

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Triumphal Entry

Last time...Jesus arrived in Bethany and the stage was set for the Final Week
Jerusalem is a seething pot of political intrigue, religious evil, and fervent Messianic excitement
This will be a Passover unlike any Passover ever...or ever since!

The Players in the most important week in human history

1. Jesus Christ
2. The 12
3. The Jewish people
4. The Romans
5. The chief priests and Pharisees – wicked hypocrites

The perceived problem by the undiscerning is political
But the problem is NOT political, the problem is spiritual and philosophical (worldview)

This time...the Triumphal Entry
The 1st Day of the Final Week

We will be in all 4 Gospels to “piece together” this day

John 12:12-15

v12-13 On the next day...they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem:
On the way to Jerusalem from Jericho, Jesus stopped in Bethany
Now, the next day, He is proceeding over the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem
The day after John 12:1 i.e. 5 days before Passover

When the “much people” who knew His whereabouts learn of His movement,
they took palm branches to meet and greet...the King of Israel

Palm branches were associated with “victory”

Rev 7:9-10 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb

This is Jesus’ Triumphal Entry, the timing of which is recorded by John

The people moving with Jesus cry out Ps 118:25-26
Hosanna: Save now!
This day, this Messianic prophesy is fulfilled

v14-15 And Jesus...as it is written:

Another Messianic prophesy is fulfilled – Zech 9:9
("condensed" by Holy Spirit via John)

The details of this prophetic fulfillment are recorded in the other Gospels, written
about 30 years prior

We will look at them now, starting in Matt 21

Matt 21:1-9

v1-3 Bethpage, unto the mount of Olives:

Bethpage is further to the west of Bethany, near the crest of the Mount of Olives

[map Bethany-Bethpage]

In Bethpage, Jesus gives 2 of His disciples (unnamed) precise instructions

- go into the village
- immediately shall find an ass tied and her colt/foal (baby)
- loose/untie them
- bring them to Me
- if anyone asks what you are doing, just say, "The Lord has need of them" and it will be OK

The precision of the instructions tells us that the Triumphal Entry was
neither spontaneous nor happenstance, it was a determinate step
(appointment) in the Plan of God

v4-5 All this was done...be fulfilled...spoken by the prophet:

In the Gospel written to the Jews is the most precise record of the fulfillment of
the Jewish Messianic prophesy given to a Jewish prophet

Zech 9:9

2 animals – an ass and her colt/foal, not just a colt as recorded in the other
Gospels

The King of Israel will not enter Jerusalem on a horse, an animal of war, but on the poor man's beast of burden, an animal of peace

In keeping with His mission this time

Matt 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light

Matt 20:25-28

Matt 5:17

Now, for the 1st time in His ministry, Jesus is allowing...even orchestrating...

His disciples to hail Him as King

Never before e.g. after the feeding of the 5000 in John 6:14-19 when some wanted to take Him by force and make Him a king

(He sent His men away and then retreated)

Now is the time for Jesus to make something clear – He is their King!

Imagine the excitement of the Jewish people!

How long has Israel waited for this moment, the entry of the Son of David into Jerusalem!

Answer: About 520 years, during which time they have been ruled/oppressed by the Babylonians then the Persians then the Greeks and now the Romans

The national excitement and expectation that has been pent up all these centuries is about to erupt!

Soccer fans today cannot match the fervor in Jerusalem at this time

Ps 118:24 is perhaps an understatement!

This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it!

v6-7 went...did...brought...put...set:

The 2 disciples did as instructed and brought both animals

Note: the colt/foal would be calmer beside its mother

Then they put their garments (cloaks, most valuable clothing) on the 2 animals and set their King on...the ass or the colt/foal?

The King's choice

Which is recorded in parallel passages

v8-9 garments in the way...branches...cried:

A very great multitude...the crowd is getting bigger, much bigger...
laid down their garments and (palm) tree branches on the road into
Jerusalem

Jesus, riding, is surrounded by Passover celebrants crying out Ps 118:25-26

“Save now” to “the Son of David”...Messiah and King...coming in the
name of the Lord

Jesus = Joshua = Jehovah is salvation

This is a Messianic and Kingdom frenzy!

