

## “Jesus’ Coronation”

April 9, 2017

Luke 19:28-44

### I. Introduction

On His way to stay with Lazarus and Mary and Martha for Passover, Jesus had passed through Jericho where He healed two blind men (Luke 18:35-43) and a little later He had met the chief tax collector, Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) who had climbed up a tree to see Jesus. So when Jesus began the 15 mile walk to Jerusalem that Sunday morning, He was followed by a large number of disciples and admirers and those looking for just more entertainment. Considering all that Jesus had said and done during the past 3 years of His ministry, the conversations within the crowd included the hope that Jesus would exhibit messianic power, judge Israel’s enemies, and establish the glorious kingdom promised in the Old Testament.

However, we know the truth—Jesus was walking to His death. Jesus Christ, the sinless Lamb of God, had come to bear the punishment for the sins of the world and to satisfy divine law and divine wrath against sin by dying on the cross. He came to die and then to rise from the dead, not only conquering sin, but also conquering the grave for all who would believe in Him—in John 11:25 He said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.”

Jesus’ death didn’t happen accidentally; it was planned from the beginning. Turn to John 3:13-15. Jesus knew that He would be “lifted up,” i.e. die on a cross, so that everyone who believed in Him would have everlasting life. Because Jesus came to die as God’s Passover Lamb, He had to satisfy the requirements of God regarding Passover and the Passover Lamb. Turn to Exodus 12:1-6. But there was going to be one HUGE difference, this time the Passover Lamb, Jesus the Christ, would rise from the dead. Jesus knew this, too. In Mark 8:31 we read that “He i.e. Jesus then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.” Jesus came to die and then rise again.

Jesus’ arrival at Jerusalem marked the end of His journey that had begun some 30 years early in a stable in Bethlehem. Now, here in Jerusalem, He would face His greatest challenge and complete the work of salvation for which He had come. Sadly, in spite of Isaiah’s prophesy of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 53, the people had no thought of a Messiah as a sacrifice for sin but rather a Messiah who would establish an earthly kingdom. But there could not be exalted glory until there was shame; there could not be a kingdom until there was a cross; there could not be a royal crown without a thorny crown. All that would happen at the end of the Passion Week. Jesus’ triumphal entry and coronation was just the beginning. But before the grand entry could occur, there had to be some preparations.

## II. Jesus' Coronation

**A. The Preparations** As we read in Exodus, timing was important. The spotless Passover lamb was to be brought into the house on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month and watched or observed for 5 days, until the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month, when it was to be sacrificed at Passover at twilight, i.e. between 3 and 5 pm. As the Lamb of God, Jesus had to fulfill those conditions, too. That He was sinless was beyond doubt. He had lived with His Apostles and disciples 24/7 for 3 years; He had been questioned and grilled by the religious leaders of the day, but no one could point to any sin in His life. Peter wrote in [1 Peter 2:22](#), “**He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.**”

Since the timing was important, Jesus entered Jerusalem 5 days before Passover—this would be the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month. If Jesus was going to be seen and accepted as the Passover Lamb, He needed to be acclaimed and welcomed by those He came to save. To bring this all about, Jesus did something He had never done before; something He had continually told others **not** to do for Him. He allowed His followers and others to give a public demonstration in His honor. He rode into Jerusalem in such a way that He made an unmistakable claim to be the Messiah, God's anointed One and the Lamb of God. We see 3 things in the preparations for Jesus' grand entrance into Jerusalem.

**1. First, they were carefully planned.** Luke tells us that there was a password that was to be used by those who came to get the colt: “**The Lord needs it.**” Most likely when Jesus had been in Jerusalem on an earlier visit, He had made arrangements with the owners of the donkey for this particular time. The plan was carried out quietly because in [John 9:22](#) the Jewish leaders had let it be known that anyone confessing Christ would be excommunicated. The fact that the rulers planned to kill Jesus made it even more important that the owners be protected.

**2. Second, they were a deliberate claim to be the promised king.** 500 years before the crowd hailed Jesus as king, Zechariah had predicted in [Zechariah 9:9](#), “**Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**” By riding a colt of a donkey, Jesus was portraying Himself as a King of peace and not a king of war. His peace was peace between God and mankind. He wasn't coming to slay Israel's enemies but to give Israel the opportunity to be saved—to become part of the Kingdom of Heaven. As He had done in His three years of ministry, He came in meekness and humility.

**3. Third, they were a deliberate challenge to the religious leaders.** Up to this point, Jesus had not allowed His enemies to take His life—either He withdrew from them like He did in [Matthew 12:14-15](#)

or He just walked through them and went away like He did in [Luke 4:28-30](#). But now was the accepted time, the right time for the death of the Lamb of God.

In [Mark 14:1-2](#) we read, “Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill him. ‘But not during the Feast,’ they said, ‘or the people may riot.’” The Jewish leaders were determined to wait, but God’s plans said otherwise. Jesus had to die as the Passover Lamb in the right place at the right time before all the people. And the events of this coming week, beginning with the Triumphal Entry, would force the leaders’ hands.

