

The Prophetic Message in the Triumphal Entry

By Melanie Stone

When I was growing up, my idea of Palm Sunday was a special church service that came the week before Easter, when we heard the story of Jesus riding a donkey into Jerusalem, receiving praise for being the Jew's king. However, the Triumphal Entry has rich redemptive and prophetic meaning.

The triumphal entry was about who Jesus was and what He had for His people, but it doesn't stop there. It also is a foretelling of who Christ will be, what He will do, and what He will have in the near future!

TEXT: Please read Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus' First Coming as King

1. Jesus is received as King or Messiah

Matthew 21:8,9 "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

The Jews were educated on the many scriptures they had on the coming King of the Jews. "Son of David" is a Messianic term. The Jewish people at the Triumphal Entry were praising and acknowledging Jesus as the one promised, the Messiah.

To the Jews at the time, the Messiah was a military leader who would come and rescue the Jews from oppression and dominance. The Jews were under Roman rule. Before that, they were under the Greeks, before that the Medes/Persians, and before that, the Babylonians. For generations, they can be dominated by other nations. These men and women believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the King, who would deliver them from the oppression of Rome. Hosanna means "Save us now."

This entry into Jerusalem was not a quiet, serene event. It was loud, it was celebratory, it was a declaration of freedom. The crowd was not small; it was large. These men and women were fully expecting Jesus to begin to fight for Israel, and they were ready to stand with Him in battle. The Jewish people knew of the Millennium and Christ's reign from Jerusalem, and they anticipated being the ones who would reign on the earth with Him. These Jews did not recognize that Christ would have two comings. The first was as their sacrifice, and the second would be as ruler of the nations, two thousand years later.

The people acknowledged Christ as their Prince with palm branches and shouts of praise.

- The palm branches were significant of the recognition of His being king. The Romans would wave palm branches to celebrate military success and welcome royalty. This was a declaration to the Romans. This is our King and He's come to deliver us from you.¹
- The shouting was significant of the recognition of His being king and their acceptance of Him as their rescue.

This day and this declaration as King was prophesied hundreds of years prior to this event.

Psalm 118:22-29

This prophetic psalm tells of the triumphal entry and the second coming.

Psalm 118:24 "This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it."

What day? It is the day of salvation. The Triumphal Entry is only days ahead of the redemptive work Jesus will accomplish at the cross, fulfilling the feasts and the prophecies.

Verse 22 is about Christ being rejected before becoming a chief cornerstone, or the rock on which a building is built. This is one of the references that could show that in His first coming there would be rejection before acceptance, two comings.

Verse 23 "This was the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes."

25-26 "Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord."

Jesus is coming to save, not as a lion, but as a lamb.

¹ Note: The Greeks recognized palm branches as victory, and there was still a lot of Greek influence under the Roman Empire. They had a goddess named Nike, meaning victory. On her bronze coin there is a palm branch over her shoulder. Hence, the well-known brand of sportswear, Nike. Also, palm branches were used to celebrate during the feast of tabernacles. Lev. 23:40.

Daniel 9:24-25

The prophet Daniel foretold of the Triumphal Entry in his prophecy of the seventy weeks.

The 70 weeks or 70 sets of seven years, 490 years, was a prophetic word given to Daniel. One of those weeks, the seventieth week, is yet to be fulfilled. Sixty-nine of these “weeks” were fulfilled in 483 years. One prophetic year is 360 days.

Verse 25 says that the 69 “weeks” would take place between the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince.

The Hebrew word for “Prince” is *nagiyd* (5057) meaning “proclaimed king.” In Aramaic it means “first, or to go before.” It is from the root 5046 *nagad*. Nagad means “to announce, to declare, to be conspicuous, to make known.”

It was prophesied that at the end of 483 years, 360 days each, the Messiah would be announced, declared, made conspicuous, made known, be proclaimed.”

According to history, the 69th week was fulfilled within those last seven years of the sixty-ninth week. Jesus was loudly announced as the Prince, the Messiah, the King of the Jews. It was declared, made known in a conspicuous way.

