

Theme: As He entered Jerusalem for the final time, Jesus purposefully fulfilled several Messianic prophecies, and the crowd's joyful response was also a fulfillment of the prophecies regarding the coming of the King to His City.

## I. Intro - A Religious Pilgrimage in the News

- A. Hajj - pilgrimage to Mecca - over 1,300 died from heat
- B. This is a tragedy - why did they even go?
- C. Pilgrimages have been common through the ages
- D. Jesus is on one in this text - but it was the most unique pilgrimage ever!
- E. What was He doing? How was this one unique?

## II. Jesus Approaches Jerusalem

- A. Jesus is arriving at Jerusalem
  - As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, Mark 11:1
    - 1. Jesus has been on a long journey with the disciples
    - 2. The goal has been Jerusalem all along although Jesus did not make this clear until Mark 10:33
    - 3. We know Jesus had other trips to Jerusalem (much of John happens there) but this is the first time in Mark where Jesus is said to go to Jerusalem.
    - 4. This is clearly a climactic point in Mark!
- B. Jesus is leading a throng to celebrate Passover
  - 1. This is Holy Week - the final week of Jesus' life
  - 2. All of the Gospels show that this trip was for the Feast of Unleavened Bread/Passover.

- 3. Jews were required to go to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles. No man should appear before the LORD empty-handed: Deuteronomy 16:16

- 4. This would be a time of great celebration as Israel remembered God's deliverance of them from Egypt.
- 5. AfterHours - The Events of Holy Week

## III. The King Comes To His City

- A. Jesus consciously fulfills Messianic prophecies
  - As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>3</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'" Mark 11:1-3
    - 1. Jesus sends the disciples to get a colt - why?
      - a. Pilgrims walked into Jerusalem, they did not ride on a colt
      - b. Jesus has walked the whole trip until now
      - c. Jesus never rode a colt into Jerusalem before as far as we know
      - d. Jesus has never ridden a colt in any of the Gospels!
      - e. Why would Jesus need a colt now?

2. A tied colt - a Messianic reference

The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his. <sup>11</sup> He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch... Genesis 49:10-11

- a. This is a very early Messianic prophecy by Jacob
- b. Surprisingly the scepter belongs to Judah - the 4<sup>th</sup> born!
- c. The King will arise from Judah - and all nations are to obey Him! This was recognized as being about Messiah!
- d. The Messiah will tether His donkey
- e. Jesus is alluding to this verse in giving these instructions - and they were fulfilled that day.

3. A colt no one has ridden - fit for sacred use

- a. The Law made a big distinction between things for everyday use and things fit for sacred use - clothing, anointing oil, bread, etc.
- b. Animals used for sacred purposes were to not have been put to everyday use

This is a requirement of the law that the LORD has commanded: Tell the Israelites to bring you a red heifer without defect or blemish and that has never been under a yoke. Numbers 19:2

Then the elders of the town nearest the body shall take a heifer that has never been worked and has never worn a yoke Deuteronomy 21:3

- c. This is another allusion to the royal and sacred nature of what is about to happen

4. Jesus words are fulfilled exactly - a sign to the disciples of His full knowledge and authority

5. Jesus is preparing for His entering by Messianic allusions - but the disciples did not really understand!

At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him. John 12:16

B. The King comes riding a colt

When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Mark 11:7

1. Jesus wanted the colt so He could ride it into Jerusalem!

2. This is a very clear Messianic prophecy

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. Zechariah 9:9

- a. This well-known Messianic prophecy specified the Messianic King would come into Jerusalem riding on a donkey colt!

b. Jesus is openly fulfilling this prophecy

1. The King comes to Jerusalem
2. The King is righteous and able to save
3. The King comes in gentleness
4. The King is riding on a donkey's colt

3. Matthew and John specifically quote this prophecy

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: <sup>5</sup> "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" Matthew 21:4-5 (also John 12:14-15)

4. The Rabbi's on how the Son of Man comes!  
Rabbi Alexandri says: Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi raises a contradiction between two depictions of the coming of the Messiah. It is written: "There came with the clouds of heaven, one like unto a son of man...and there was given him dominion and glory and a kingdom...his dominion is an everlasting dominion" (Daniel 7:13-14). And it is written: "Behold, your king will come to you; he is just and victorious; lowly and riding upon a donkey and upon a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9). Rabbi Alexandri explains: If the Jewish people merit redemption, the Messiah will come in a miraculous manner with the clouds of heaven. If they do not merit redemption, the Messiah will come lowly and riding upon a donkey. (Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 98a)

- a. They wondered about Daniel 7 and Zechariah 9 - how do they fit together?
- b. The Son of Man, the Messiah, is coming on a donkey - how will they respond?

