

THE SAVIOR OF ISRAEL

John 12:12-50

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Introduction: The Prophets have talked about this day for centuries. It was to Israel what the return of Jesus will be to the church. It is the culmination of every hope they had and it was going to happen today. It was the coming of their long awaited Messiah.

- The Prophets had predicted a birth that required Him to already be alive:

Isaiah 7:14 ¹⁴ "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

- Isaiah said that He would be the True God:

Isaiah 9:6 ⁶ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

- Isaiah also revealed that He would be David's heir:

Isaiah 9:7 ⁷ There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

- Micah had revealed the city where the Eternal God would become a man:

Micah 5:2 ² "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."

- And Zechariah had foreseen this day....The day when The Eternal Son would present Himself to Israel as their long awaited Savior and King:

Zechariah 9:9 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.

Other Prophets would predict the beatings and humiliations soon to take place. David and Isaiah both described His crucifixion in vivid detail a thousand years before Crucifixion was even known to the world. [Ps. 22 and Isa. 53] Daniel would specify this exact date on a calendar as the day Messiah would appear. [Dan. 9]. Today is the climax of Israel's Prophets and the fulfillment of every ritual of their religion. Today is the day. But even His disciples were not able to understand it. Let's read John's account of it.

John 12:12-19 ¹² On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and *began* to shout, "Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King of Israel." ¹⁴ Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, ¹⁵ "FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION; BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING, SEATED ON A DONKEY'S COLT." ¹⁶ These things His disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things to Him. ¹⁷ So the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify *about Him*. ¹⁸ For this reason also the people went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him."

It has become popular today to bash Israel for missing her Messiah. This might possibly be true if their salvation depended on themselves, but it did not and it does not even today. God orchestrated every detail of the event we are about to look at before the world began. He caused His prophets to predict it in every detail and then His Son entered Human life, human time and earthly space to bring it to pass. The mission goes exactly as God plans....in every detail!

God's truthfulness and more importantly, the meaning of His Words, can be measured by what He did at this first coming of Christ. Every detail was literally fulfilled. So when the same Prophets, under the inspiration of the same God talk about how Christ will ultimately return to save Israel why would that promise be only allegorical? To allegorize and doubt the rest of what the prophets say defies logic. Speaking of the final day of Christ's return to save Israel God says.....

Isaiah 11:11-12 ¹¹ In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. ¹² He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.

Isaiah 12:1-6 In that day *they* will say: "I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. ² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation." ³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

Isaiah 62:1-4 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ² The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴

You shall no more be termed “Forsaken,” and your land shall no more be termed “Desolate,” but you shall be called “My Delight Is in Her.”

Here are five things to internalize this morning.

First: God rules in the affairs of men and He plans and executes history to please Himself and to Magnify His Glory in Creation.

Psalms 115:2-3 ² Why should the nations say, "Where, now, is their God?" ³ But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

Secondly: All men, even those close to God need His help to see His Glory and understand His Word. If you understand His Word...His Spirit has done that for you.

1 Corinthians 2:11-12 ¹¹ For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

Thirdly: The future events God has revealed to us are as certain to happen as the prophecies that are already fulfilled. John explains this at the beginning of Revelation.

Revelation 1:1-3 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John, ² who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw. ³ Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Fourthly: The events and actions of world leaders are all surging toward the climax that God has ordained and predicted. God is in control of Nations and Politicians.

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

Finally: You can have rest for your mind and soul even in troubled times. You can trust in the Sovereign plan, power and providence of God.

John 14:1-3 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ² "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Well...let's begin. The day before, a local crowd gathered to see both Jesus and Lazarus. A documented case of resurrection! Everyone wanted a look at such an extraordinary man. This event took place on Sunday.

On the next day, Monday March 30th, 33 AD. Jesus left Bethany and began the short descent to Jerusalem. He was on His way to enter the city, as was the custom, to celebrate the Passover. John explains!

John 12:12-13 ¹² On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and *began* to shout, "Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King of Israel."

During this week, Jesus has an appointment of His choosing... with the Cross. He has set His face for Jerusalem where He will offer Himself for your sin. All four of the gospels record this event, each one adding something to the story. Luke takes up the story just moments before Jesus descended the Mount of Olives:

Luke 19:29-34 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."

Here's a question: Why is this colt given seven verses of attention in a story of this magnitude? Because it is a specific detail of His **FIRST** coming. Jesus was not coming as the conquering King but coming in peace. He was coming as the humble servant bringing salvation.

Zechariah 9:9 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.

The next time Jesus comes down this same path into Jerusalem it will be very, very different. This day was determined and foreseen before the foundation of the world. It initiates the week where The Eternal Son would bear the sins of those He had chosen before the world began.

Ephesians 1:4-5 He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

**Jesus Himself greatly desired to go to the cross for you.
His life was not taken it was given.**

John 10:17-18 ¹⁷ "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. ¹⁸ "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to **take it up** again. This commandment I received from My Father."

Luke goes on....

