

**7.01.18 ~ John 12:12-16,  
"God's Son Presents Himself to Israel."**

**Read John 12:12-15...** It was on "Palm Sunday" that Jesus rode into Jerusalem, after time spent in Bethany with Martha, Mary, Lazarus and the Twelve, at the house of Simon the leper; where, you'll recall, Mary had poured expensive perfume on Jesus' head and feet.

Judas, who would later betray Jesus, remarked (**John 12:5**), "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to [the poor]?" But we know it wasn't because Judas cared about the poor, for John tells us (**John 12:6**), [Judas] said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, (as treasure for the Twelve, he kept the money pouch, taking from it whenever he wanted; it could of had 300 denarii more in it, but for Mary wasting expensive oil on Jesus.

Jesus then remarks to Judas, and the Twelve (**John 12:7**), "Let her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial," clearly the symbolism of Mary's act of worship has a deeper and prophetic meaning, for Jesus will be crucified in five days and then buried.

We are told in **John 12:12**, that a crowd of those who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover, heard Jesus was approaching (from Bethany), they went out to meet Him.

We read last week that a crowd from Jerusalem had gone out to Bethany to see Jesus and Lazarus (who had been raised from the dead); that crowd was also following Jesus, and so these two large crowds of people looking with interest and favor upon Jesus, enter the city.

**John 12:13** describes this marvelous scene, as Jesus enters from the SE side of the Mt. of Olives, while a crowd of people are waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King of Israel."

This display on the part of the people was reserved for royalty, it came from the ancient practice of showing homage to a new king (cf **2Kings 9:12-13**); and so, it would seem that the people are recognizing Jesus as the Messiah, the King of the Jews.

"Hosanna!" is a contraction of the words "save" and "please," so that the intent is adoration, praise, and pleading! This is a Hebrew transliteration from **Psalms 118:25-26**, which says, "O LORD, do save, we beseech You; O LORD, we beseech You, do send prosperity! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD."

Think about it, the name Jesus is Greek, in Hebrew it is Yeshua, they both mean, "God's salvation," i.e., the people are shouting, "God's Salvation, Please, Save Us!"

Read again **John 12:14-15...** Jesus finds a young donkey (a colt), gets on it, and rides it into town, this is the fulfillment of **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."

See **Matthew 21:1-7...** Notice that Jesus sent two of His disciples into Bethphage to find a donkey tied up, along with her young colt, the disciples were to bring them to Jesus. They did as Jesus said, they also laid their coats on both the mare and the colt (probably not sure which one He was going to ride, the prophecy clearly said it would be the colt).

**Matthew 21:8** tells us the people are excited, throwing their outer garments and fresh cut palm branches in front of Jesus, this is symbolic of the people's expression of hope and desire for the Messiah-King to come and liberate them.

**Matthew 21:9** tells us, "The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David; BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Hosanna in the highest!'"

Over the past 3+ years of Jesus' ministry, these guys have witnessed many marvelous and supernatural events: Jesus changes water into wine at the wedding in Cana; Jesus, while in Cana, heals a royal official's son at Capernaum, 20 miles away; Jesus heals a man, at the pool of Bethesda, who had been an invalid for 38 years; Jesus feeds a crowd of 5,000 men, with one boy's small lunch; Jesus walks on water, Jesus forgives a woman caught in adultery; Jesus heals a man born blind; most recently, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, with many watching it happen, and the religious leaders respond by seeking to kill both Jesus and Lazarus, so as to eradicate any proof or evidence that Jesus is indeed God's Son.

Back to **John 12:16...** Interesting, isn't it? The disciples don't seem to understand the chronology of God's plan and purpose in Christ; they are now present at the onset of an eternity changing event: Jesus humbly and freely offering Himself up as the sacrificial payment for the penalty of all sins, for all time, for all people.

Notice, John says the disciples didn't understand all that had been written about Jesus, and what must be done to Him, not until after Jesus was glorified.

**John 7:39**, "[Jesus] spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

In just four days, at Passover, Jesus will tell the Twelve (**John 14:26**), "the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you" (**John 16:13**), "when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."

At the end of a very long evening, just before Jesus departs with His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane, where He will be arrested and taken from them, it is recorded (**John 17:1-5**), Jesus... ..lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."

The Jews had been waiting centuries for the Messiah to come and liberate and prosper them, removing all Gentile oppression (presently, it was the Romans), and then to usher in the Millennial Kingdom during which He would sit on the throne of David for 1000 years.

The Nation of Israel didn't receive Jesus as their Messiah because He came riding into town on the colt of a donkey (a beast of burden, used by men to serve men). Jesus didn't come in on the back of a white stallion, like a conquering King, defeating His enemies with force; but as a servant, laying down His life for all who would believe.

**Mark 10:45**, "the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

**John 1:11**, "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him."

The Nation of Israel didn't understand that Jesus, God's Son, as both Lord and Savior, came to free them, not from Gentile rule, poverty or disease, but from the penalty of sin; and that, in the future, all those belonging to Christ will be taken up into heaven, followed by the rise of Anti-christ on earth through 7 years of Tribulation; after this, Christ will return riding on a White Stallion as the conquering KING of Kings and LORD of Lords, for everyone to see (cf. **Revelation 19:11-16**).

**John 20:31**, "these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

**1John 5:11-13**, "And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

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