

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 19- Luke 19:28-44**

298- Blessed Is the King Who Comes in the Name of the Lord- Part 1

November 29, 2015

Luke 19:28-48

28 After He had said these things, He was going on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

29 When He approached Bethphage and Bethany, near the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples,

30 saying, "**Go into the village ahead of you; there, as you enter, you will find a colt tied on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it here.**

31 **"If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say, 'The Lord has need of it.'"**

32 So those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them.

33 As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

34 They said, "The Lord has need of it."

35 They brought it to Jesus, and they threw their coats on the colt and put Jesus *on it*.

36 As He was going, they were spreading their coats on the road.

37 As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen,

38 shouting: "**BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD**; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples."

40 But Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!"
41 When He approached *Jerusalem*, He saw the city and wept over it,
42 saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.
43 "For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a
barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side,
44 and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and
they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not
recognize the time of your visitation."

To the Glory of God

For centuries now- the Christian Church has memorialized the event that Dr. Luke describes for us here in these verses- as the first day of what has become known as "Holy Week" or "Palm Sunday" because of the palm branches and the coats that the people spread out before Jesus as He entered Jerusalem to be rejected and to be tortured and to be murdered by Crucifixion.

And this is a very strange event- that allows us to see people worshipping Jesus as He enters into the great city, and yet there are the ruling religious elite class that despised Him so much- they are plotting His murder.

And in addition to that great contrast between the worshippers and the religious hypocrites- this entire scene of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on the back of the foal of a donkey is very odd. It is a clumsy, awkward- even silly looking picture of a grown Man- His Legs dangling on both sides of the small little animal- and His Feet dragging the ground as people all up and down Main Street are taking their clothes off and throwing them on the ground in front of Him as they cry:

Matthew 21:9

Hosanna to the Son of David; *BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD*; Hosanna in the highest!

So beginning with this account- we are in the last week of Jesus' earthly life. Ever since **Luke 9:51**- when Luke told us:

When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem

Jesus has been working His way down through the cities and villages and hamlets to go to Jerusalem to die for the sins of the world. And beginning today- we see Him just outside the great city that God had used King David to conquer and consolidate into the capitol city of all Israel.

And so by the time that Jesus was in His earthly Ministry- anybody who was anybody lived in or worked in or went to Jerusalem. Jerusalem was where it was "at". And it had become the seat of Jewish Government and was the religious center of all of Israel.

Now what is interesting is that the name "Jerusalem" is not mentioned even one time in the *Torah*- the first five Books of Moses. However, there *are* references to a city called "Salem" in **Genesis 14**. And when Asaph wrote **Psalms 76**- we read this in verses 1&2:

1 God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel.

2 His tabernacle is in Salem; His dwelling place also is in Zion.

... so the city of Salem was the original site where Yahweh's Tabernacle was located which was called "*the place of God's dwelling*".

Now after Abraham returned from the slaughter of the kings in **Genesis 14**- he met a very mysterious man named Melchizedek- in the English, or "Malek Zadeq" in the Hebrew. And **Genesis 14:18-20** says:

18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.

19 He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He gave him a tenth of all.

And then some 1,000 years after this event- God the Holy Spirit moved upon David to say this in **Psalms 110:1-4**

1 The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

2 The Lord will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, *saying*, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies."

3 Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; In holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to You *as* the dew.

4 The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

... which is a prophecy concerning the Messiah Who was to come at some future date. And this **Psalm** gives us an indication that Messiah will not merely be a great warrior King- but that He will actually be Deity and that He will reign forever as a Priest.

And then about 1,000 years after David wrote **Psalm 110**- God moved upon the writer of **Hebrews** to give us even further insight into this man named, Melchizedek in **Hebrews 7**- please go there with me:

Hebrews 7

1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

2 to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all *the spoils*, was first of all, by the translation *of his name*, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace.

3 Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.

4 Now observe how great this man was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils.

5 And those indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest's office have commandment in the Law to collect a tenth from the people, that is, from their brethren, although these are descended from Abraham.