By a people who have been commanded to keep their eyes peeled for Jesus and to
report His whereabouts to the chief priests and Pharisees (John 11:57)

Now let's pick up some details in Mark 11

Mark 11:1-10

v1-3 as soon as ye be entered in...whereon never man sat:

The precise instructions include

- a “can’t miss” location – as soon as you enter
- information about the colt/foal – never borne a man

v4-10 found the colt:

The 2 disciples, in fact, could not miss

They found the colt (only Matthew records both mom and baby) tied by the door
outside a place at the “1st intersection” in the village

They were questioned as the Lord foretold and they responded as told

They brought the never-before-ridden colt to Jesus and Jesus sat on it

The King's choice as to which animal to ride: the one that had never been ridden
Jesus will be first, is always first

btw...ever tried to ride an animal that has never been ridden/broken
by man?!

The Creator had no problems!

In Bethpage, an ordinary donkey became the most special donkey ever for this
ride into Jerusalem

Now to the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 19, for some of the day's events recorded
only in that Gospel

Luke 19:29-44

(v29-36 One additional detail: the 2 disciples were questioned by the owners)

v37-38 at the descent of the Mount of Olives:

With Jesus riding the colt and the multitude before and behind Him,
He crests the Mount of Olives and begins the descent down to the
Kidron Valley

Before Him and all the people – Jerusalem and the Temple

[pic: Herds Temple]

[pic: Mount of Olives top]

[pic: Mount of Olives descent]

A loud frenzy of rejoicing and praising God, blessing their King,
a King without an army
(No matter! Who needs an army when He can do mighty works such as
we have seen!)
Ps 118:25-26...prosperity = peace

And as always, who else is in the multitude with Jesus?
Pharisees

v39-40 Pharisees...rebuke your disciples...the stones:

The Pharisees are in the midst of the Messianic fervor,
but they are not caught up in it
They have not decided to follow Jesus, they have decided to kill Jesus!

The multitude of people is hailing Jesus of Nazareth, a dangerous Lawbreaker,
as the Messiah and King of Israel
The Roman Empire does not tolerate competition, they smash all competition

Roman soldiers in Antonio Fortress
[map: Bethpage-Bethany]
can easily see and hear this ruckus

So they tell Jesus to rebuke His disciples for this egregiously wrong and
very dangerous display of national passion

The Lord quickly shuts them down
This is a day foretold from the days of Daniel 9
This day is an appointment on His Divine calendar
If the people do not praise Him as their King, the very stones will!

The rocks have more faith in Jesus than do the Pharisees!
Luke 3:8 may be ringing in their ears!

Nothing will silence the praise of God's Messiah and King this day!
By the end of this Final Week, the Pharisees will use this

- as their criminal accusation against Jesus before Pilate
("We have no king but Caesar!")
- to mock Jesus hanging on the Cross

v41-44 come near...beheld the city...wept over it:
As a radical contrast to the hyper-exuberant multitude is Jesus
He was not swept up in the tidal wave of emotion

As He was getting closer to Jerusalem, He stopped...and wept/wailed/sobbed
[pic: Jesus wept over the city]

Not for Himself but for His people

They had eyes to see, but did not perceive
They had ears to hear, but did not understand
They did not believe the Word of God...as interpreted by the Word of
God vs by men with pre-conceived ideas

With prophetic words He had told them in advance of this day – the arrival of
God's Messiah and King and Servant who came to suffer,
not to rule and reign

Jesus expected the Jews of Israel to know He would be here this day.
How?
By understanding the prophesy given to Daniel in Babylon (Dan 9:24-27).

Thirty one or thirty two years earlier (Matt 2), the magi, who were Jewish
descendants in Babylon and fruit of Daniel's ministry, knew what
to look for (Num 24:17) and when (Dan 9) and knew what to
bring (Matt 2:8-11, 16 with Dan 9:26).

They were not blinded by self-will or pre-conceived notions.
The magi were faithful to the knowledge they had been given,
the Jews in Israel were not.
So Jesus wept.

Therefore, in about 37 years, the Roman Empire will grow weary of this
stiff-necked and rebellious people
The Roman Legions will come to lay siege and destroy the city and Herod's
Temple
Millions of the Jews will be slaughtered by the Romans

Note: on the 9th of Av, just as did Neb to the city and Solomon's Temple

Because the Jews did not know what God foretold them and therefore expected
them to know

Then Jesus resumes His entry into Jerusalem, as we read in Matt 21 and Mark 11

Matt 21:10-11

v10-11 come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved:

The rabid excitement on the road into Jerusalem rocked/agitated the entire city.
Who is this that came into town with such wild fanfare unseen before?
Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee

Great excitement: the Jewish people

After 520 years of cruel oppression and anxious waiting, our King is here!
He is going to throw off the Roman yoke and break the Roman iron fist!
He is going to put those wicked hypocrites Pharisees in their place!
He is going to seize control!

