

Luke 19:28-44

## Jesus' Triumphal Entry

In Daniel chapter nine we have an amazing prophecy laying out in advance a brief outline of God's 490-year plan for dealing with the nation of Israel.

And Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday was a very key part of that plan.

**Daniel 9:24-27, "Seventy weeks are determined** [70 weeks of years, meaning 70 sets of 7 years—490 years, are planned] **for your people and for your holy city,** [Jewish people and for Jerusalem. This does not include the church.]

[Meaning it would take 490 years...] **To finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness,** [refers to the accomplishments of Jesus on the cross] **to seal up vision and prophecy,** [to bring to fulfillment the prophecies of the Old Testament concerning Israel] **and to anoint the Most Holy.** [To anoint Jesus Christ as King to rule over Israel, and the world, from His capital which will be in Jerusalem.]

<sup>25</sup> **"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem** [that's when the timer would start counting down] **until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;**

[These weeks again refer to weeks of years, or sets of seven years. This is a mathematical formula. 7 weeks plus 62 weeks make a total of 69 weeks of years, or 483 years, until the appearance of Messiah]

This was a prophecy giving the exact date for the revealing of the Messiah to Israel.

Seven sevens plus 62 sevens are referring to a total of 483 years that would pass from the time the day the command was given to rebuild Jerusalem, after the Babylonians had destroyed it, until the Messiah would be revealed to Israel.

483 years after King Artaxerxes gave that command (Neh. 2:1), brings us to Palm Sunday, 33 AD, which is believed by many conservative scholars to be the day when Jesus fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy and rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, showing Himself to be the Messiah. (Dwight Pentecost, citing Hoehner, in "The Words and Works of Jesus Christ," p. 375)

<sup>26</sup> **"And after the sixty-two weeks** [after Palm Sunday] **Messiah shall be cut off,** [Jesus Christ was crucified 5 days after Palm Sunday] **but not for Himself;** [He died for others.]

**And the people of the prince who is to come** [referring to the Romans] **shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.** [Referring to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in AD70] **The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.**

[The city of Jerusalem and the Temple will experience desolation until the end of some war, possibly referring to the end of World War II when Israel was restored as a nation.

But because the Temple is still desolate, it may be referring to a yet future war, possibly the war of Gog and Magog, prophesied in Ezekiel 38-39, after which the Temple may be rebuilt.]

<sup>27</sup> **Then he** [the Antichrist, the prince who is to come (vs 26)] **shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;** [The Antichrist will confirm a 7-year covenant of peace with Israel and many other nations.]

The confirming of this, yet future covenant, will begin the final set of 7 years, the seventieth week of years prophesied by Daniel in verse 24.

These final seven years of Daniel's prophecy concerning Israel are described in the Book of Revelation as days of Tribulation.]

The first Palm Sunday, in Jesus' day, marked the end of Daniel's 69 weeks of years prophesied for Israel when Messiah the Prince was revealed and presented to the nation.

However, because Israel rejected and crucified their Messiah, with only 7 years remaining to count down to fulfill Daniel's 70 weeks of years before Jesus would be anointed King and set up His Kingdom on earth, God pressed the "pause" button on His dealing with Israel.

God temporarily set Israel aside, to experience desolations and rejection for 2,000 years, and God began something new, called the church, which has been the primary focus of His attention up to the present time.

When the Lord has finished building His church, Jesus will come and take us home, and then He will continue where He left off with Daniel's prophecy concerning Israel.

The Antichrist will establish a seven year covenant with many, which will begin the final 7-year countdown, at the end of which Jesus will return to set up His Kingdom on earth, and we will come with Him to rule together with Him.

Each year when Palm Sunday comes around, it is a reminder that Jesus Christ is coming back and will once again ride triumphantly into Jerusalem to be crowned King of kings, and to set up His Kingdom on earth.

There are just seven more prophesied years yet to be fulfilled of God's dealing with Israel, before Jesus will rule over the world from Jerusalem.

But it is important to know, that both the triumphal entry of Jesus as King and His crucifixion as the sacrificial Lamb of God were part of the plan of God and both were prophesied in advance.

It was prophesied in the Old Testament that Jesus would die as a Passover Lamb. Therefore, in God's plan His death had to take place at the Passover.

The religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus but they very specifically did NOT want this to happen during the Passover.

**Mark 14:1-2**, *"After two days it was the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery and put Him to death. <sup>2</sup>But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar of the people.""*

But our God is Sovereign—His will, meaning His plan and His purpose, would be accomplished and it is always fulfilled exactly in God's perfect timing according to the details of the Bible.

That is still true today. Satan has a plan of his own that he wants to accomplish with Covid-19, vaccinations, and a great reset.

But history does not follow Satan's agenda, history follows God's agenda.

Don't worry about Satan's plan, look at God's plan and remember that there is nothing that can hinder, frustrate or change the plan and the will of our Sovereign God.

So now as the appointed time for Jesus' death, the Passover, draws near, Jesus very publicly makes His way towards Jerusalem. He has repeatedly told His disciples in great detail that He was going there to die.

**Luke 18:31-33**, *"Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, [He speaks words of prophecy.] "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. <sup>32</sup> For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. <sup>33</sup> They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."*

Jesus' death on the cross was not a tragic mistake. It was the plan of God the Father to provide for the salvation of all believers, so that we might enter into His eternal joy.

Because Jesus loved us, He was looking forward to the joy of setting us free from our bondage to sin and releasing us from our captivity to Satan's kingdom of darkness.

