

Sunday, March 38, 3032  
Palm Sunday

## Here He Comes-the King of Glory

Well, its Palm Sunday and with Palm Sunday we see a mighty prophetic shift within our sermon series dealing with the prophecies concerning the coming Messiah. We've seen the big ones that He would make the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the mute to speak, the leper made whole, and we last week saw the big one-death; that Christ would swallow up death. At the same time, we've seen that all of these prophecies had some underlying prophecies with them. Such as through the Christ, all nations would be blessed. In that Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, He is the Lord over the ceremonial laws. He's the Lord over the laws of nature.

Today we continue on with picking up where we left off last week, with Lazarus being raised from the dead. When we go to John chapter 12, we read; the crowd that have been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Him was that they heard what He had done. They saw it as a sign and so, this day Palm Sunday begins again with prophecy. Zechariah 9, verse 9, "Rejoice greatly O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, oh daughter of Jerusalem. Behold your King is coming to you, righteous and having salvation is He. Humble and mounted on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Both Matthew and John record that Jesus coming into Jerusalem on this day was a fulfillment of the prophecy. But I want to focus first on just what Zechariah said. Behold your King is coming. The King of Israel was always God. Not Saul, not David, not Solomon, it's the people who wanted a different ruler. They wanted the kings. But God was always their King. And He was coming to them righteous, because He would be fulfilling the Law and having salvation because He would defeat death. But it was also coming humbly, born in a manger. He was coming mounted on a colt an animal that had never been ridden on the foal of a donkey. The donkey is very symbolic. Where the horse is seen as a victorious animal; its what the King would ride into town after defeating

an enemy. A donkey is what a King would ride if He was coming and seeking peace. And so, this is what we have. The real King of Israel is coming and He's coming bringing righteousness, salvation; He's coming humbly to bring us that peace that passes all human understanding.

It's no wonder that the people were praising Him and yet we read in John chapter 12, His disciples did not understand these things. When Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about Him. And what was it about His being glorified, raised from the dead, that help them to remember it? It's actually His very words, because we read that when He was talking to the disciples on the road to Emmaus; beginning with Moses and all the prophets He interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.

So, after Jesus had explained all these things following His resurrection; the disciples looked back to Palm Sunday and went 'oh yeah, He fulfilled Zechariah 9, verse 9.' But the people on Palm Sunday, they understood the very basics of the prophecy. They saw Him as that One. That's why they cried out 'hosanna to the son of David.' They understood that the Messiah would come from the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Jesse, and David. When they say this, they are saying you fulfill that messianic lineage, which Jesus did. They then said, 'blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' This is a quotation from Psalm 118:26 referring again to the Messiah who comes in the name of the Lord. And then they finish with 'hosanna in the highest!' Hosanna is a compound word in the Hebrew language it's two words put together. It literally means; save us, we pray. But it's hosanna, save us, we pray; in the highest. It's a reference to God. God is the one in the highest place and only He can save.

So that people had a basic understanding. But now let's dig into it just a little bit more. After all we have seen, all the fulfillments of prophecy; we can see that yes, definitely this is a time for praise because here He comes. But who is He? Let's go back to the Bible, to the Old Testament about what it says about this coming Messiah and who He is. Psalm 24:7-10 "Lift up your heads O gates and be lifted up O ancient doors." What's this reference to? It's a reference to Jerusalem. That Jerusalem after being destroyed would be rebuilt. This is what was

prophesied. And the gates the ancient doors were restored because the Jews were fastidious in their detail that Jerusalem needs to be like it was before. Why, because of the prophecy? No, why should these gates and these doors lift up their heads, be lifted up? You know in other words become very exalted? “That the King of glory may come in.”

Now remember what I said earlier about King. Who's the King of Israel? God. “That the King of glory may come in.” Then the psalmist asks a question, and he asks it twice which again is like putting an exclamation point on that question. Who is this King of glory? Who is this King of glory that's coming through the ancient gates the ancient doors? “Who is the King of glory?” Then the psalmist answers who the King of glory is. “The Lord strong and mighty. The Lord mighty in battle, the Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.” Notice there's three things given there. The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle, and the Lord of hosts. Three, it's the number of God. Who is the King of glory? He's the Lord. He's the true God. This is who the Messiah is. Not just a man. The King of glory God, Himself.