Great tension: the chief priests and Pharisees and the Romans

This is a volatile situation that can easily get out of hand;
we just may have a major incident on our hands!

Great confusion

Who Jesus is and what He came to do
The great excitement is mistaken
The great tension is deadly

And then, Mark 11:11 brings the day to a close

Mark 11:11

v11 into Jerusalem and into the Temple...looked round about...Bethany:
Jesus went boldly right into the midst of His earthly enemies...
enemies He loves (Matt 5:44-45, which is why He has come)

And He was doing some scouting – what is going on in the Temple
As well as fulfilling prophetic Messianic Scripture
God's Passover Lamb (John 1:29) is brought into the Father's house

After He looked around and got a “read” on conditions in Jerusalem and in the
Temple, He returns the way He came...
east, up the Mount of Olives, and down, to Bethany, with the 12

Speaking of the 12, let's wrap up and summarize Day 1 of the Final Week in
John 12

John 12:16-19

v16 these things understood not His disciples at the first:
What happened on this first day of the Final Week of Jesus' life and ministry was
lost on the 12...initially

On this day, they

- were not born-again of the Spirit of God
- had not yet received the promise of the Father (Holy Spirit) to teach them all things

John 14:26
John 15:26

But in

- less than a week + 3 days
- 50 days after that

they would understand

v17-18 The people...bare record...this miracle:
The first day of the Final Week starts in Bethany with many eyewitnesses bearing
testimony that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead

This mighty work (Luke 19:37) stirred the very great multitude (Matt 21:8) on the
road into Jerusalem and moved the city (Matt 21:10)

v19 Pharisees...the world is gone after him:

This 1st day of the Final Week ends with the Pharisees in distress because they are quickly losing control of the people and this situation.

They are losing ground to Jesus quickly

Something must be done!

They are desperate and will do and say anything to keep control/power

They can no longer be civil when speaking to Jesus and His followers...
until they get power again

They will embark on a plan that approaches anarchy

By the end of this week,

- an evil and desperate and unscrupulous minority of elites will “win”, even as a vast majority of good people watch with horror the unfolding of the events
- the wicked hypocrites will justify uncivilized behavior (lawlessness and mob rule) in order to retain power
- a fickle multitude will “flip” to the “winning side”, their fervent devotion morphing to fervent opposition of their Messiah and King

What a Week this is going to be! (sound familiar to our past week?)

But what about us in October 2018, living between the Comings of Jesus Christ?

We should have the very same intense fervor, excitement and anticipation,
but with faith and knowledge (since 1948 and 1967)!

1 Thes 1:10	wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, <i>even</i> Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come
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Titus 2:13	Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ
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Rev 22:12	And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward <i>is with me</i>, to give every man according as his work shall be
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Because there remains a 2nd Triumphal Entry...in which we participate!

Rev 19:11-16 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Difference: Not a beast of burden or a beast of peace, but a beast of war...
a white horse...in keeping with His mission the 2nd time

Similar: another “very great multitude” participating in it...
us, because had been snatched before DoL (Rapture)

When King Jesus receives His kingdom and returns (Parable of the Pounds)

Is 37:16 the God of all kingdoms of the earth

Is 37:20 all the kingdoms of the earth will know He alone is Lord

Is 37:23 the Holy One of Israel

Is 37:36 smite the Assyrian (antichrist)

In the meantime...the Bride does as the Bridegroom

Luke 19:40 *I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out*

[rocks]

When it comes to God fulfilling His plan, what is the difference between
us and rocks...or donkeys?

None!

God doesn't need us to accomplish His work....but He wants our hand on His.

If we are not available or willing, He will use someone else,

He could even use rocks and donkeys!

When wicked hypocrites say and do anything to get and keep power/control,
we boldly speak the Truth in love

Calling all Social Media Evangelists!

In the face of worldly persecution, we are bold witnesses of mighty works we have seen

- Charity and Sienna and Jordan
- Youth Camp 2018
- [testimony of “Isaac”]

Luke 19:41-42 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,
Saying, *If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things
which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes*