

Jesus Final Days and Then the Resurrection

Can you imagine if you knew when the last few days of your life would be? Jesus Christ, the Son of God knew when the final week of His life had arrived. He had been alive on this earth for thirty-three years, the last three of which He spent doing miracle after miracle and teaching the people of Israel that He was the One that the prophets had written would be coming into the world as king and ruler over all. Now yes, every prophet wrote of the Messiah's rule over the world, but a few also wrote of the Messiah's death on the cross. So, the problem was how to figure out exactly who the Messiah was going to be, a living earthly king or a dying prophet.

When Jesus began to do His miracles and proclaim that the kingdom of God had come, the people of course assumed that Jesus was going to set up His earthly kingdom on the spot. Then the Romans would be quickly overthrown, and Israel and King Jesus would take center stage to rule all the world. The problem was that there were still these other prophecies about His death that needed to be dealt with. It wasn't a problem for Jesus because He knew God's timetable and He knew that the plan for the Messiah's first coming was to bring salvation to mankind and deliver them from the penalty of sin. God's plan for Jesus first coming was for Him to become the sacrifice for mankind by shedding His innocent blood for the guilty hearts of people. The earthly kingdom was something that God was going to bring about at Jesus' second coming not His first coming. However, the disciples and the people didn't understand all this at first. Of course, it didn't take them long to understand once Jesus had died and rose again, but they were having a lot of trouble with it during Jesus last week on the earth. So, Jesus patiently walked with them through the week, day by day explaining what was to come. First, He cleared the temple, then He taught a couple days in the synagogue. He then ate the last supper, washed His disciple's feet, took them to the garden with Him to pray, was betrayed by Judas Iscariot, taken to trial, mocked, beaten, and nailed to a cross where He died for all. Jesus was ready for His final seven days. He knew that the ones He loved so much were going to go from joy to sadness in a very short time. He knew He was going to suffer the agony of taking the sin of the world onto Himself and He knew there was going to be the greatest joy ever when it was all done, and He had risen from the dead.

So, the week started with a trip into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey. The crowds threw down their cloaks and palm branches and they shouted, "Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" It was beautiful and it was a precursor to what will happen again when He returns with His bride, the church, after the tribulation period. The time is almost right for His physical kingdom to come to this earth, The Bible tells us that before He comes again the earth will get very sinful and good will be called evil and evil will be called good. Nation will rise against nation, love will grow cold, sin and corruption will abound. There will be famines, pestilences, and signs in the heavens. The church will be caught up to heaven in the rapture as the bride of Christ is taken to the wedding supper and then the great Tribulation will take place on the earth for seven years. Then the second coming of Jesus will occur. His first coming was the right time for His spiritual kingdom to come to the hearts of all believers. His second coming will usher in His earthly kingdom for a thousand years. After that God will create a new earth and a new heaven and we will move into eternity.

For the past two thousand years believers have experienced the spiritual kingdom Jesus brought us. We have received the Holy Spirit into our hearts and minds thanks to His first coming, His death and Resurrection. We are blessed beyond measure to know that Jesus' second coming will take place just as sure as His first coming took place. It is my prayer that if you don't know Jesus as your personal Savior and Lord that you will believe in Him today and ask Him into your heart and receive eternal life. Until next week, Happy Resurrection Sunday and God bless!