

## **PALM SUNDAY ~ 4.14.19, Mark 11:1-11, Passion Week Begins!**

Today we begin what is called Passion Week, it is set off by our Lord entering Jerusalem on Sunday, while all the people praise Him; but five days later, on Friday, the people will cry out for His death, after which, He will be crucified and laid in a tomb, but on Sunday morning, one week from when He entered Jerusalem, He will rise from the dead, just like He said He would!

There is much written in Scripture about Jesus' last week in Jerusalem, from His entrance on a donkey's colt, to His death, burial and resurrection (Matthew 21-28, Mark 11-16, Luke 19-24, John 12-20 = 29 chapters). Out of 89 chapters that comprise all four Gospels, 1/3 are a record of this one week period in Jesus' life!

In 2007-08, teaching through Mark's account, I prepared 20 sermons on this one-week period of Jesus' life; in 2012-13, teaching through Matthew's account, I prepared 22 sermons on this one-week period; and from 2017-present, teaching through John's Gospel, I have prepared 28 sermons on this same period of time in Jesus' life.

Passion Week is highly charged and extremely important, because it contains the record of Jesus presenting Himself to Israel as their Messiah, on Sunday; revealing Himself to His Disciples as God's Lamb, on Thursday; handing Himself over to the temple guards and soldiers in the Garden, on Friday morning; giving up His spirit to death, as full payment for our sins, on Friday afternoon, after which He was buried; and then rising from the grave to demonstrate eternal life, on Sunday.

Apart from God's original act of creation, when everything was made that has been made, the story of the crucifixion and resurrection of God's One and Only Son, is by far the most marvelous, majestic, and miraculous narrative in the Bible.

The OT has many prophecies that were fulfilled during Passion Week, concerning the suffering and death of God's Son, the fulfillment of God's sovereign plan to make restitution for sin, while providing salvation.

**Exodus 12:46** (1400 BC)... None of His bones broken (Passover lamb).

**Psalms 16:8-11** (1000 BC)... He would rise from the dead.

**Psalms 22:16** (1000 BC)... His hands and feet would be pierced.

**Psalms 22:18** (1000 BC)... Lots would be cast for His garments.

**Psalms 69:21** (1000 BC)... He would be given vinegar to drink.

**Psalms 110:1** (1000 BC)... He would ascend into heaven.

**Isaiah 53:1-12** (700 BC)... He would be despised, forsaken, led like a lamb to slaughter, pierced for our sins and put to death for our sins.

**Zechariah 9:9** (500 BC)... He will enter Jerusalem on a colt.

**Zechariah 11:12** (500 BC)... He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver [**Exodus 21:32** (1400 BC) tells us 30 pieces of silver is the price of a slave].

**Zechariah 13:7** (500 BC)... His friends would desert Him.

Next Friday at 3 pm, we'll give attention to the events of the day Christ was crucified, next Sunday we'll study what the Bible tells us about His resurrection from the grave, but today we will consider the events of His arrival into Jerusalem.

**Read Mark 11:1-3...** Jesus (and the 12) approaching Jerusalem, came near Bethphage ["house of unripe figs"], a small town near Bethany, about 2 miles east of Jerusalem, on the SE side of the Mount of Olives [Olivet]. Bethany was home to Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (John 11).

The Mount of Olives (Olivet, *Place of Olives*) is just across from the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The Garden of Gethsemane, at the base of Olivet, is a place where Jesus often met with His disciples; it is also the place where Judas betrayed Him, bringing temple guards and soldiers to arrest Him (Matthew 26:36, 45-50).

The Mount of Olives was the location where Jesus taught about the coming Tribulation and His Return (the Olivet Discourse: Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). It was from Olivet that Jesus ascended back into heaven (Acts 1:9-12), and it is to this very mountain that He will return (Zechariah 14:3-5), and everyone will see Him (Revelation 1:7).

So, Mark tells us Jesus sends two of His disciples into Bethphage to acquire a young donkey; Matthew 21:2 records that there was a mare, and her colt.

**Read Mark 11:4-7...** The disciples find the donkey, untie it and bring it to Jesus. When they are asked why they were untying the colt, they responded as Jesus had told them to and the owner of the donkey told them to go ahead and take it.

The people in that area knew Jesus' and His disciples, for Jesus visited there often; also they knew He was referred to as, "Lord".

**Matthew's** narrative of this event (**21:5**) includes the fulfillment of a messianic prophecy, by quoting **Zechariah 9:9**, "Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

**Read Mark 11:8-10...** This display on the part of the people reflected the ancient practice of displaying respect and praise to a new king (2Kings 9:12-13); they seemed to express acceptance of Christ's claim as their Messiah-King.

**Matthew 1:1**, "The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham."

**Matthew 2:1-2**, "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

**Matthew 27:11** "Jesus stood before the governor [Pilot] and the governor asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'Yes, it is as you say.'"

The people were excited, as they were throwing down their outer garments and palm branches (cf. **John 12:13**), symbolic of their hope and desire for their Messiah-King to free them from Roman oppression.

The people shouted (**Mark 11:9**) "Hosanna!" A Hebrew expression meaning "Save!" The actual Hebrew word is Hoshana, a contraction of the words "save" and "please," for this is a prayerful and earnest request, with expectation, through which one expresses adoration, praise, and joy.

Hosanna is a transliteration from **Psalms 118:25-26**, "O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD, from the house of the LORD, we praise You."

Jesus' name means "God saves," or "God's Salvation" and in **verse 10** they have in mind the coming Davidic Kingdom when the Messiah-King will rule on earth for 1000 years.

The Jews were waiting for the Messiah to come and liberate them from Gentile oppression [Rome], to prosper them, and to sit on the throne of David; but what they didn't understand was that His main mission was to immediately free them from the penalty of sin, and then in the future to sit on David's throne.

In **Matthew 21:10-11** it says, "When He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee.'"

**Read Mark 11:11...** Jesus looks around the Temple, the inner and outer courts, nothing hidden from His eyes; He then returns to Bethany for the night, as it had been a very long day, at the beginning of which, Jesus had given His disciples a preview of what would happen in Jerusalem (see **Mark 10:32-34**).

But for now, Jesus takes the Twelve to Bethany where they will rest for the night, for the first day of Passion Week has come to an end; but there is much more to take place over the next few days, as Jesus preaches, teaches, comforts, and heals all those in and around Jerusalem who come close to Him.

On Thursday of Passion week, in the upper room with His disciples, Jesus instructs them concerning the New Covenant, doing away with Passover, replacing it with the Lord's Supper, making it clear that He is the Lamb of God, and His own blood would be shed for the sins of all people.

Next Friday at 3pm, we will hold a Good Friday Service, where we will consider what took place on the day Jesus was arrested, beaten, and crucified; all this according to the sovereign plan and purpose of God, so that we might receive forgiveness and salvation from God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior. **2Corinthians 5:21**, "God made Christ who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (**Romans 3:23-24; 6:23; 5:8; 8:1; 10:9-10, 13**).

**Mark 11:9**, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"