Luke 19:38

Do you remember when the Pharisees told Jesus to stop His followers from shouting these Messianic praises? Jesus said, “If they don’t praise me, the rocks will cry out.”

Why did Jesus say that? Because Jesus knew the loud announcement would fulfill the prophecy in Daniel. Scripture had to be fulfilled. **He had to be pronounced, declared as the Messiah, and He was.**

If there were any Jews that understood Daniel 9, multiplied 69 times 360 days, they could have known to be watching those last few years for this event.

If there were any Jews that understood the Passover and the need for a blood sacrifice from a human being, they would have known their King would have to die.

2. Christ's entry was preceded by a miracle

This miracle, and the timing of this miracle, was not by chance. This miracle had a purpose. Through raising Lazarus from the dead in such a public way, many came to believe Jesus was the Messiah and showed up to support Him on the day of the Triumphal Entry.

John 11:1-44

Jesus had raised people from the dead before, but Lazarus was special. Lazarus was well known. There were many people mourning his death, and they had been for several days.

John 11:3-6 When Jesus heard about Lazarus being sick (he wasn't dead yet) Jesus said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

Jesus waited, knowing Lazarus was sick, He waited for Lazarus to die. There's more to this story than Lazarus getting some life back. This story is about giving attention to Jesus and recognizing that He is the Messiah. Earlier in His ministry, Jesus would say, "Don't tell anyone this happened to you." It wasn't time then. It is time now. This miracle was out in the open. It was undeniable.

John 11:23-27 Jesus told Martha that Lazarus would live again. He asked her if she believed this. Martha declared, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." She acknowledged He was the Messiah.

John 11:28-29 Martha told Mary Jesus was calling for her. I love this- "When she heard that, she arose QUICKLY and came to Him." Mary loved Jesus.

In verse 35 we find the shortest verse in the Bible, "Jesus wept." Some thought Jesus cried because of His love for Lazarus; however, Jesus wasn't crying for Lazarus. He knew Lazarus would come back to life. Why was Jesus crying? In verse 38 it says that Jesus was groaning in Himself. In the Greek, the word groaning comes from two words that mean "in strength." The idea here is that Jesus went to the tomb with deep feeling. What was Jesus feeling? Jesus knew He was about to walk into destiny as the sacrifice for our sins. He did this out of a deep love for all of us. When you experience the love of God compelling you to action, you will feel it deep in your spirit, a motivation of great love and compassion. Jesus was carrying a love for the entire world – for that generation, for the generations before, and for the generations to come.

Before Jesus raised Lazarus, He said to the Father John 11:42, “And I know that You always hear Me but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.”

Jesus was being prepared for the Triumphal Entry where crowds of Jews would declare Him as their King. He knew they would misunderstand His purpose that week. He knew many of them would call for His death. They thought He would come fight and gain victory over the Romans, but within days He is in custody of the Romans, beaten until He was unrecognizable. How quickly they changed their minds – a week prior they shouted, “Hosanna, glory to the God who saves us!” and now they were shouting, “Crucify Him!”

Jesus loved His countrymen. Jesus loved the world. He loved His Father. His mission was the greatest assignment ever given – to reconcile us back to God. He knew He would be dying for His sisters and brothers. He knew they didn’t understand, and yet He died in our place.

When Jesus got to the tomb, He shouted, “Come forth! (John 11:43)” It wasn’t a whisper. Not only did this event bring attention because Lazarus was well known, but it took place in Bethany, just a short distance from Jerusalem. Plus, there were a lot of people in the area for the feasts. This miracle was widely known.

We see the results in John 11:45 where it tells us many of the Jews had seen and believed.

John 12:17-19 is John’s account of the Triumphal Entry. In verse 17 it says the witnesses of Lazarus’ death were there. In verse 18 others were gathering because they heard of the miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. In verse 19, the Pharisees say, “Look, the world has gone after Him.”

