

Palm Sunday 2015

The O.T. Prophets clearly foretold God's promise to provide his people with a righteous and enduring King.

The N.T. Apostles bear witness to the fact that God's promised King was literally present among them.

- 1 John 1:2 **the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us**

The Prophets, the Apostles and the King himself spoke of the peace that the promised King, the present king would provide for the people of God.

Today we remember that great day when our Lord Jesus presented himself to the people of Israel as their long awaited King.

1. The Promised King
2. The Present King
3. The King who brings Peace.

FIRST - the Promised King

Israel's greatest king, King David, received special revelation concerning that greater King, God's promised King, God's own Son, would come to rule the entire earth.

Psalm 2:6 **"Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." 7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.**

8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

- God has established his KING in Zion IN a day that is yet to come he will overtake the kingdoms of men (Daniel 2) and there will be no end to his glorious rule.
- Other Psalmists exalted God's promised King as well.

Psalm 45: 1 **My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.**

6 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. 7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.

- The sons of Korah tell us that this Promised King would be God himself and his rule would be one of righteousness and joy.
- Isaiah also pointed to God's promised King who would reign in righteousness

Isaiah 32:1, **Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, And princes will rule with justice.**

2 Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land.

- I love the fact that God's Promised King would be a "Hiding Place" a refuge or "Shelter" from the many storms of life that his people face.

Jeremiah confirms that God's Promised King would be a descendant of David, a righteous King who would bring salvation and rule in perfect justice.

Jeremiah 23:5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- This Promised King will be called "The Lord our righteousness."
- He will provide man with a precious gift, a treasure that man could never gain or merit This Promised King will give his chosen people the gift of righteousness.
- So he is called, "The Lord Our Righteousness."

As we transition from the PROMISE of the King to the PRESENCE of the King we are led by the prophet Micah to that Little Town of Bethlehem.

Micah 5: 2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

- Although his origin is from ancient days, (Eternal Son) the incarnation will land this promised King in the womb of a virgin named Mary.
- Gabriel's announcement to Mary reveals the fact that God's Promised King is now becoming God's Present King.

Luke 1: 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

- The miraculous nature of this virgin conception will assure that this king is both God and man. He will be called Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14) God with us.

But how would people know when this king was arriving? Every King had a forerunner, a servant who would go before the king and announce his arrival.

John the Baptist the last of the O.T. Prophets would go before the presence of the Lord to announce his arrival.

John declared:

Matthew 3:2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

- John's words touched the very nerve center of the people of Israel. He was telling them that the long awaited kingdom was about to be established and they came out in droves to be baptized by him. Repentance covered the land like the spring rains.

Matthew 3:5-6, Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

- A grassroots revival overtook the nation and the anticipation of the people was raised to a whole new level.
- John spoke of one coming after him whose sandals he was unworthy to untie. He spoke of axes being laid at the roots of trees and divine *winnnowing forks overturning the nations* like the threshing of grain.

- Finally John Pointed to one he called the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The king was now present!
- Now the King proclaims his Kingdom.

Mark 1: 14-15, Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

- Not only did he speak powerful words but the truth of his *divine rule was confirmed by signs and wonders*.
- The crowds grew from hundreds, to thousands to tens of thousands.

For more than 3 years Jesus traveled throughout the region of Israel demonstrating and proclaiming the Kingdom of God.

- He showed the glory of the kingdom, healing the sick, casting out demons, and even raising the dead to new life.
- The King was present, walking among his people, the creation submitted to his command, demons fled at his Word,
- Would his people recognize him on the day of his visitation?

The prophets foretold the very day when the King would arrive in the city of Jerusalem.

- Daniel 9:24 - 27 States that the long awaited King would come 173,880 days after the decree of Artexeres went forth to rebuild the city of Jerusalem.
- On this glorious day the Prophetic Promise of the King became a present reality:

Zechariah foretold the mode of his arrival. He would ride into the city on the foal of a donkey. 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.

- This was His coronation day and He arranged all of the details.

Matthew 21:1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples,

2 saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.”

- The recent resurrection of Lazarus had stirred the crowds once again. *Multitudes were coming from all over the land* to see the one who was raised from the dead and now going up to Jerusalem Lazarus was walking with the one who raised him.
- Is today the day when he will take his throne, when Roman oppression will be broken. Is today the day when the rule of God begins and all His enemies are destroyed?

Mark 11: 7 And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it.

8 And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields.

9 And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

- Led by the disciples, the crowd is singing “Hosanna” SAVE NOW! Some Bible commentators say that the crowd on that day most likely grew to be around 200,000.
- His grand coronation was met with opposition. The religious leaders shouted from their lofty positions:

Luke 19: 39 “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” 40 He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

- The religious leaders initiate a confrontation and the crowds continued on into the city wondering what is going to happen next!

Mark 11:11 (Jesus) entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

- What, NO Storming of the Antonio Fortress! No political coup forcefully removing Pontius Pilate from his residence. No bold declaration of the rule of God!
- All of the anticipation, all of the excitement, the Palm waving, the laying down of garments, the singing and shouting of the multitude, *Jesus’ triumphal entry brings the crowd to a fever pitch* BUT once he enters the city, he turns around and goes home, what’s with that!
- This was the perfect opportunity to defeat the enemy and break the bonds of oppression what happened?
- *As quickly* as the emotion of the crowd began, that quickly it dissipates.
- WHAT about the peace that the Messiah would bring, the peace that Zechariah foretold?

3 PEACE OF THE KING: Listen again to the words of Zechariah the Prophet.

Zechariah 9: 9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

- Vs 10 of Zechariah speaks of PEACE that the King would bring.
- 10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be ‘from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.’
- We have seen the King but WHERE IS HIS PEACE?
 - Even after his triumphal entry the enemies of Israel continued their corrupt rule.
 - The crowds were perplexed! Was this really the King, where was his promised peace?

The Prophets were clear that the Messiah would bring lasting peace.

- Isaiah said the peace would permeate all of creation so that the Lion will lie down with the Lamb.
- Micah said: **They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks**
- Isa 55:12 “For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing,

The King had come but Israel’s OPPRESSORS continued to rule with an iron fist!

- It seemed as if nothing changed in the political, socio-economic realms.
- AND what they thought would be his coronation turned out to be the nail in his coffin!
- The Jewish leader plotted to destroy the Promised and Present King.
- And what about HIS PEACE?

Friends: In the sovereign plan of Almighty God, Israel's rejection of their Promised King would actually serve to secure peace with God for all who believe.

- Through the death of Jesus Christ God wrought reconciliation with sinful men.
- It is in the CROSS that Christ secured perfect PEACE with God for all who believe.

Isaiah was right when he said: "the chastisement that brought us peace, was upon Him and by his stripes we are healed."

After his passing His disciples would write of a peace that passes understanding, an enduring peace WITH GOD that would come to those who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1: 19 For in him (Christ) all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

- That Peace With God which Jesus purchased with his own blood is now held out to all men through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Through repentance of sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ you can be reconciled with God.

Romans 8: 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

- WE who believe ENJOY peace with God (RIGHT NOW!) And we look forward to the peace of God that will one day be established.

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

Psalms 72: 7 In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
8 May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

Psalms 46: 8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth.
9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

