

RELATED SCRIPTURES

Zechariah 9:9 | 1 Kings 1:28–53 | Genesis 49:9–11

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 04.13.25

SUMMARY

Perhaps the most astonishing element of what the Church has called “Palm Sunday” is the numerous prophecies the Lord fulfills in his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It was a glorious event, yet tragic; even though many understood the message that was unfolding in their midst, they missed what would be the most critical element of the Messiah coming to assume his throne: his means of victory wouldn’t be through the sword, but through suffering—just as the Scriptures foretold. When Jesus instructed his disciples to bring him a colt from a nearby village, it was a deliberate act of Jesus to announce the arrival of the King—an act that the Jews who traveled to Jerusalem for Passover would have understood. As far back as Genesis (49:9-11), the good Jewish person would recall Jacob’s patriarchal blessing on his son Judah. In it, Jacob speaks of a future hope—a Messianic King whose “scepter shall not depart,” whose “donkey’s colt” would be bound to the “choice vine.” Moreover, in the first chapter of 1 Kings, we read about the transition of power from David to his heir, Solomon. However, David’s other son, Adonijah, attempted a hostile takeover before this transition of power took place. David’s response was to parade his son, Solomon, through Jerusalem on David’s royal *donkey*—which only the *king* was to mount. Lastly, every studious Jew would have been familiar with the prophecy found in Zechariah 9:9, where the prophet details how the coming King of Zion would ascend the throne, “humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” Jesus’ direction to his disciples was an overt signal that he was indeed the long-awaited Messiah. The tragedy, however, is that the people assumed Jesus would be a military leader and not one of peace who would satisfy God’s judgment on behalf of his people through his suffering on the cross. Though the people missed this, Jesus was nonetheless worthy of all the acclimation he received. He truly is the King of kings who would assume the throne soon after his death. Moreover, Jesus is the King who will one day return to consummate his inaugurated kingdom.

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Luke 19:28-40.

Though Jesus riding a donkey is rich in Old Testament imagery, what message does it convey that the King of kings rode an animal like a donkey? What does that mean for followers of Jesus?

Jesus came to assume his throne as the Messiah, but not in the way the people expected. What practical application can we take from this? Are there ways Jesus fails to meet your expectations? What does this passage teach us about those times?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.