6 But the one whose genealogy is not traced from them collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises.

7 But without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater.

8 In this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case one *receives them*, of whom it is witnessed that he lives on.

9 And, so to speak, through Abraham even Levi, who received tithes, paid tithes,

- 10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.
- 11 Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need *was there* for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron?
- 12 For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of law also.
- 13 For the one concerning whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar.
- 14 For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests.
- 15 And this is clearer still, if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek,
- 16 who has become *such* not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life.
- 17 For it is attested *of Him*, "***YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK.***"
- 18 For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness
- 19 (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.
- 20 And inasmuch as *it was* not without an oath
- 21 (for they indeed became priests without an oath, but He with an oath through the One who said to Him, "***THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND, 'YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER'***");
- 22 so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.
- 23 The *former* priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing,
- 24 but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently.
- 25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
- 26 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;

27 who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

28 For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, *appoints* a Son, made perfect forever.

And here- the writer links Melchizedek to Jesus, and the eternal Priesthood of our Lord and Savior, and the superiority of the New Covenant over the Old. But notice in verse 2 what the writer says about Melchizedek:

Hebrews 7:2

to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all *the spoils*, was first of all, by the translation of *his name*, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace.

So here the writer tells us that Melchizedek being the "king of Salem" meant that he was the "King of Righteousness" because Malek Zadeq was a pre-Incarnate vision of Jesus and "King of Peace" because Salem meant "Peace"- which in the Hebrew was "Shalom".

Now back then- "Uru" was originally the Sumerian word for "city," in fact- one of the earliest cities in Mesopotamia was called "Ur of the Chaldeans." And so after David conquered that territory- the city of Salem became known as "Uru- Shalom" or the "city" or the "habitation" of Peace.

At some point between the end of the Bronze Age (c. 1300 B.C.) and the Babylonian "captivity" (7th century B.C.) the Jews began to pronounce "Uru- Shalom" as "Yerushalim." And that pronunciation continued to be used until the 1st century A.D. Coins produced by the Jewish "Zealots" rebelling against Rome at that time were inscribed with the words "Sheqel of Yisrael" on one side, and "yerushalim ha-Qodishah" (Jerusalem the Holy One) on the other side. The English transliteration of "Yerushalim," saw the "Y" replaced with a "J", and so "Yerusalem" became "Jerusalem".

And so by the time that Jesus was in His earthly Ministry- Jerusalem was the place to be. But notice that none of Jesus' Apostles came from Jerusalem, and Jesus Himself only went there to die. And so the very place that was considered to be the holiest city on earth and

the place from where the Messiah would rule the world was utterly forsaken by God. So it was hardly the "habitation of Peace" that David knew.

And we know that as the manifestation of the New Covenant became even more and more clear- through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus and what that all meant- things get even worse for this great city. Because as the cherished history of the city gave way to the reality of their total rejection of Jesus- God pronounced great Judgment against the Jews, in general, their temple, their worship, their entire way of life, and the city of Jerusalem, in particular- which culminated in 70 AD when God used pagan Romans to utterly annihilate it. Look again what Jesus Himself said in **Luke 19:41-44:**

41 When He approached *Jerusalem*, He saw the city and wept over it,
42 saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.
43 "For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a
barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side,
44 and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and
they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not
recognize the time of your visitation."

And that Prophecy was fulfilled some 40 years later when Titus Vespasian thundered through Israel- as the "Sword of the Lord"- bringing God's Vengeance and Retribution against those who did not recognize the day of their Visitation and putting an end to the Jewish way of life, and showing that, without doubt- God was finished with the Old Covenant. And today- Jerusalem is no longer known as "the Habitation of Peace" but is known by the inspired description of the Apostle John where he said:

The Revelation 11:8b

... the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

You see, dear friends, the Glory of the New Covenant is that God is no longer dealing exclusively with one ethnic race of people to carry His Name and to display His Glory to the nations of the world. Today-

under the infinitely superior Revelation of the New Covenant- God is going to have a people out of every nation and tribe and tongue. The fullest and richest manifestation of the Glory of God's Grace is no longer seen in God setting one people aside from all the other nations of the world- but today the richness of God's Glory is seen in God saving unworthy sinners by Grace through Faith in the finished Work of His Son.