C. The people rejoice with praise

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields.  
<sup>9</sup>Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" <sup>10</sup>"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest!" Mark 11:8-10

1. The people get caught up in this moment of joy
2. Zechariah had said rejoice - and they are rejoicing!
3. The pilgrims sing from Psalm 118:25-26

4. This was part of the Hallel Psalms (113-118) pilgrims chanted and sang as they journeyed to Jerusalem
5. Hosanna - O LORD, save!
  - a. A transliteration of the Hebrew words for 'O LORD save us!'
  - b. He will - but in a way they do not expect!
  - c. Will they accept this salvation when it comes?
6. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
  - a. Originally this was sung to welcome the pilgrims to Jerusalem - we greet you from the house of the LORD
  - b. It is appropriate because Jesus is the True Pilgrim journeying to the City and House of God
  - c. But in light of the riding on a donkey in fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9 and the reference to the coming of the Kingdom of David, it is Messianic.
7. The intent of the pilgrims and Jesus
  - a. They might have understood what they were doing.
  - b. As we saw from John 12:16 the disciples did not yet understand
  - c. The people might have been full of excitement that Jesus the great prophet and miracle worker is coming to Jerusalem - what will happen?
  - d. But the Pharisees certainly understood what was happening!

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"<sup>40</sup> "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." Luke 19:39-40

- e. Whatever the pilgrims understood and intended, Jesus was openly fulfilling Messianic prophecies - the King was coming to His City.
- f. The question is what would He find? And how would the city respond?

#### IV. Applying the Word

##### A. Respond to the coming of the King with praise!

1. The King has come - fulfilling all the Messianic prophecies!
2. Jesus consciously and purposefully fulfilled these prophecies to show He is the Messianic King!
3. GK Chesterton's *The Everlasting Man* and CS Lewis Trilemma: the idea of a merely human Jesus is ludicrous - He did not leave that option!
4. The King has come - but how do I respond?
  - a. I can reject Jesus, refusing to embrace Him as King
  - b. I can rejoice that Jesus has come, gladly embracing Him as King!
5. If you have never embraced Christ as King do so today!
6. As a believer, rejoice that Christ is King!
  - a. Rejoice as we come to the Table!
  - b. Rejoice in prayer and worship each day!
  - c. Rejoice in our worship each Sunday!

##### B. Respond to the coming of the King with faith!

1. The King came - but not as expected!
2. The King came and saved - but not as expected!
3. Christ's rule in our lives will often happen in unexpected ways!
4. Do I trust Him even when it is unfolding very differently than I expected?
5. Are there any areas where I am struggling to understand God's work in my life at present?
6. How can I walk in faith in spite of my lack of understanding?

##### C. The Table of the King

1. At the Table we profess Christ is the King!
2. At the Table, we profess the King has saved us!
3. At the Table, we look forward to His return as King to be enthroned in the New Jerusalem!

#### The King Comes To His City

Mark 11:1-11  
July 30, 2024  
Communion  
Revelation 1:4-6

Teaching keywords: Christology; kingdom of God; Israel; Prophecy (Old Testament)

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from His Spirit before his throne,<sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth, Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,<sup>6</sup> and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father — to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Revel. 1:4-6

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>3</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

<sup>4</sup> They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, <sup>5</sup> some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” <sup>6</sup> They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go.

<sup>7</sup> When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. <sup>8</sup> Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup> Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” <sup>10</sup> “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!” “Hosanna in the highest!” <sup>11</sup> Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve. Mark 11:1-11