Luke 19:35-37 ³⁵ They brought [*the colt*] 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,

The crowds are now surrounding Jesus and surging along with Him on the road leading down from the Mount of Olives. Many are traveling ahead of Him. Still others are coming out from the city. In the shadow of the “City of God” The Spirit of God begins to impress the multitudes with what is happening. Jesus **is** the Messiah! They begin to remember what Zechariah said. He **is** coming to them on the foal of a donkey. They have heard Him and seen Him and He **is** endowed with Salvation and Humility. **But** how would they turn on Him in just a few days? How could they shout for His crucifixion before Pilate on Friday after shouting for His coronation today?

Because, what appears spontaneous, is actually orchestrated and driven by God from eternity past. It is God’s intention that both they and you experience this foretaste of the “Glory of God the Son.” Those present remembered His miracles [and so do we]. They remembered that no man ever spoke like this man spoke. [you too know it is true] They remembered the tender compassion toward sinners as well as the steadfast opposition to dead religion [as do we]. Matthew elaborates:

Matthew 21:8-9 ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road. ⁹ 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!"

What were they shouting? “Hosanna!” And it means, “save us we pray.” The crowds are bursting with the truth that can no longer be hidden from Israel or the world. Jesus is the Christ! He is the Messiah of Israel and their Savior. He is the heir to the throne of David...He is the Son of The Living God. He is the one man who can answer this prayer. The Pharisees will not put Him to death in ignorance nor will they do it in secret. With their eyes wide open, they will trade their God and Savior for a common murderer. But there are unseen things going on at this moment as well....

The Passover was on the fourteenth day of the month, and this was the tenth. Exodus 12:3 prescribes that the spotless male lamb was to be chosen on this day for the Passover sacrifice.

At this very moment, just inside the walls of Jerusalem, the lambs, whose blood would cover the doorpost of Israel, were being chosen for that sacrifice. On Friday, Jesus would die on the cross at the very hour that those same lambs were sacrificed. This event is the harbinger of Christ’s glorious coronation. Jesus will travel this way once again, but with a very different outcome. Looking past today, Zechariah says:

Zechariah 14:4-9 ⁴ In that day His feet **will stand** on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the

north and the other half toward the south..... it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD..... And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. ⁹ And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be *the only* one, and His name *the only* one.

BUT today, God is displaying His Son for all generations to behold. For that one day it was true in Jerusalem: Jesus is Lord! Fifty five days later Peter would preach and say:

Acts 2:22-23 ²² "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-- 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.

Acts 2:36-37 ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both **Lord and** Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified." ³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart,"

Back to John's account for the moment.

John 12:13 ¹³ took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and *began* to shout, "Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King of Israel."

ILL. Perhaps you have had the experience of sitting in church while something uncomfortable was going on? The soloist sang the entire song off key or the guest speaker has said something disturbing. You might plan to say something to someone in charge. BUT...If you happen to be in charge, you are dreading what people will say to you.... "How did this happen on your watch?"

The Pharisees believed they were in charge of all worship. Things could only be done when and how they decreed, and this was not one of those times or ways. Luke tells us that.....

Luke 19:39 ³⁹ some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples."

Like religious hypocrites in every age, they have put God in their box. He is not free to be God. The Messiah is not allowed to come...not today...not on their watch...and so they complain to Jesus saying, "can't you hear what these people are saying?" "They are calling you the 'Son of David,' and only the Messiah of God is the 'Son of David.'" "They are praying to you for salvation." "No one can save, but God." "And just look at you!" You are sitting on this foal of a donkey and entering Jerusalem exactly the way Zechariah said the Messiah would enter." "You need to stop this now." "We are offended."

Luke 19:40 ⁴⁰ *Jesus* answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

"I hear what they say," Jesus says, "but today there will be no silence." For this hour, having been determined and therefore foreknown by God from Eternity past, there will be an outpouring of God's grandeur and glory that will light up this dismal valley path leading to Mount Zion. It will only be seen by a few thousand and will be unknown to the nations of the earth, but it will be inscribed into the Holy Word of The Living God and the His Spirit will take it up and turn men's hearts to the Glory of their Lord Jesus Christ. This is why our hearts still cry out... twenty centuries later, with the Psalmist,

Psalm 96:9-13 ⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth! ¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity." ¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; ¹² let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy ¹³ before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

CONCLUSION: In five days, Jesus will die for His people. He will be buried and then rise on Sunday. Ten after that, He will ascend from the Mount of Olives. When He returns to Earth in His Glory, He will come to that exact spot and He will save Israel just like He said He would.

Romans 11:26 ²⁶ and so **all Israel will** be saved; just as it is written,

He comes again to Israel after having called out from among the gentiles a people for His name. "Hosanna" [save us] will be sung once more by redeemed Israel on that day. Only this time, with new birth because God has shown them their Messiah. Many say today, "How could that ever happen? Israel is so very far from God and even further from Jesus!" How will He ever accomplish something like this? The same exact way that He has saved every gentile....**By His Spirit!** Listen once more to God's prophets.

Zechariah 12:10 ¹⁰ "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have **pierced**; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son....

Zechariah 13:1 "On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

How will Jesus come into Jerusalem "On **that** day!" The Apostle John saw Him and tells us.....

Revelation 19:11-16 ¹¹ I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.