

Holy Week and God's Plan of Salvation

Palm Sunday: The King Enters Jerusalem

Questions to think about while we go through this study:

1. What kind of King is Jesus?
2. Did Jesus have to be King in order to save us?
3. Did the Jews welcome Jesus as their King?
4. How should we welcome Jesus as our King?

Jesus Prepares to Enter Jerusalem

All four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) describe how Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Read about Jesus getting a colt to ride on in Matthew 21:1-5 (1239).

Bethphage was a small town very close to Jerusalem. Jesus told two disciples to go into the town and get a colt. What was special about this colt?

Read Numbers 19:1-5 (178) to see how a heifer was used in the Old Testament. What was special about the heifer (verse 2)? Why would God require this for these animals?

Jesus rode on a colt that no one else ever rode on. What does that say about Jesus?

Why ride a colt, a young donkey? Why not ride a horse? Zechariah 9:9 (1196) gives one reason. Can you think of another possible reason?

Some people say Jesus never thought He was the Messiah. They say Jesus was a good prophet, but He never said He was God or the Savior. What did Jesus say here? Look at His words in Matthew 21:3 (1239). What did Jesus call Himself?

Why was it important for Jesus to go to Jerusalem? Could Jesus save us if He never entered Jerusalem? Read Luke 13:33 (1312). What did Jesus say about Jerusalem?

Next read Genesis 22:1-13 (23) and 2 Chronicles 3:1 (503). Where did Abraham offer Isaac as a sacrifice?

Jesus Rides, the People Praise

Jesus rode very humbly into Jerusalem. Even though Jesus didn't make a big show, the people knew something special was happening. Read Matthew 21:6-11 (1239).

Did the people recognize Jesus as a king? What kind of king? (Also see Luke 19:38.)

Read Psalm 118:25-26 (755) and Isaiah 30:27 (892). The people praising Jesus were talking about these verses. The One who came in the Name of the Lord will save God's people and get revenge against their enemies. The people were celebrating because Jesus will fight and defeat their enemies. Who did they think were their enemies? Who was their true enemy?

Jesus Cries for Jerusalem

Read Luke 19:41-44 (1321). What will happen to Jerusalem?

Many of the Jews wanted Jesus to save them from the Romans, but that didn't happen. Why not?

Think about what Jesus said will happen to Jerusalem (it did happen in 70 A.D.) Some people today are stubborn and don't recognize God. What will happen to them? What should be our attitude towards those people?