God's people are no longer physically and naturally descended from father Abraham, but God's people are those who have been mercifully given the faith of Abraham- regardless of their nationality- who rejoice to see Jesus's day. The Apostle Paul said this in **Romans 4:16:**

For this reason *it* [Salvation] *is* by faith, in order that *it may be* in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law [Jews], but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,

Those who are chosen by God under the superior New Covenant are no longer circumcised in their flesh- but in their hearts- and their boast is no longer found in men or in the works of men- but their boast is found only in God and what he alone has done. So we are not Jews by natural birth- we have been adopted into the Family of God through the miracle of the New Birth.

Today we are no longer limited to one Temple in one city- but we have a Temple made without hands in the Heavens. Today we no longer have to seek for an animal to kill and shed its blood- but we have the sinless Lamb Who was killed one time- and Whose Blood covers a multitude of sins. Today we no longer have to go to a priest- who himself is a sinner- to get him to intercede on our behalf to God. But under the New Covenant- we have a sinless High Priest- Who never sleeps or slumbers- and Who sits at the Right hand of God Almighty making intercession for us every moment of every day.

We no longer seek to travel once a year to the earthly Jerusalem- which has utterly rejected Jesus Christ- but we seek the Heavenly New Jerusalem- the City- Whose Architect and Builder is God!

But on *this* day- Jesus has to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies concerning His arrival in the City of Peace. And what an arrival it was!

Upwards of two million people- all crying out, all excited, all clamoring to see this Man as He is now at the zenith of His entire earthly Ministry!

All the miracles, all the healings, all the teaching, all the casting out of demons, all the commanding of fish and wind and waves was to bring Jesus to this very moment- His triumphal entrance into Jerusalem as King and Master and Sovereign and Lord! At least that is what they thought.

Now keep in mind that up to this moment- Jesus never allowed this kind of open public display to be carried out about Himself. And even though He was *always* the Messiah and was *always* the King, and even though He was constantly demonstrating His full Deity- proving beyond any doubt that He was God Almighty in human flesh- He never allowed people to act like this about Him- until now.

We have to understand that there was just no rational human explanation for Jesus. Nobody was ever like Him- before or since. Nobody spoke like He spoke. Nobody did what He did. Nobody. And 2,000 years later- we stand in awe of Him. We speak about Him in reverent tones- precisely because with all of our medical and scientific and technological breakthroughs- we still cannot comprehend this God/Man.

Now there is no doubt that Jesus put His Deity on full display- all the time. And from that standpoint- we still struggle to even imagine what those 3-1/2 years of Jesus' Ministry must have been like. And just recently- Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead- after he had been dead for four days already. And so the news of that latest miracle along with the undeniable radical transformation of that wicked tax collector named Zaccheus that we saw just last week- served to just make the crowds even larger than normal.

Remember that Jesus had a virtual "sea" of people following Him everywhere He went. And then combine that with all the people who were curious about His miraculous Power. And then combine that with all the sick and lame and blind and cripple people along with children bringing their dying parents and parents bringing their dying children- all pressing into touch Jesus, all crying out for Him to pay attention to them. And then combine that with all the devout Jews- who were making their way to Jerusalem anyway to partake of the Passover- and you have a crowd that had swelled into the millions.

And it would have been absolutely correct for these people to engage in a massive display of celebration of this glorious Man as the Son of God, the Messiah. But up until this moment- Jesus never allowed it. In fact, if it ever even began- He quickly stopped it.

Up until this very day- Jesus told people that He healed not to say anything. He went to people in secret after He gave them sight. Until this moment- He walked away from all the adulation and all the praise. This is the only time He ever allowed it.

