

The King Revealed - From Unknown to Throne

The Burden of the King - Part 4

March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday

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Main Passage

The Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21:1-11

¹ Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. ³ And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." ⁴ All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ⁵ "TELL THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, 'BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, LOWLY, AND SITTING ON A DONKEY, A COLT, THE FOAL OF A DONKEY.'" ⁶ So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. ⁸ And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "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 had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee." (Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19)

The Big idea

God comes to His city and people in humility, not to conquer them but rather to carry their burden of sin and damnation. It is the only way to truly set His people free. God put on a parade to display Messiah, that leads to a slaughter, but the Throne was awaiting.

Main Points

Through His arrival, prophesy is fulfilled, His identity and mission are revealed, and the people worship the Messiah.

The Prophesied King – “He is Coming”

Zechariah 9:9

Psalms 118:26

The long-awaited promises of the Old Testament had now come to pass. Messiah had finally arrived in the Holy City—Jerusalem. All the promises and the hope of the prophets was now realized in Jesus. He enters the heavenly city with humility and meekness.

It is the time of salvation and great rejoicing amongst the people.

- The people call Jesus “King”
 - They called Jesus King at a time when there were no monarchs in Israel

Psalms 118:25-26

²⁵ Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity. ²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord. (NKJV)

Zechariah 9:9

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey. (NKJV)

The Humble King – “He is HERE”

Jesus demonstrates the heart and character of the Father—humility. He did not arrive with judgement, anger or vengeance. He could have easily trampled the people under foot and caused them to bow to His Lordship but rather, in contrast to the Roman occupiers, He arrives with gentleness and meekness.

The mission of peace and reconciliation.

The blind and the lame – He removes barriers.

- Jesus came as the lamb led to the slaughter - His whole life was about His humility and meekness:
 - Born in a manger – no room
 - Raised in poverty
 - No place to lay His head
 - Ministered to the marginalized
 - Riding in on a donkey
 - Suffered the death of a criminal
 - No place of His own to be buried.

“True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.” — Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here for?*

Worship the King – “He is Divine”

Our worship for the King must be initiated from the spirit and not from the mind or even the soul – it must be anointed and not based on performance.

- Jesus receives the worship of a Messiah for the first time in His ministry
 - Only God would have accepted worship
 - For the first time in His three-year ministry, Christ allows people to worship Him and exalt Him as Messiah - all other times He told people not to reveal who He was and what He had done for them.
- The multitudes shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”
 - This quotation from Psalms 118:25-26 obviously applies to the Messiah's advent.
- Hosanna originally meant “**save now**”; perhaps the people meant, “Save us from our Roman oppressors.” Later the term became an exclamation of praise.

Hosanna: a Hebrew prayer meaning, “save now” or “save we beseech you”

Matthew 21:9

"Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!"

Mark 11:9-10

⁹ "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' ¹⁰ Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

John 12:13

"Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' The King of Israel!"

- The phrases, “Son of David” and, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord”:
 - Both clearly indicate that Jesus was being recognized as the Messiah
 - He is the Blessed One who comes by Jehovah's authority to do His will.
- Mark's account records, as part of the crowd's shouts, the phrase, “Blessed is the kingdom of our Father David that comes in the name of the Lord” (Mark 11:10):
 - This indicates that the people thought the Kingdom was about to be set up with Christ sitting on the throne of David.
 - In shouting, “Hosanna in the highest,” the crowd was calling on the heavens to join the earth in praising the Messiah, and perhaps calling on Him to save from the highest heavens.

The arrival of Christ in Jerusalem invoked a response - It forced people to respond to Him

- Three types of people and reactions:
 - **The disciples:** a spontaneous combustion - burst into praise and worship as they considered the great things God had done and what they had seen - thanksgiving came forth from their hearts - we do not want to fall into a, "What have you done for us lately" attitude.
 - **The crowds/the masses:** they are curious and get caught up in the moment but when their expectations are not met, they quickly become **indifferent** and lose interest - they are fickle, while the money changers scramble for their wealth and blind and the lame come to Christ.
 - **The religious:** they become **indignant and irritated** with Christ, His ways and those that follow Him.

The Returning King – “He is Coming Back”

The returning King will be very, very different from the humble King that entered Jerusalem. He will return with glory, power and might. Angels and saints will be with Him, and His assignment will be to set up the Kingdom of God on the earth.

- There will be no resistance to His authority and strength
- Both people and nations will be dealt with and brought into order
- He will be exalted and glorified, everyone shall know Him and bow down to His Awesome majesty.

The Rider on a White Horse

Revelation 19:11-16

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Closing

It does not end at the cross, Christ rose to rule and reign!

Questions & Discussion

- 1) How do we know that Jesus is divine from the story of Palm Sunday?
- 2) Describe the reactions from the various parties involved in the passage in Matthew.
- 3) What can we draw from the humble life of Christ? What does that mean for us as believers? What should we apply?
- 4) Why is the picture of Jesus so different from Palm Sunday in Matthew 21 and Revelation 19?
- 5) How did the people respond when they saw Jesus? What did they say? Why did they use these particular phrases?
- 6) Why was it so critical that prophecy be fulfilled?
- 7) Discuss what happens immediately after Jesus arrives in Jerusalem. What is the first thing He does and why?