And because His heart was set on bringing us to abundant life, from out of spiritual emptiness and death, Jesus was willing to lay down His life as the ransom price for our salvation.

***Luke 19:28–29, "When He had said this, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup>And it came to pass, when He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples,"***

Notice, Jesus again speaks words of prophecy to His disciples. Many people say they don't believe that prophecy should be taken literally.

What they often don't realize is that almost 1/3 of the Bible is prophecy. And most of it is meant to be taken literally.

***Luke 19:30–34, " He sent two of His disciples, " <sup>30</sup>saying, "Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup>And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you loosing it?' thus you shall say to him, 'Because the Lord has need of it.'" <sup>32</sup>So those who were sent went their way and found it just as He had said to them. <sup>33</sup>But as they were loosing the colt, the owners of it said to them, "Why are you loosing the colt?" <sup>34</sup>And they said, "The Lord has need of him.""***

Notice that with great detail Jesus told them exactly where to go, what they would find, what to do, how people would react and what they were to say in response.

The two disciples obeyed and found everything literally as Jesus prophesied, they would. He had given them all they needed to know to successfully carry out their mission.

We can have confidence in trusting every detail of God's word, including Bible prophecy, for it will never fail.

Many of the decisions we are making, for leading our church through this pandemic, are being informed by a careful study of what Bible prophecy says about the days we are living in.

***Luke 19:35–36, "Then they brought [the donkey] to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him. <sup>36</sup>And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road."***

About 500 years earlier the prophet Zechariah made this prophecy about the Messiah who would come as Israel's King:

***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."***

***Luke 19:37, "Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen,"***

Why were the followers of Jesus so excited about Jesus riding into Jerusalem on this donkey? Because they recognized that prophecy was being fulfilled before their eyes.

Notice the detail with which this event was literally fulfilling the prophecy of ***Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout,*** [the people were rejoicing and shouting] ***O daughter of Jerusalem!*** [This would take place in Jerusalem] ***Behold, your King*** [Jesus was their King] ***is coming to you; He is just*** [sinless] ***and having salvation*** [Jesus was riding into Jerusalem to bring us salvation through His substitutionary death], ***Lowly*** [He came humbly, not like a king] ***and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey."***

***Luke 19:38-40, "saying: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!' Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" <sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." <sup>40</sup> But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.""***

These Pharisees were the howling voices of wolves among the sheep—they were the tares among the wheat.

The enemy always has his hit men planted among the people of God—and very often they infiltrate the church by coming to us as spiritual leaders.

But their role is to plant seeds of doubt—to discredit the word of God—to oppose and scorn any who take the prophecies in God's word too seriously.

Tragically the rejoicing of the crowds was, for most, not a heartfelt expression of faith—for most they were only praising Him with their lips but their hearts were far from Him.

The Bible indicates that this will again be true in the last days before the second coming of Christ—they will not take seriously or believe the prophetic signs that will signal the nearness of Christ's return.

This is a very sobering reality that many of those in our day who profess Jesus as Lord do so with their lips only, but their hearts are far from Him.

***Luke 19:41–42, "Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, <sup>42</sup>saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."***

Now Jesus has come over the top of the Mount of Olives and the city is spread out in full view before Him and He begins to weep.

Jesus knew the hearts of the people; He knew that most of them did not really believe. Jesus knew that in just 5 days (Good Friday), many of the same crowd would be shouting, "crucify Him, crucify Him."

Jesus was not weeping because He had to die; He was not weeping because the people were wrecking God's plans. God's plans were proceeding in every detail exactly as He said they would.

He was weeping out of compassionate love for the many people around Him whom He knew did not believe, they were not repentant of their sin, and because of their hard-hearted rejection of Him as their Master they were destined to everlasting separation from God in the torment of hell. This broke the Lord's heart and it still breaks His heart today.

***"If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."***

What is it that makes peace—especially peace with God possible? There had to be a sinless blood sacrifice made by a perfect, sinless human being, whose life value was sufficient to pay the penalty for all of our sins.

Since that day, Israel as a nation and the Jews as a people, have not known peace, because the people of Israel (particularly her leaders) rejected their Messiah.

There is hardly ever a day of the year when the news does not carry a story about trouble in Israel or persecution of Jews somewhere in the world.

Jesus had come to bring peace to Israel, but just five days after riding into Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday, Israel rejected her King, the prince of Peace and nailed him to a cross.

Jesus knew what lay ahead for Israel and He wept for her.

Israel will never experience any lasting peace until Jesus returns a second time and the Bible prophesies that the next time that He comes Israel will recognize and accept Him as their sacrificial Lamb and as their King.

In many places the Bible assures us that Jesus is coming again, but on His second return He will not be riding humbly on a little donkey going to the cross.

In His second return He is coming in power to judge the world.

**Revelation 19:11-16**, “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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Do we recognize the signs all around us signaling that His second visitation is drawing very near?

The Bible says in **John 1:12**, that “As many as received [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

We are all called upon to receive Jesus Christ as our King, our Master and our God.

Do you know in this your day, what will bring you peace with God?

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

Submit to the authority of Jesus Christ, give your life to Him and trust Him in His mercy to save you from the penalty of your sin.

And when Jesus returns you will be with Him, and you will have a glorious, joyful, and exciting future living in His Kingdom here on earth.

*Copyright © 2021 by Parkdale Grace Fellowship Permission: You are permitted to reproduce and distribute this material in any format, provided that you do not alter the wording in any way and do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture taken from the New King James Version. Copyright 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved*