where was Jesus so resolutely headed? Then once we establish His destination, let's ask who was He headed there for? If we answer, He was headed there for God, we'd be right. Having fulfilled all righteousness, He headed to the cross to fulfill God's justice, to pay the penalty for the sins of the unjust. God is absolutely just because He is absolutely holy! So yes, He was headed to the cross for God the Father but for who else? Us! He was headed there to die in our place! The way back to His throne was through a bloody cross and a borrowed tomb. And He's sitting on that very throne right now praying for us! From whence He shall return! (The Bread & Cup remind us!)

G. The author of the hymn, "Rock of Ages, (which Mark led us in last Sunday) was written by an Anglican pastor named, Augustus Toplady. Penned in the late 1700s, Augustus wrote of Jesus' triumphal entry this way: "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." (We, therefore, place no hope in our own righteousness. Instead we sing, "He is all our righteousness, we stand complete in Him, and worship Him..." (The Bread & Cup remind us.)

H. Jesus came to fulfill what every book from Genesis thru Malachi had foretold! He came to climb upon the cross every prophet had long prophesied! He came to break the curse that came upon us in the Garden when our ancestral parents rebelled! He came to heal the terminal disease of sin which infected us in the womb! He came to cause the lame to walk uprightly with God; He came so the deaf would hear the thunderous voice and quiet whispers of our Loving Father; He came so the blind might see our Lord's resplendent glory! He came to replace rebellion with righteousness and eternal death in hell with everlasting life in the presence of Almighty God! Jesus rode in for God and likewise rode in for you! (And yes, the Bread & Cup remind us!)

I. What then are the ramifications of all this in your life? Have you embraced this glorious reality? If not, why not today! If you have embraced it, what does it look like? How does it shake out? Has it cut you to the quick and yet filled you with joy? Has it been like a burning coal to your tongue yet caused you to erupt in songs of praise? How does it look in your home, with your wife and children? What do your grandchildren and great-grandchildren see? How about your neighbors, workmates and classmates? God the Son, from eternity past, has come to save you from your sins by paying the penalty for them! God's justice was met when His wrath was unleashed upon His only Son! Can there be any greater love than this?! Consider then, how is it with your soul?

*** Pray & Officiate Communion...**

*** Revelation 7:9-12 (ESV) will take us home today. The same John that wrote our main text also saw and wrote this: **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."**

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Zechariah 9:9 (AMP)

9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O Daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King (Messianic King) is coming to you; He is righteous and endowed with salvation, humble and unassuming [in submission to the will of the Father] and riding on a donkey, upon a colt, the foal of a donkey.

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."

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 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."

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*."

[Bonus Goodies](#)

What is Palm Sunday? - GotQuestions.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atqM9T312Ok>

The King is Come (Palm Sunday) - Tim Keller

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EP5VtCaS7sg>

The Triumphal Entry (Mark 11:1–11) - A Sermon by R.C. Sproul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ezs1WNIMts>

Historians Explain the Triumphal Entry of Jesus (Darrell Bock & Gary Habermas)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cBUpcViWAw>

[More Verses, Quotes, Excerpts, & Extras](#)

[Psalm 118:24-29 \(NIV\)](#)

24 This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. **25** O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success. **26** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you. **27** The LORD is God, and He has made His light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. **28** You are my God, and I will give You thanks; You are my God, and I will exalt You. **29** Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever.

[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 11:1-11 (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!” **11** And He entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when He had looked around at everything, as it was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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.”

Leviticus 23:33-43 (ESV) - The Feast of Booths or Festival of Tabernacles

33 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **34** “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Booths to the LORD. **35** On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary

work. **36** For seven days you shall present food offerings to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall hold a holy convocation and present a food offering to the LORD. It is a solemn assembly; you shall not do any ordinary work. **37** “These are the appointed feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim as times of holy convocation, for presenting to the LORD food offerings, burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each on its proper day, **38** besides the LORD's Sabbaths and besides your gifts and besides all your vow offerings and besides all your freewill offerings, which you give to the LORD. **39** “On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the LORD seven days. On the first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest. **40** And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days. **41** You shall celebrate it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It is a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. **42** You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, **43** that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”

Nehemiah 8:13-18 (ESV) - The Feast of Booths Celebrated After Exile

13 On the second day the heads of fathers' houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to Ezra the scribe in order to study the words of the Law. **14** And they found it written in the Law that the Lord had commanded by Moses that the people of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month, **15** and that they should proclaim it and publish it in all their towns and in Jerusalem, “Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written.” **16** So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves, each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim. **17** And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in the booths, for from the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing. **18** And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. They kept the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the rule.