Matthew 21:10 In this verse it reads, “‘ALL the city’ was moved saying, ‘Who is this?’ ALL of Jerusalem was stirring over Jesus.

Matthew 21:11 says, “The multitudes said, ‘This is Jesus, THE prophet.’ They acknowledged His position, His anointing, and His purpose.

Do we understand the multitudes of people who were there on the day of the Triumphal Entry? Do we understand how angry the Pharisees had become? Do we recognize how He fulfilled Scripture, being chosen as the sacrificial lamb on the same day the Jews were choosing their sacrifices? Do we see how Jesus was fulfilling the feasts at the same time all of this is happening?

3. **Jesus came from the Mount of Olives**

When Jesus comes the second time, not the rapture where we go up, but the second coming where He comes down to take authority over the nations, He comes down on the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 21:1 Jesus came from Bethany and into Jerusalem for the Passover. He came over the Mount of Olives.

4. **He came through the Eastern Gate**

The Eastern Gate was the main gate to the temple and for sacrifice. It was the gate on the side of the Mount of Olives. The main gate was also known as the gate of salvation. The sun also rises in the east, because the earth is traveling in that direction, giving meaning to Christ's arrival, rise, and reign.

Psalm 118:19-20

“Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, and I will praise the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord, through which the righteousness shall enter.”

This is also the gate Jesus faces in His Second coming.

Nehemiah 3:29 “The gate that looks toward the east; and the glory of the Lord came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east.” The Shekinah (Divine Presence) rolled in through this gate.

5. **Jesus road in on a donkey**

Matthew 21:2-7 This is where Jesus sends two of the disciples to find the colt He would ride into Jerusalem on. Jesus knew the Scriptures.

Zechariah 9:9 “Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion (Messiah’s kingdom)! 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.”

Your king is coming to you. He’s riding into your holy city the week before Passover. Not pompous, but with humility and love and salvation.

6. **Jesus healed the blind and lame inside the walls.**

Matthew 21:12-16 the blind and lame came in and Jesus healed them

First, Jesus drives out the merchants selling sacrifice. This is one week before Passover. The Jews were supposed to bring an unblemished lamb from their flock. The lamb could not be lame or blind or have any spots. This was a once a year event for the forgiveness of their sins. They were remembering their first Passover when the first born sons were killed in Egypt (Exodus 12).

The week before the Passover the Jews would prepare their sacrifice. At the same time, Jesus comes into Jerusalem, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. God’s only Son who came to save the world.

Instead of bringing their own lamb as their sacrifice, people were buying and selling the lambs. Jesus was angry because they were taking God’s house of prayer and using it for personal gain. Jesus was also angry because He would soon be their sacrificial lamb, so their sin was especially great.

Then the blind and the lame come to Him to be healed. They were being healed in front of everyone, partially so they could participate in this very special feast.

// Sam. 5:6-8 The blind and lame were not allowed in the temple. They were put outside.

Children were watching these miracles. Children were watching their parents and other adults.

Psalm 8:2

Psalm 8:2 “Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength.”

Ordained – established.

Strength – might, power, also translated praise.

These children were fulfilling Scripture. The entire psalm is prophetic of Jesus. God chose to use children to display His glory to silence His enemies.

7. Jesus began His kingdom

We’ve talked about Jesus being received as King, but we also must mention He is a King who came to establish a kingdom.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the **kingdom** of God.”

John 18:36 Jesus answered, “My **kingdom** is not of this world. If My **kingdom** were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My **kingdom** is not from here.”

The Jews that shouted for Jesus to be crucified were actually part of fulfilling scripture. Some of those same Jews may have been in Jerusalem just weeks later for the Day of Pentecost, receiving salvation as Peter preached the Good News.

Jesus Second Coming

Let's now take a look at the Triumphal Entry in light of Christ's Second Coming.