But we need to add one more part to this amazing picture. Among all the crying and all the pleading and all the singing and all the rejoicing of this huge multitude of people- stood *the* most wayward, *the* most incorrect, *the* most distant group of people the world has ever seen. In the middle of all this noise and all this celebration stood the very somber and the very silent Pharisees.

We need to know that these religious hypocrites were more wrong about more eternally important things than anybody else. The people who prided themselves the most about how much time they spent studying God's Word and how much they praying and how hard they worked to be righteous- were the very people who rejected the Incarnate God the most. And the false religion that these people invented is alive and well today, and is- to this very day- creating two-fold sons of hell.

Every single man-made religion or human philosophy on the face of the earth today that teaches- in any way- that lost people have to do something to earn Salvation is a derivative of the religion of the Pharisees. And it doesn't matter what that human effort is. It can be anything from taking Communion or being baptized or speaking in tongues or attending the Mass or walking down an aisle or praying a prayer or making a decision- any religion that teaches that Salvation is the result of human effort is a doctrine of devils and is pagan and is not Christianity. So it doesn't matter if that human effort constitutes:

- ✓ Sacerdotal (Sacramental) Regeneration
- ✓ Baptismal Regeneration
- ✓ Decisional Regeneration

... anything other than "Sovereign Regeneration" is not of God and is not Biblical and constitutes "another gospel" and is the heresy of "Legalism". And this false teaching should be categorically rejected and

condemned by all genuine believers precisely because Legalism *cannot* forgive a single sin or save a single soul. It is, in fact, a lie.

And it doesn't matter if that lie of Legalism is taught from the "throne of St. Peter" by a man who lays claim to be the "vicar of Christ" who is dressed in robes and a funny hat speaking "ex – cathedra", or if that lie is taught by a man in a three-piece suit- who stands behind a pulpit masquerading as a Protestant. Legalism is legalism no matter who teaches it and no matter how sincere or devout the person may be.

And Legalism is a wicked and evil heresy all day long. It *does not* please God, it *cannot* please God- in fact, this man-made religion of the Pharisees wars *against* the true Gospel of Jesus Christ because it robs God of the Glory that only He is entitled to receive.

The thought that we can do something- *anything* to develop our own intrinsic righteousness to the point where we can earn and deserve Heaven is the very reason why these Pharisees hated Jesus and sought to have Him murdered. And that is because the concept of human engineered righteousness is utterly *incompatible* with the concept of the imputed Righteousness of Jesus Christ. One has to give way to the other. One wins out over the other, and one entirely eliminates the other.

So you simply cannot have it both ways. Either lost people are saved by Grace alone through Faith alone in the finished Work of Christ alone to the Glory of God alone as the Bible clearly and repeatedly says- which confirms that the Holy Scriptures are indeed infallible and inerrant, or else we are saved by a *combination* of human effort and God's Grace that allows for Man to take some or all of the Glory- as the Pharisees of both then and now teach- which means that the only thing that the Scriptures are useful for is to be used as a paper-weight or a door stop.

But make no mistake about it- the *elevation* of human effort in Salvation- no matter how or to what extent- is the *reduction* of the Grace of God to the very same extent. Or as the Apostle Paul put it in **Galatians 5:4:**

You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

Now at first- what Jesus said and what Jesus did merely *annoyed* the legalistic Pharisees. But then the Words and Deeds of Jesus escalated into being an *intimidation*. And then it wasn't long- as miracle after miracle and sermon after sermon and proof after proof began to take hold- that their annoyance and their intimidation turned into abject *hatred*. And the men who thought they were nearer to God than all the people of the world- plotted to murder the sinless Lamb of God.

Now it is going to take a little bit of time to set all this up- so we will probably have to re-visit this again next week- but this is really quite a scene.