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!

Prayer by David Maddalena

"I worship You Lord! You did not enter your holy city Jerusalem on the back of a war horse, but humbly and on a donkey. You knew that You were surrounded by murderers, yet You came in peace, and by Your sacrifice You would utterly conquer death before the week had passed. You, oh Lord, are blessed and worthy of my praise. You have saved Your people. I say, "You are my King!"... I long to live in the city where You sit on the throne! Establish Your Kingdom, so that Your people can live in peace. Jesus, I bow before You, and I will sing Your praises until Your Kingdom comes and is established, and forever after."

- David Maddalena is a writer, poet, pastor, teacher, student, and artist.

Sermon Quote by Matthew Rogers

"When I consider the story of that first Palm Sunday, I am struck by the thought that: A coat might not be worth much after a donkey walks on it. In a crowd like that there was no guarantee that once you laid it down you were ever going to get it back. For some reason, the text leads me to believe those people probably weren't real interested in coats at that moment when Jesus rode by. No, these people, many of them probably very poor, weren't as concerned about coats as they were about praise. For the people on Palm Sunday, praising Jesus might have cost them something. That sounds a little bit like a sacrifice. The Bible speaks of a sacrifice of praise. Fitting, isn't it, for Someone who saved our lives by sacrificing His own."

- Matthew Rogers, Senior Minister, Christian Church Of Clarendon Hills, western suburb of Chicago, Illinois.

Quote by Robert Barron

"Jesus was not only the glory of Yahweh returning to His Temple; He was also the new David, indeed Yahweh Himself, reclaiming His city and preparing to deal with the enemies of Israel. He fought, of course, not in the conventional manner. Instead, He took all of the dysfunction of the world upon Himself and swallowed it up in the ocean of

divine mercy and forgiveness. He thereby dealt with the enemies of the nation and emerged as the properly constituted King of the world."

Quote by Kevin Gray

"We wave palms because we have long awaited God's deliverance and now we're within 7 days of it. We wave palms because Jesus shows us life-saving answers when we feel crushed by problems threatening to overcome us. We wave palms because Jesus has set us free from the destructive longings of our fallen nature. We wave palms because, like the pilgrims who came to Jerusalem and gave thanks for their healing by Jesus, we too can really be healed in body, mind, and spirit."

Only A Donkey

The donkey awakened, his mind still savoring the afterglow of the most exciting day of his life. Never before had he felt such a rush of pleasure and pride.

He walked into town and found a group of people by the well. *"I'll show myself to them,"* he thought.

But they didn't notice him. They went on drawing their water and paid him no mind.

"Throw your garments down," he said crossly. "Don't you know who I am?"

They just looked at him in amazement. Someone slapped him across the tail and ordered him to move.

"Miserable heathens!" he muttered to himself. *"I'll just go to the market where the good people are. They will remember me."*

But the same thing happened. No one paid any attention to the donkey as he strutted down the main street in front of the market place.

"The palm branches! Where are the palm branches!" he shouted. *"Yesterday, you threw palm branches!"*

Hurt and confused, the donkey returned home to his mother.

"Foolish child," she said gently. *"Don't you realize that without Him, you are just an ordinary donkey?"*

Just like the donkey who carried Jesus in Jerusalem, we are most fulfilled when we are in the service of Jesus Christ. Without Him, all our best efforts are like *"filthy rags"* (Isaiah 64:6) and amount to nothing. When we lift up Christ, however, we are no longer ordinary people, but key players in God's plan to redeem the world.