

Hosanna! Christ's Triumphal Entry

John 12:12-23

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Key Words: "Hosanna"

John 12:12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: “Hosanna! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ The King of Israel!” 14

Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: 15 “Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey’s colt.” 16 His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

John 12:17 Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. 18 For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign. 19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, “You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!” 20 Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. 21 Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” 22 Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus. 23 But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

“A great multitude had come.”

John 12:12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

- **How many were there? On one Passover in Jerusalem it was recorded that there were 256,500 lambs slain!**
- **If we assume that there was an average of 6 people in each family, that would place the crowd at 1,539,000!**

This is the high point of Jerusalem's annual Passover gathering and it involved a massive amount of people.

A tradition had become a reality.

John 12:13 took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: “Hosanna! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ The King of Israel!”

Psalm 118:25-26a Save now, [i.e. Hosanna!] I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!...

Shouting this quote from Psalm 118:25-26b had always been part of the annual Passover celebration.

What had been mere tradition for hundreds of years had suddenly become today’s actual event in history.

A great change had now occurred.

- **Jesus had always stopped this kind of mob action before.**

Matt 6:15 Jesus perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king withdrew again to the mountain by himself alone.

- **Even when the Jews wanted to kill Him they could not.**

John 8:20 “No one seized Him because His hour had not yet come.”

John 12:23 But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

Now He allows both because “His hour has come.”

The humble fulfillment of prophecy.

John 12:14 Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: 15 “Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey’s colt.”

Matt. 21:1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. 3 And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.” 4 All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: 5 “Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”

His disciples did not understand.

John 12:16 His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

● **It was hard for anyone at the time to see what was happening.**

Luke 24:25 Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

We may be living right now in what will prove to be the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

Jesus saved His best miracle for last.

John 12:17 Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. 18 For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

- **Jesus waited until Lazarus was dead before going to Him.**
- **Lazarus was raised from the dead after being dead 4 days.**
- **He was raised from the dead just prior to Passover Week.**
- **He was raised from the dead nearby the city of Jerusalem.**

Jesus staged His greatest miracle for maximum impact just before He would go to Jerusalem to die. Why?

Jesus was in complete control.

John 12:19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, “You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!”

- **Everything the Sadducees and Pharisees were doing to discredit Jesus, and destroy His ministry was having the opposite effect.**
- **They did not intend to take Jesus during the Passover because of their fear of the people, but Jesus was forcing the issue upon them in order to control the timing of His death, burial and resurrection.**

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Jesus died right on time as the Passover “Lamb of God” who takes away the sin of the world.

Jesus' timing was perfect.

Dan. 9:24-27 “Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. 25 “Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. 26 “And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself.

What is all this about and how does it work?

Daniel's vision was fulfilled.

Daniel 9:24 “Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city.” Seventy weeks of years is seventy times seven, or 490 years.

That's how long it will take to complete God's plan and purpose for Israel in six elements:

- **The first three elements are fulfilled at Jesus' first coming:** to finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity.
- **The second time He comes He will** bring in everlasting righteousness, seal up vision and prophecy, and anoint the Most Holy, setting Himself upon the throne.

The decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem was given by Artaxerxes in 445 B.C. If you go forward 483 years into the future you end up at Passover in the year A.D. 30, on Friday, the ninth of Nisan, when Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Then verse 26 tells us, “when the Messiah comes, He will be cut off, but not for himself.” And that's exactly what happened.

Jesus wept over what He saw happening.

Luke 19:41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 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. 43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

The king they had been hoping for was foolishly rejected because of their sinful pride and stubbornness.

Jesus' prophecy was fulfilled in 70AD.



- Israel is susceptible to earthquakes (16 since 2022). Because of this the stones of the temple had to be held together with dovetail joints of silver or gold, much like a "butterfly joint" is used in woodworking.
- These connections would bend rather than break, thereby holding the stones together.
- When the Temple was burned in 70 AD all these connecting joints melted away into the crevices.
- The Roman soldiers went into a frenzy tearing apart every stone in search of treasure.
- Doing so led to the fulfillment of our Lord's prophecy in the gospels.

The Dawn of a New Era

John 12:20 Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. 21 Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” 22 Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

Rom. 11:25 ... blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Even as the Jewish leaders and the majority of the Jewish people were rejecting their Messiah and plotting His death, the the “Age of the Gentiles” was dawning.

When Jesus heard that the Greeks were asking to see Him, He said “the hour has come.”

John 12:23 But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. 24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. 25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

What does Jesus mean by “hating” our life?

He is referring to taking up our cross.

Matt. 10:38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Matt. 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Mark 8:34 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

There is a great difference between living for this life and living for the eternal life to come in heaven.

Faithfully following Jesus requires us to “set our minds on the things above.”

Col. 3:2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Phil. 3:18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Our Lord was able to endure the cross and death by looking forward to the joy that would result from His obedience.

Let us run our own lap in the race.

Heb. 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

When our minds are set on eternal things above, we, like our Lord, can lay aside every weight and every sin that entangles us to run our race more successfully.

Jesus' triumphal entry was fleeting because this first time He had come to die.

“They were shouting with joy and waving palm branches, and He was crying. They thought the kingdom was coming. He knew judgment was coming. They thought they would crown Him. He knew they would kill Him. The King came to die, but by Sunday He came out of the grave. Long live the King. Because He lives, we live and share His life forever.”

— John MacArthur

When Christ returns the 2nd time He will come to judge the earth and establish His kingdom with us forever.

Have you cried “Hosanna?”

- “Hosanna! Oh, Lord, save me!”

2 Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

- **Do you believe that Jesus, the promised Messiah, died for you?**
- **Do you believe in Him enough to actually obey Him?**
- **Do you ever find yourself talking to Him in prayer when no one else is around? Studying the Bible just to feed your own soul? Obeying Him in ways that cost you, even when no one else is around? Telling others about Him because you care about where they will go when they die? These are all evidences of really believing in your heart.**

Do you see enough evidence to be certain you are saved?

If not, cry out “Hosanna! Oh, Lord Save me!” Right now!