

The Triumphal Entry

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John 12:12-19

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The Final Week

- Chp 12 is transition chapter - 12:36 the hinge
- Beginning of Passover – holy remembrance of lamb who saves^{Ex12:43-49; Jn1:29} ...

The Time is Right

- We've seen Jesus withdraw from public spotlight & confrontation^{11:54; 6:15}
- Jesus' time had come^{12:23} ... Jesus' public entrance forces leaders to Him^{1:29}

An Excited City

- The crowd was large - all Jews required to attend^{2K23:21-23}; perhaps million+
- Disciples - delirious for joy; leaders - furious unto murder; crowds - excited

The Triumphal Entry

- 2 crowds converge: crowd from Bethany¹⁷; crowd who had come to feast¹²
- Crowds receive Jesus as King with Palm branches^{13; Mt21:8}
- Palm branches = Jewish symbol of military victory & triumph {Simon Maccabaeus}
- John is showing us that crowds saw Jesus as their military king Messiah

Praise from the Hallel

- Hosanna! From Hallel - Psa 118:25-26 - fight chant of Jewish Independence
- Jews added *even the King of Israel* they were thinking physical, not spiritual

A Lowly Donkey

- John shows us Jesus had another message - *ride on a donkey*⁴
- Jesus' own disciples didn't understand at the time¹⁶
- Kings rode war horses; Jesus sent disciples for donkey^{Mt21:1-5; Mk11:1-7; Lk19:29-35}
- Jesus walked; chants & palm branches started; at Mt. of Olives donkey^{Mt21:2}
- When Jesus overlooked city^{Lk19:41-44} He lamented they didn't understand
- Jesus was bringing perfect spiritual victory and crowds didn't get it
- John reminds us this fulfills prophecy^{Zech9:9-10} - must be read in context!
- Zech^{9:10} foretells different than what crowds wanted: peace; sovereign rule
- The Messiah they sought was a direct contradiction to Messiah who came!
- Warning: beware of setting God's agenda for Him
- Remember: crowds who cheered Him, days later screamed *Crucify Him*^{19:6!}

Lessons from the OT about Jesus the Messiah

- Jews under Zechariah didn't have a king - last was Zedekiah^{2K24:18; 2Chr36:11-21}
- SO Zechariah's prophecy looked forward to Ruler whom God would send!
- Jesus was righteous^{Zech9:9}. Isaiah^{42:1} *God will send Chosen in whom my soul delights*
- Because Jesus was righteous He could be the Ultimate Passover Lamb^{Jn1:29}
- God sent us the Savior/Lamb we needed!
- Jesus came *humble & mounted on a donkey*^{Z9:9}
- Israel royals rode donkeys: Judges^{5:10; 10:3-4; 12:14}, David^{2S16:1-2}; Solomon^{1K33-38}
- Jesus is declaring a kingdom of peace - humility & gentleness of spirit
- Jesus did not come in worldly might, but weakness of the cross^{1Cor1:18-25}

Apply: don't be quick to jump on your war horse to ride against neighbors^{Rm15:2-7}

Three Perspectives on the Coming King

- Disciples - they should have known^{Mt20:17-19} but seem clueless¹⁶ at time
- Let's use God's means of grace to spread His Gospel: Word, sacraments, prayer
- Crowds - drew wrong conclusions... look to Jesus for faith
- Pharisees - lamented whole world following Jesus and His different way...
- Jesus salvation result: *every nation, tribe*^{Rev7:9-10} ...