1. Jesus is King

*Revelation 17:14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and **King of kings**; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."*

2. His entry will be preceded by glory. Miracles taking place.

*Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the **glory** of the LORD, As the waters cover the **sea**.*

Numbers 14:21 but truly, as I live, all the **earth** shall be filled with the **glory** of the LORD—

3. Jesus will come from the Mount of Olives

Zechariah 14:4 He comes on the Mount of Olives
Acts 1:10-12 Taken up from Mount of Olives, Olivet.

4. Jesus will come through the Eastern Gate (Golden Gate)

Ezekiel 44:1-3

Ezekiel prophesied that this gate would be shut.
Shut east gate, only the prince may sit in it.

Gate was sealed up in the 16th century by Muslims, by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent after the Ottoman conquest of Israel. The Turks rebuilt the ancient walls, but rumor had it that the Messiah, a military leader would return and rescue the Jews from foreign control through the eastern gate. So they walled it up and put a Muslim cemetery in front of it, thinking no Jewish man would defile himself by going through Muslim cemetery. Many believe to prevent the entrance of the Messiah told in Ezekiel 44, prophesied it about 600 BC. Only one sealed is the Eastern gate. Only the prince will open it.

At present, the Eastern gate is considered by the Arabs to be their exclusive property. The temple mount is right behind it.

Psalm 24:7-10

Jesus is coming back in glory.

History tells us that David most likely wrote this song when the ark was returned to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:14-15). There was shouting, dancing, and the sound of a trumpet. It is a prophetic psalm, prophesying about the king of glory entering in.

David was a lover of God's presence. The presence of God was coming back into the city. The Messiah came through the lineage of David. It is the covenant bloodline.

Gates are places of entrance. God is saying open the gates wide and high. The Messiah is coming! Not only in our hearts, but into our world. He will rule and reign over the nations.

Psalm 24:7 "Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in." Verse 8 "Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle." Verse 9 "Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in." Verse 10 "Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah."

The Rising Sun

We see that the gate is on the east, the direction from which Jesus will return. When Jesus returns, it will usher in the day of the Lord. This is His day.

II Samuel 23:4 "He shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises..."

Malachi 4:2 "But to you who fear my name the Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in His wings...."

Once Jesus opens this gate, there will never be a shut entrance to the temple again.

Revelation 21:25 "And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day; for there shall be no night there."

5. Jesus will come in on a horse
Revelation 19:11-16

Instead of a donkey, Jesus will come in on a horse as our King!

6. Jesus heals the blind and lame

Isaiah 35:2 "...they shall see the glory of the Lord, the excellency of our God."

Isaiah 35:5-6 "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing."

7. Jesus comes to reign over His kingdom.

Daniel 7:14 "Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed."

God's Glory in Your Life

The Triumphal Entry isn't just about the King they received Him as then... it's about the King He will return as in the near future, and the King He is now in our hearts. Not just what He did, not just what He had THEN.... But what He will do and have in the future, and what He is doing now and sharing with us now.

1. Let Him Be Lord Over Everything

Romans 10:9-10

2. Be a witness to His glory

God wants to work His miracles in you, especially before His return.

I want my motivation to be that the world would see JESUS.
I want my motivation to be to make JESUS FAMOUS.

3. Keep looking for His arrival.

Hebrews 12:2 keeping looking to Jesus.

The Mount of Olives was a place of crushing. It's where the Garden of Gethsemane is located. It's a place of crushing, dying to self.

4. Let the King of Glory come in

Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and sup with him and he with me."

Open the gates of your heart and let Him in.

5. Live in His authority

Stand in His authority. Walk worthy of a child of the King.

1 Thessalonians 2:12 "that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory."

6. Let Him heal your hurts

Luke 14:7-14 invite the maimed, blind into the kingdom. There is value for everyone.

7. See from a kingdom point of view

Discern the times you are living in.

Luke 19:41-44 As Jesus drew near to the city, He wept over it.

We need to know the day of our visitation. This is OUR day, our generation. Let's discern the times.

CONCLUSION: Jesus is our king of glory. Let's prepare for His return by being a witness, working miracles, and telling everyone we know about His salvation!