

The King Has Come

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19

Phil de Martimprey

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Our series is titled, “Yeshua, Messiah King” and yet, we have not seen Yeshua embrace his role as king. Rabbi, prophet, miracle worker, sage... but not king. We know from the Old Testament that men have to wait various times to become kings of Israel, and in our study today we will see that for Jesus, the wait is over, the King has come to the royal city and it causes quite a stir.

A Prophecy Fulfilled (Matt: 21:1-6; Mark 11:1-7; Luke 19:29-35; John 12:14-15)

Each Gospel writer includes at least one aspect of the fulfillment of the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9, with much focus given to the specific details of how Jesus acquired this colt which he was going to use to fulfill this specific prophecy. There seems to be a supernatural aspect to his knowledge of where his disciples would find the colt, as well as how they were to acquire it. The action of riding into Jerusalem on this colt definitely brought a stir to the crowds, but there was no clear consensus as to who exactly it was that was riding in. Some weren't sure what was happening, some identified Jesus as the prophet from Nazareth, and there were some who definitely seemed to know exactly what Jesus was doing.

Reception and Rejection (Matt 19:36-40; Luke 19:39-40; John 12:19)

It would seem that the majority of the crowd recognized exactly what Jesus was doing. They spread their cloaks on the ground and cut tree branches to place down before him and followed him shouting “Hosanna (save us) to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!...” These lines come from Psalm 118:25-26 and show us that this vocal crowd had not only recognized what Jesus was doing, but they were more than excited to herald in their new king!

This crowd of faithful Jews, all gathered in and around Jerusalem for the week of Passover, had been eagerly awaiting their Messiah to come and finally set them free from under the oppressive rule of various pagan nations. This crowd very probably numbered around 2.5 million people! So when the Gospel writers record that the crowd was “shouting” and the “whole city stirred up” they are talking about an absolute mob of people and excitement with some confusion mixed in. And that situation did not sit well with the Jewish ruling class, the Pharisees, Sadducees, and teachers of the Law.

History tells us that the political situation at that time was very uneasy between the Jews and Romans. The Romans allowed the Jews a certain level of freedom, but it was far from secure. Especially in and around Jerusalem and the Temple specifically, for that was the hub of Jewish political and religious life, and if there was trouble brewing for the Romans, it would very likely be found there. So the Jewish leaders knew they had a very short leash with Rome, and this loud, confused, expectant mob, who was ushering in a “king”, would have stoked their fears of Roman retaliation. So,

between their fears of being “disciplined” by Rome, and their outright rejection of Jesus as the Messiah-King, these religious leaders were seeking some way to bring this situation to a halt.

A Kings Concern (Luke 19:41-44)

In the midst of this “triumphal entry” into Jerusalem, Luke records for us an unexpectedly emotional response from Jesus as he was heralded by the masses as the true king of Israel. As he got a good look at the city of Jerusalem, with all the multitude of people and camps surrounding it, he began to weep. This was hardly the normal response of a king during his enthronement celebration! But Jesus knew then what was in store for those who had rejected his offer of the kingdom. Total and absolute destruction.

In this section of our study, we see clearly that Jesus knew full well what was both in store for him, and what was in store for his beloved nation of Israel. As a result of their national rejection of him as their messiah king, led by their leaders, they would experience the judgment of God upon them through the destruction of AD 70. He had come to bring them a rule marked with peace, but they had rejected him, and the knowledge of the coming consequences brought Jesus deep sorrow and tears.

Grace Family Needs, News & Notes

Men’s Conference @ Pine Valley: Oct 1-3

Join the men of Grace for an awesome weekend of learning from the Word, great food, and a great time of growing closer together.

Stop by the Men’s Ministry Kiosk on the patio for more info or to sign up!