Dr. Luke tells us that a huge crowd gathered- gushing with excitement- and they literally lined the road in front of Jesus as He slowly came into the City. And the closer He got- the larger and more noisy the crowds were. And every time Jesus healed somebody or taught a Parable or forgave their sins or raise them from the dead- the crowds grew exponentially. So the excitement and anticipation grew more and more- the closer Jesus got to Jerusalem.

But at the very same time- the closer Jesus got to the entrance of the great City of Jerusalem- the quieter and the more solemn and the angrier the Pharisees got. Now look again at **Luke 19:29-31**:

29 When He approached Bethphage and Bethany, near the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples,

30 saying, "Go into the village ahead of you; there, as you enter, you will find a colt tied on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it here.

31 "If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say, 'The Lord has need of it.'"

Now right near the city of Jerusalem is the town of Bethany. And it's really just a small village- about two miles east. And Bethany was the home of Mary and Martha and Lazarus. And today it has an Arabic name that means "Lazarus". So today- Bethany is named for its most famous citizen- the man that Jesus raised from the dead.

And the name Bethany means: "house of dates". And those dates grow on date palm trees. And near Bethany was an even smaller village known then as Bethphage- which meant "house of figs". And Luke tells us that the Mount of Olives is nearby.

Now according to what I have found out- the Mount of Olives is in the middle of three mountains on the two and a half mile long little set of hills. And "Mount Scopus" is on the north and "the Mount of Corruption" is on the south, and they're about the same height. But the middle one is the Mount of Olives- which is directly opposite from the Temple Mount.

And both Bethany and Bethpage are on the east side of the Mount of Olives- so they can't actually look at Jerusalem because they're down and they're below the crown of the hill. You have to walk up to the crown of the hill before the city appears- because it's down the slope to the Kidron valley, where the brook Kidron runs, and then up a little slope to the eastern gate of the city.

So Jesus is still below the hill on the backside and He is not able to see the great glorious city of Jerusalem yet- but He knows it is just over the hill. And so Jesus sends two of His disciples to go get a colt so He can ride into Jerusalem and fulfill even more Old Testament Prophecies.

Now most of us are familiar with Western movies or Western novels and many times they deal with the issue of horse thieves. Stealing horses was a real big deal back then because it either took away a man's way to travel or it took away a man's way to make a living or both. In fact- back then- stealing a horse was actually worse than stealing a car- because many times- even if your car is stolen- you either have insurance or you can buy another one.

But stealing a horse when a horse is the best and fastest travel available was a real big deal. And we need to understand that until the dawn of the 20th Century- a man could only travel as fast as the fastest horse could run. It has only been a little over a hundred years out of about 6,000 years of human history that we have things like cars and trains and buses and jets and rockets and Radio and TV and satellites and the Internet that has shrunk our world and made travel and the assimilation of information easy and exponentially faster.

And in addition to that- these animals were called "beasts of burdens" because they carried their supplies and they ground their grain and people used these animals for any number of tasks. So for Jesus to tell His Disciples to go into the small little village of Bethpage and get Him that colt- *without* asking and *without* even offering to rent it or pay for it- was a real big deal.

Now try to picture this in your mind. Here are at least two disciples- because they always went by twos- who were complete strangers to the people of Bethpage- and they're walking into a strange village. And as they enter the village- they're looking all around because their Master- Who they believe is God- told them to find a specific animal. And as they get into the village- they see this colt tied to something- a tree or a post- and evidently they could tell that this animal had never been broken in- and so it matched what Jesus had told them.

And so as these men are marveling among themselves about how did Jesus know about this when he had never been in that Village before- these men just walk right up to a colt that was tied up- meaning it belongs to somebody else and was tied because the owner didn't want it to run off- and then they just untied it and walk off with it in broad daylight.

They didn't ask anybody permission. They didn't offer to rent it or pay for it. They just walked up and untied it and then walked off with it- like they owned it. And evidently the man who owned the colt was somewhere nearby and he saw them walking away with his animal and he said, "*Hey!*"- which in Hebrew would have been some other word.

Now this man would look at this no different than you would look at this. He saw it as the Disciples trying to steal a very valuable asset from him. And so it was natural for him to wonder what in the world was going on.