But now let's go to Matthew chapter 21. In Matthew's account we heard this morning of the triumphal entry of Palm Sunday. The whole city was stirred up saying, who is this? Now listen very carefully to the answer. And the crowds said this is the prophet, Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee. They have proclaimed Him the coming Messiah, but they proclaim that He's only a man, a prophet, not the three-time Lord, the Lord of hosts, the Lord mighty in battle, the Lord strong and mighty. Why? What did they miss?

There's two very strong points to make here. And understand these points are points of reality. When we go to 1st Kings 22:17, when we go to Ezra 34:5, when we go to Zechariah 10:2, when we go to Matthew 9:36; the very words of Jesus Himself, we read: “They are like sheep without a Shepherd.” In fact, let's look at the one from Zechariah. “For the household gods utter nonsense and the diviners see lies. They tell false dreams and give empty consolation. Therefore, the people wander like sheep. They are afflicted for a lack of shepherds.” They were looking to the household gods, they were looking to the diviners, they were looking to the constructs of man for their answers. Not to God. And as a

result, as they look to those constructs of man-diviners, household gods and maybe even throw in government authorities and what all; they became like sheep without a shepherd. Why would this happen? Why would they turn to household gods, constructs of man?

The second major point. We find it in Job 36:12. We find it in proverbs 5:23, and Proverbs 10:21 and Hosea 4:6 and the list goes on and on. I quote, "they die for lack of knowledge." You see, here is the big problem. It was prophesied Malachi 2:7-9; our Old Testament reading this morning. Think of what the Prophet said, "For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge and people should seek instruction from his mouth. But you... (who? the priest) you have turned aside from the way. They had turned aside from God. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. Why didn't the people see Jesus as the King of glory? Because the priest's, the religious leaders, had not taught them what to look for or who the Messiah would be. The Prophet continues, "You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts, and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction."

Show partiality in your instruction. What was it that was leading the priest to corrupt the covenant, to change the word of God? Well, they didn't want to offend these people. These people might be upset if you told them the truth. Or we have got to say this, or we won't get the numbers; and if we don't get the numbers, we don't get the offerings. If we don't get the offerings, we don't get our money. So, we have got to tell the people what they want to hear. It's kissing up to the loudmouths because you don't want them to be screaming about your hate speech. It's trying to curry favor with the rich. And as a result of people hadn't been taught the truth. They been taught part of it. They recognized Jesus coming in was a fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9. But they did not understand that the one who comes in is the King of glory, God Himself. Like pilot who said, 'behold the man.' That's how they responded. He is the man Jesus from Nazareth, the prophet.

And as we begin our March through Holy Week with this Palm Sunday; I would like you to consider all the prophecies that we have seen over the past weeks. They are all prophecies concerning the King of the

world. I have to be honest; I know what is said about me. 'He's always harping on Bible study. He's always talking about the need to be in God's word.' Well, I would like you to consider why I might do that; why Bible study is so important. Because people die for lack of knowledge. It's not a knowledge of being able to write well. It's not a knowledge of math. It's not a knowledge of history or science, or any of that. It's the knowledge of God's Word, that the priest is told he is to preserve. It is that Word of God that we want people to be knowledgeable in it, not have a lack of it. By the way, if you know the Word of God, then what can you do? You can put your pastor to the test. Is what he is saying true? It's not a matter of trusting him, that you know he's a good guy, he wouldn't lie to us. No, it is a matter of, I know what he's saying is true because well it's what the Bible says and I know what the Bible says.

But if you know what the Bible says and you can put your pastor to the test, what else does that mean? It means that you are then able to do exactly what Jesus says; 'go and make disciples of all nations teaching them everything that He has commanded.'

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ; as we approach Holy Week, the only way that we know how significant this is, is if we know the scripture that tells us Jesus isn't just a good man. Jesus isn't just a prophet; Jesus is the King of glory. And the King of glory is God. He is God over all. He is King overall, and He is the one who goes to that cross. He is the One who dies for His creation. He is the One who rises from the dead!

Let's embrace that knowledge. Let's grow in that knowledge. Because as we grow in that knowledge, Holy Week and Easter suddenly becomes very, very, big. In our Savior's Name, the King of glory's Name, Amen.