



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Arrival!

Matthew 21:1-17

Message #58 of 80 – S1093

Sermon given on April 21, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Arrival!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 21**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Arrival!**
- Today's text and most of the rest of the gospel of Matthew focuses on the last week of the life of Christ.
- We call this time the Passion Week of Christ.
- One of the things that makes the Bible so unique and amazing are the prophecies it contains.
- God knows everything about everything and everywhen (**Isaiah 46:9-10**).

Remember the former things of old, for *I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,*¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure...'*

- During the final days of Christ's time on the earth He will fulfill many prophecies.
- And one of the most amazing ones is the one we will look at this morning.
- **Matthew 21:1-3**
- All four gospels include this account.
- Jesus walked everywhere He went, except when He traveled by boat.
- They are only a couple of miles from Jerusalem.
- Why would He choose this time to ride into Jerusalem?
- For three and a half years Jesus has been ministering as the Servant Messiah, but He was always also the Messiah King of Israel.
- Jesus is well known in the area, and it is likely that the owners of the donkeys were supportive of Jesus.
- And then Matthew reminds us that this was a fulfillment of prophecy.

- **Matthew 21:4-5**

- This event was predicted by the prophet Zechariah hundreds of years earlier (**Zechariah 9:9**).

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! 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.

- Most religious teachers taught that this was a messianic prophecy.
- What God promised them was a Prince of Peace (**Isaiah 9:6**).

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- The donkey was a symbol of peace.
- They wanted a warrior king like King David, but Jesus didn't come to overthrow the Roman government.
- Jesus riding into Jerusalem the way He did and when He did was a crystal clear declaration that He was the Messiah.
- The two disciples do as they are told.

- **Matthew 21:6-8**

- Both mother and colt are brought so that the colt is calmed by the mother's presence.
- But it is also very symbolic. It was an expression of Christ's humility.
- It is also miraculous – the colt did not resist being ridden by Christ.
- Then the multitude reacts to this sight of Jesus on the donkey.
- The scene of someone riding a donkey would not elicit this kind of response – they sense something spiritual happening.

- **Matthew 21:9**

- The multitude had come for Passover.
- It was the most important feast day of the Jewish calendar.
- It remembers God's deliverance of the Jewish people from four hundred years of bondage in Egypt.
- Jews all over the world will celebrate Passover with a Seder meal on April 22, 2024.
- At the time of Christ, the Passover was always a time when the Jews remembered God's deliverance and expected the Messiah to come again. It was a hopeful time.

- There were many in the multitudes who believed Jesus was the promised Messiah.
- He was, but just not in the way they hoped He would be.
- One of the more dramatic prophecies in the Bible concerns this event, the Triumphal Entry.
- It takes my breath away every time I come to it.
- This event was so important that God told the Jews when it would happen.
- Turn to **Daniel 9** – We are going to look at Daniel’s prophecy that we call the Seventy Weeks of Daniel.
- I have taught this in depth, so I am only going to touch on it today.
- Daniel was one of the Jewish exiles in Babylon.
- He was studying the prophecies of Jeremiah and realized they were close to the end of exile.
- As he is praying about that God sends Gabriel to give Daniel a message.
- **Daniel 9:20-24**
- This prophecy is for the Jews and the city of Jerusalem.
- ‘Seventy weeks’ is literally ‘seventy sevens’ – of years = 490 years.
- And because Daniel was in Babylon, we use Babylon’s calendar of 360 days per year.
- Gabriel gives Daniel the start date of this prophecy.
- **Daniel 9:25**
- We are going to put up a chart that helps you to see what we are talking about: **Daniels Seventy Weeks image 2024**.
- Gabriel says there are 7 weeks and sixty-two weeks until the Messiah comes to Jerusalem.
- The start date for that countdown was the order to rebuild Jerusalem which lies in ruins as Daniel gets this vision.
- That decree came in 444 BC.
- Seven weeks plus sixty-two weeks = 483 years = 173,880 days and that brings you to 33 AD – the exact date Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, the foal of a donkey.
- Daniel’s prophecy continues.

- **Daniel 9:26a**
- Messiah was to be cut off – He was going to die.
- Notice, ‘but not for Himself’, He died for the sins of the world.
- After Christ ascended back to heaven, the Church Age began and will continue until He comes back.
- The prophecy continues with the fate of Jerusalem.
- **Daniels 9:26b**
- Thirty-seven years after Christ died, the Romans came and destroyed the city and the temple.
- There is still one week left of Daniel’s Seventy Weeks.
- **Daniel 9:27**
- We refer to the seventieth week of Daniel by other names – the time of Jacob’s trouble or the Tribulation Period.
- At the end of the seventieth week, Christ comes again and sets up His kingdom on the earth.
- Turn back to **Matthew 21**
- Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the day predicted in Daniel’s prophecy.
- No one else could have fulfilled Daniel’s prophecy.
- The whole city responds to Christ’s arrival.
- **Matthew 21:10-11**
- The word ‘moved’ here understates their response.
- It gives the sense of agitated, excited, stirred up.
- Jesus then does something He has done before.
- **Matthew 21:12-13**
- Jesus quotes from Isaiah 56 and Jeremiah 7 to call them out for their wicked corruption in the temple of God.
- For example, the moneychangers were gouging people as they exchanged their foreign money for the temple currency.
- It is estimated that Caiaphas, the high priest, made millions every year from this wicked practice.
- Once all the corruption was cleared out, the people with needs showed up.
- **Matthew 21:14**
- First, Jesus cleansed the temple.

- That made a way for those who needed healing to get in.
- Every heart need two things, cleansing and healing.
- And often it happens in that order.
- If we humble our heart before God and allow the Holy Spirit to cleanse the sin that clings to us, He can heal us and make us whole.
- Then the religious guys show up.
- **Matthew 21:15-16**
- They were seeing the wonderful things and hearing children praising God and their response is indignation.
- Jesus was not the Messiah they wanted.
- No one is ever so blind as he who will not see!
- Jesus quotes to them from Psalm 8.
- Their Scriptures told them what the Messiah would do and how people ought to respond to Him.
- Jesus did those things the prophets foretold and many people responded just as the Scriptures said they should.
- But their hearts were too hard to see what was plain for the children to see.
- There was only one thing for Jesus to do.
- **Matthew 21:17**
- There was no point in Jesus continuing to interact with the religious hypocrites.
- His words were falling on deaf ears. (**Ivor Powell**)
“To continue preaching to people who had closed their minds to the truth was to increase the condemnation of those who rejected the message.”
- Unbelievers will be judged based on the grace they rejected.
- Jesus leaves and goes and spends the night in Bethany where His friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus live.
- The main message for us this morning is that Jesus rode into Jerusalem exactly how and when the prophets said He would.
- There are still many more prophecies yet to be fulfilled.
- If the ones in the past were fulfilled so precisely, then the future ones will also be fulfilled.
- The big one for us as Church Age believers is that Jesus is going to come and get us in an event that we call the Rapture.

- Our responsibility is to believe it and live like we believe it.
- We don't need to get ready. If you are saved, you are ready.
- But you might know people who aren't saved – help them get ready.
- **Pray!** Worship Team plays the last song!