Now Jesus knew what was going to happen, and so He only gave His Disciples one single Authority by which they could do this:

If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say, 'The Lord has need of it'.

Now this is incredible! And I want you to notice several things about this event that shows us the Power of God and the full Deity of Jesus Christ:

1. Jesus *guaranteed* His Disciples that they would find a colt that no man had ever rode on before (Omnipotence/Omniscience).

2. Jesus gave them Divine Authority to untie the colt and bring it to Jesus- even though they didn't ask the owner or pay him for the use of his animal (Omnipotence).

Now I don't know how many of you have ever raised animals before- but there are several very interesting things here that we need to understand about this particular event:

- ✓ It was the "colt" or the "foal" or the offspring of a donkey
- ✓ It had never been "broken in" (wild)
- ✓ The animal gave them no resistance
- ✓ The owner accepted their Authority without question

Now when the Apostle Levi wrote *his* Gospel Account about this very same event- he said this in **Matthew 21:2b&3**

2 ... "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied *there* and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me.

3 "If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."

So they not only found the colt- but the *mother* of the colt as well, and Matthew says the disciples untied *both* the female donkey and her offspring and brought *both* of them to Jesus.

And Matthew says that when somebody stops and asks the disciples what they think they're doing- to tell the guy that the Lord has need of both of them and the man will then *immediately* let you have both of them! So this is even more amazing than Luke's Record!

Now there are at least two possibilities here. One is that there were so many people walking through that area going toward Jerusalem for the Passover and the topic on everybody's lips was Jesus setting up His Kingdom when He got there that the owner of the animals would be reluctant *not* to let the disciples take them. But the other possibility is that God sovereignly worked on the owner's heart in advance so that he allowed his animals to be taken- no questions asked. But in either event- this is a notable thing.

Now why did Jesus do this? Why tell His disciples to go get Him and animal to ride on? I mean why didn't Jesus just *walk* into

Jerusalem? After all- He had walked through the entire country up till now- so why does Jesus want an animal now? Dr. Luke doesn't tell us- but the Apostle Levi did when he wrote this in **Matthew 21:4&5**:

4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

5 "SAY TO THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, 'BEHOLD YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, GENTLE, AND MOUNTED ON A DONKEY, EVEN ON A COLT, THE FOAL OF A BEAST OF BURDEN.'"

Now we have to keep in mind that Jesus' entire Life and Ministry were marked by two overriding purposes:

1. To do His heavenly Father's Will (**Matthew 26:39,42; John 4:34; 5:30**).
2. To fulfill the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah's First Coming (**Matthew 5:17; Luke 13:33; 24:25-27; The Acts 3:21**).

Now the phrase **"The daughter of Zion"** refers to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, which was sometimes referred to as "Zion", because Mount Zion is the city's highest and most prominent hill. The prophecy quoted in verse 5 is from the prophet Zechariah, who 500 years earlier had predicted that the people of Jerusalem would hail the Messiah as their King as He was coming into the city, and that He would be gentle, or humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden (see **Zechariah 9:9**).

However, in keeping with an entire Life and Ministry that was different than any other- it seems totally inappropriate that any King, much less the King of kings, should make His triumphal entry into the capitol City of all Israel- mounted on a donkey rather than a beautiful white stallion or in a regal chariot.

Yet that is what God's Prophet predicted and that is what God's Son did- because that was God's Divine Plan. Jesus was never intended to come the first time in earthly splendor or to reign in earthly power. He did not come in wealth- but in poverty, He did not come in grandeur- but in meekness, and He did not come to rescue Israel from their enemies- but to rescue as many as believed from the Wrath of God against their sins. So the Incarnation was the time of great *humiliation* for God's Son- *not* the time of His glorification.

Because He was a King like no other king- Jesus' triumphant entrance was like no other. And by the standards and purposes of the other kings of the earth- Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was anything but triumphant. But by the Divine Standards and Purposes of God- it was exactly as it was meant to be.

