

April 10th, 2022

“The Messiah Presents Himself to Israel”

(Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-46; John 12:12-19)

Today we begin what is called Passion [Holy] Week, it is set off by our Lord entering Jerusalem on Sunday, while the people praise Him; but five days later, on Friday, the people will cry out for His death, after which, He will be crucified and laid in a tomb, but on Sunday morning, one week from when He entered Jerusalem, He will rise from the dead, just like He said He would!

There is much in Scripture about Jesus’ last week in Jerusalem (**Matthew 21-28, Mark 11-18, Luke 19-24, John 12-20**). Out of a total of 89 chapters that comprise all four Gospels, about 1/3 of them are devoted to this one-week period of Jesus’ life!

When I taught through Mark’s Gospel, I prepared 20 sermons on this one-week period of Jesus’ life; in Matthew’s Gospel, I prepared 22 sermons; and in John’s Gospel, I prepared 30 sermons on Passion week.

This week is highly charged and extremely important, because it contains God’s greatest expression of love for mankind, i.e., sending His own Son to die as payment for all our sins, then raising Him from the grave to provide eternal life.

Apart from Creation Week, when everything was made that has been made, the crucifixion and resurrection of God’s One and Only Son, are the most marvelous, majestic, and miraculous events that have ever happened.

There are many OT prophecies fulfilled by the Messiah during Passion Week, here are a few of those.

Exodus 12:46... None of the bones of God’s Lamb were to be broken. (1400 B.C.)

Psalms 22:16... His hands and feet will be pierced. (1000 BC)

Psalms 22:18... Lots will be cast for His garments.

Psalms 69:21... He will be given vinegar to drink.

Isaiah 53:1-12... He will be despised, forsaken, led like a lamb to the slaughter; He will be pierced for and put to death for our sins (700 BC)

Zechariah 9:9... He enters Jerusalem on a colt. (500 BC)

Zechariah 11:12... He will be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver [cf. **Exodus 21:32**].

Zechariah 13:7... His friends will desert Him.

Psalms 16:8-11... He will rise from the dead.

Psalms 110:1... He will ascend back into heaven.

Next Friday at 3 pm, we’ll study the events of the day of Christ’s crucifixion; and next Sunday, we’ll study what the Bible tells us about His resurrection.

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Today, I will read mostly from Mark’s Gospel, the most succinct narrative among the four accounts; but I will also cite information from the other accounts, so as to provide a more complete picture of Passion week’s events.

Read Mark 11:1-3... Jesus and the 12 approached Jerusalem, coming near Bethphage [“house of unripe figs”], a small town near Bethany (the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (cf. **John 11:1**) on the SE side of the Mount of Olives.

The Mount of Olives is just across from the Temple Mount; it was there that Jesus taught about End Times Events (cf. **Matthew 24**). And it was here Jesus ascended back into heaven (cf. **Acts 1:9-12**), and it is here that He will return to the earth (cf. **Zechariah 14:3-5**).

Jesus sends two of His disciples into Bethphage to acquire a young donkey; telling them that if anyone asks why, tell them “The Lord has need of it,” evidently the people knew Jesus, for He had visited there several times; they also knew that He was referred to as “The Lord.”

Read Mark 11:4-6... The disciples find the donkey and are given permission to untie it and take it (**Matthew 21:2**) records that there was also a mare with a colt.

Read Mark 11:7-10... The people’s display is based on the ancient practice (cf. **2Kings 9:12-13**) of showing homage to a new king; the people seemed to express acceptance of Christ as the Messiah, and King of the Jews.

Matthew 21:5 “Say to the Daughter of Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

The people were excited, throwing down their outer garments and (cf. **John 12:13**) palm branches; these are symbolic of their hope and desire for the Messiah-King to come and free them from their Roman oppression.

The people shouted (**Mark 11:9**) “Hosanna!” meaning “Save!” The actual Hebrew word is Hoshá’na, is a contraction of the words “save” and “please,” this is a shout of prayerful expectation, exhibiting adoration, praise, and joy to the One who has come to save them, e.g., **Psalms 118:25-26**, “O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD, from the house of the LORD [i.e., heaven] we praise you.”

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The people are acknowledging that God has indeed come down from heaven in this Jesus [Immanuel], to save His people.

John 1:1-3, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” **14**, “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” **18**, “No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.”

Jesus came down from the Father, to show us the Father, to save us! Jesus’ name means “God saves,” or “God’s Salvation.”

In **Mark 11:10** the people praise the coming Davidic Kingdom when the Messiah-King will rule on earth for 1000 years.

The Jews were waiting for the Messiah to come and liberate them from their Gentile oppressors [the Romans], just as God had done when He set the Hebrews free from Pharaoh in Egypt.

The Jews believed the Messiah would bring prosperity and peace, and that He would sit on the throne of David; but they didn’t understand that at His first advent, He would free them from the penalty of sin, and at His second (future) advent, He would sit on the throne of David the Shepherd King, for the Bible says Jesus is (cf. **John 10:14**), The Good Shepherd; (**1Peter 5:4**), The Chief Shepherd.

Matthew 21:10-11, “When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’ The crowds answered, ‘This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.’”

Read Mark 11:11a... Jesus goes to the Temple, and He looks around the inner and outer courts; nothing is hidden from His eyes, and what He sees enrages Him.

Matthew 21:12-13; Luke 19:45-46 tell us, Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple; He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves, saying to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’; but you are making it a robbers’ den.”

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Read Mark 11:11b... Mark tells us, as does **Matthew 21:17**, that Jesus returned to Bethany (with His disciples, “the twelve”) for the night, as it was getting late, and no doubt, it had been a very long day.

There is so much more taking place during the rest of Passion Week; as Jesus pours out His love for Israel, teaching them (mostly on Monday and Tuesday) what the Father wants them to know; Wednesday seems to be a day of rest, without recorded events, and Thursday Jesus spends Passover with the Twelve.

During the long evening of the Passover (**John 13-17**), Jesus makes it clear to His disciples that He is the Lamb of God who will be sacrificed, and it will be His blood that will be shed for the sins of the people.

Next Wednesday night we will study what the Bible discloses about that last Passover, when Jesus unveiled the New Covenant through His death.

Next Friday, Good Friday, we will study what took place when Jesus was arrested, beaten, falsely tried and convicted, flogged almost to death, and then executed by crucifixion, fulfilling God’s gracious and merciful plan to save us.

Romans 3:23-24, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus,”

Romans 5:8, “In that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 6:23, “The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord,” and therefore,”

Romans 8:1, “There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 1:13, “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.”

Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.”

Jesus took upon Himself our punishment, making full payment for all sin for all people, for all time. The most important decision you will ever make, will be in response to what was forever accomplished during Passion Week.

Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem on a donkey’s colt with the people praising Him; but by the end of the week, they rejected, reviled, and then crucified Him.

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Jesus Christ enters your life when you genuinely believe in Him for salvation.

1Corinthians 15:1-4, “Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

Romans 10:9-10, “If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” **13**, for “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord [for the forgiveness of their sins] will be saved.” **17**, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”

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.”

Do you have the assurance of salvation? If you don't, then I urge you, right now, right here, be reconciled to God in Christ. Everyone who repents of their sin, believing in God's Son for salvation, will be saved.

God turns no one away, He will never leave or forsake you, and He will bring you into heaven where you'll spend eternity with Him and with all those who belong to Him, by faith in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Mike

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