

Chapter 21

21:1¹

And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem. And of course the question is: when did this begin? Well, look at the last chapter, verse 17.

And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way.

and were come to Bethphage, unto the Mount of Olives. The last year of Jesus' life begins with the feeding of the 5,000 in Matthew chapter 14. So, if you do the simple math with me, you realize that very precious little of Jesus' life is covered in the Bible. Very little. So when you see glimpses of it, like He as a child is visited by the wise men in Matthew 2, when you see Him as a 12-year-old in Luke 2, those are very special, special glimpses into the young life of Jesus and they're there for a reason.

21:3

And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them. Who's them? The donkey and her colt. Ok? "The Lord needs these animals of yours."

21:4

All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass. So Matthew says, "I want you to know that I am writing this because this is fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9." Now you are seeing Jesus come in on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of an ass and you know that he has been called the King of the Jews and if you are a Jew and you know the Old Testament, you are going to think about this Scripture. And we wonder why they went running after palm branches ready to call him the Son of David, the righteous one entering into the gates of Jerusalem crying *יְהוֹשֻׁעַ* (yaw-shah) or hosanna.

Usages of Zechariah in Matthew

1. Matthew 24:31 refers to Zechariah 2:6
2. Matthew 19:26 alludes to Zechariah 8:6
3. Matthew 21:4-5 quotes Zechariah 9:9
4. Matthew 9:36-37 quotes Zechariah 10:2
5. Matthew 27:9-10 quotes Zechariah 11:12
6. Matthew 24:30 refers to Zechariah 12:10
7. Matthew 26:30-31 refers to Zechariah 13:7
8. Matthew 21:1-22 alludes to Zech 4:1-7 & 14:1-5
9. Matthew 24:16-20 refers to Zechariah 14:4-5
10. Matthew 25:31 refers to Zechariah 14:5
11. Matthew 27:45-53 alludes to Zechariah 14:5-6

21:9

And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. This is the King. He is about to enter the gates. He is the righteous one, the Son of David. Matthew 1:1 says he is the Son of David. They know this and they know Psalm 24, Psalm 118, Zechariah 9, and Malachi 3.

21:11-12

And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee. And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, Now when we see the word temple in our passage we are probably thinking about the building, but that was a place that very, very few could go. Most of the time when we see the word "temple" in our Bible we are talking about the great complex. You will find from John chapter two that it was 46

¹Much more can be found in Mark's version of this episode, discussed in my commentary on Mark (chapter 11).

years in building, 46 years to build it, probably because they had to make the top of a mountain flat. And they did that only virtually because they actually built a platform and so here is the top of the mountain.

and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves. And that, that was going to make them pretty upset. Of course none of us would imagine setting up a craft booth in here in the middle of preaching or prayer time. But I have met one or two in our crowd that are willing to start going to a particular service or a Sunday School class, or even a church, because they are part of some sort of sales racket. You wouldn't dare do such a thing, but there are people among you that would. They would start going to a different class, a different service, a different time, because they have something to sell and they have the latest magazine to give. Please tell me the difference.

And then people would be buying and selling. They wanted the best place at the entrance of the temple and so they would pay top price, and then don't forget, you want to sell the animals, and we find in John 5 that there was a sheep market outside the northern part of the temple. They would sell the sheep and only sheep bought at the temple would strangely pass the test of being able to be offered to the priests. And so if you brought a sheep from out of town and you were a foreigner, well then that probably wouldn't pass the blemish test that the priests would give. And really, if you want the kind that are guaranteed to pass the test you could buy one here at the market. Oh, but before you do that you need the right kind of money. So you come on in here and you find the right currency and there's temple currency. We only have currency that can be used in the temple, and only currency that can be used in the temple can be used in the temple. And so you get ripped off buying your sheep with your currency, and then you come in here; but wait, you can't buy the sheep with your currency, yeah you have to come in here and exchange it for temple currency. So you lose in the exchange and you go out here and lose in the purchase. And then don't forget when it's time to leave you can't give the temple currency back, and so on your way out of town you find someone like Matthew that's ready to tax you for your temple currency. And Jesus says, "You've made this place a market. I can't even get the nations in here to pray. There's no room to pray. There's too much rubbish in the temple."