Now it is fascinating that two things are at work here:

- ✓ The Sovereign Plan of God
- ✓ The sinful desires of evil people

And both of these are at work here- under the direction and jurisdiction of The Providence of God. Here is how the Apostle Peter put it in **The Acts 2:23**

this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

So God was sovereignly and passively *allowing* evil and sinful people to do what was in their hearts to do anyway. And by allowing them to do their evil- they were unknowingly fulfilling God's predetermined Plan.

So Jesus' entry on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden, was not a put down by His rejecters. It was the sovereign Choice of God the Father and of God the Son, Who Himself *willingly* came to earth as the Servant Savior, to take upon Himself the sin of the world. Nothing could have been more appropriate than that the Bearer of the world's sin burden would enter God's holy city of Zion riding on a lowly beast of burden.

Now 500 years earlier- the Prophet Zechariah wrote this:

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout *in triumph*, O daughter of Jerusalem! 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.

Now even though Levi was speaking specifically of Zechariah's 500 year old Prophecy concerning Jesus' entry into Jerusalem- it is

significant that Jesus' entry may have also fulfilled *another* OT Prophecy. Because just before Zechariah delivered his Prophecies to the nation of Israel- the Prophet Daniel was in his ministry over in the captivity in Babylon.

Now it is interesting to note that Daniel is *not* considered a Prophet in Judaism. Prophecy is considered to have ended with **Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi** in the false religion of the Jews. So in the Hebrew Bible- Daniel's book is not included under the "Prophets"- but under the "Writings". However, Christianity considers Daniel to be an OT Prophet and his words to be inspired by God the Holy Spirit. And in **Daniel 9:24-27**- we read this:

24 "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *place*.

25 "So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

27 "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

Now I am really leery of doing this- because so many people have been wrong about things like this all through the years- but here in Daniel 9:25- the Lord predicted that the time from Artaxerxes's decree ordering the rebuilding of the Temple until the coming of the Messiah would be

... seven weeks and sixty-two weeks ...

... which is 69 weeks total. Now this Passage in Daniel was originally written in Aramaic and not Hebrew. And the literal translation of this phrase is:

"seven sevens and sixty-two sevens"

... with “**seven**” being a common designation for a week. So in the context of this Passage- the idea is 69 weeks of years, or 69 times 7 years until Messiah would be cut off. Now the phrase “cut off” means killed. And so this comes to 483 years.

Now until we got the calendar that we use today- they calculated years at 360 days a year. And 483 years at 360 days equals 173,880 days. So from the decree by Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem in 445BC until the Messiah comes to be killed in AD30- which is right about the time that Jesus was crucified- you have 483 years of 360 days.

Now there have been at least two different systems of understanding this that have been used down through the years where people seek to determine the chronology of the 483 years after Artaxerxes's decree. And they are:

- Sir Robert Anderson's *The Coming Prince*
- Harold Hoehner's *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*.

... of which I checked with the second one. Now as I have told you before- there is an entire cottage industry out there that tries to interpret all of these events and they use all of these calculations and they all are so confident of what they have come up with. And yet most of them disagree with the others. So I don't put a lot of stock in calculations like this because all you have to do to be wrong is to get one number or one sequence wrong. And people a lot smarter than me have gotten it wrong for a very long time. And the result is that people have been all over the map about “Daniel's 70 weeks” and trying to predict the rebuilding of the temple and the abomination of desolation and so forth. And people have come up with ideas that the antichrist was everybody from the Emperor Nero to Pope Paul IV to Anwar Sadat to John Kennedy. And since I don't know- I hesitate to get into things like this. But it is interesting and so I gave it to you and I'll leave it at that. I hope it's useful.

But what we do know to be true is that Zechariah's Prophecy was fulfilled here. And Jesus now has this small foal of a donkey on which He will ride into Jerusalem- that great city- to be worshipped by the crowds- but to be hated and murdered by the religious elites. It is quite a story, and Lord willing, we will conclude it next week.

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.