**B. The Grand Procession** All the preparations lead to a grand procession and Jesus’ coronation as King. Jesus rode on a colt which had never been ridden before, but He was God—the Lord of Creation—so neither the weight of Jesus nor all the noise of the crowd bothered the colt at all. The streets of Jerusalem were swollen with people. Since every Jewish male from 12 years old and up was required to gather in Jerusalem for Passover and since many would bring the rest of their family along as well, Jerusalem, a city of 500,000 people, would be filled with over 2 million people; most likely 10’s of thousands would have lined the streets for Jesus’ coronation.

Many of the people knew who Jesus was—they had seen Him or heard of Him; they may have known someone who had been healed by Him. So as He rode into Jerusalem, a large crowd spread their cloaks on the road before Him, others cut palm branches to lay in the road. The expectation that the Messiah had finally come to bring deliverance—peace—from all foreign oppression was so great that the crowd became totally caught up in a frenzy of mob hysteria. Quoting from [Psalm 118:25-26](#), they cried, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” [Matthew 21:9](#) says that they also shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest!” *Hosanna* means “*save now*.” Jesus had come to bring deliverance, but not from Roman rule but from the rule of sin in their lives. The people wanted and expected deliverance from Rome. Jesus came to bring deliverance from sin.

The crowd acknowledged Jesus as “the king who comes in the name of the Lord.” Jesus was the king, the coming one; the Son of David, He was the Messiah. But the crowd on that day wasn’t interested in Jesus saving their souls but in His saving their nation. Now, at last, they thought, He had come to be the Conqueror—to be their Liberator. What better occasion or time could there possibly be for God’s Anointed One, the Messiah—the Christ, to make the ultimate and finale deliverance of His people from tyranny than at Passover—just like Moses had done thousands of years earlier at the 1<sup>st</sup> Passover.

But the people wanted Jesus on their own terms, and they would not bow to a King who was not to their liking, even though He was the Son of God. They wanted Jesus to destroy their enemies, including Rome, not their cherished sins or their hypocritical, superficial religion. But Jesus would not deliver them on their terms, and they would not be delivered on His. The words of the multitude were right, but their hearts were not. Jesus came in the name of the Lord not to be crowned but to be crucified.

**C. The Condemnation** There were cheers but there was also condemnation. Not everyone shared in the crowd's excitement, Luke tells us that **"Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples!'"** The Pharisees condemned the enthusiasm on general principles and they certainly didn't want Jesus proclaimed as the Messiah. They couldn't control the rabble, but they assumed Jesus could. **John 12:19** says, **"So the Pharisees said to one another, 'See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!'"** The Pharisees were afraid of Jesus and afraid of the crowd. If this kept up, they were going to lose their standing with the Roman rulers and their standing as the religious elite. Jesus didn't help when He said that the shouting was inevitable. If the people kept quiet, the very stones would cry out.

**D. The Lamentation** In the midst of celebration there was also lamentation—tears. Only Luke recorded Jesus' lamentation or weeping over the city of Jerusalem on this day. As Jesus looked at Jerusalem, He wept because it had destroyed itself. No matter where Jesus looked, He found cause for weeping. If He looked back in time, He saw how the nation had wasted its opportunities and had ignored the prophets that had come before Him. If He looked within, He saw spiritual ignorance and blindness in the hearts of the people. They should have known who He was—God had sent many messengers ahead to prepare the way. If He looked around, Jesus saw that religious activity had accomplished very little. The temple had become a den of thieves, the religious leaders were out to kill Him, and the city was filled with pilgrims celebrating a festival but with hearts filled with sin. Finally, if He looked ahead, He saw the terrible judgment that was coming in AD 70 when the Romans would destroy Jerusalem killing 600,000 Jews, taking others for the coliseum and demolishing the city. All of this horrific judgment came because Israel refused to recognize their Savior—**turn to John 1:10-11.**

### **III. Conclusion**

God had a plan for salvation and it was carried out to the minutest detail—down to the exact day and hour. The death of Jesus wasn't a plan of defeat. It was part of the plan of victory—the victory of Jesus over sin and death and the victory for those who accept Him as their Lord and Savior. As **John 1:12** says, **"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."** Do you believe? Contrary to the thoughts of many, what you believe does make a

difference, in [Acts 4:12](#) Peter said, “Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

There aren't a lot of events in Jesus' life that are recorded in all 4 Gospels like His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Obviously, it was an important event—it wasn't important only to show us that God's plans always work, it, also, showed us what our attitude should be towards God's plan. Writing about Jesus in [Philippians 2:8](#), Paul wrote that in spite of all Jesus had and all He was, He “humbled Himself and became obedient to death.” Are you a follower of Christ, how's your attitude? Like Christ, Christians need to be humble and obedient to God. During His last week of ministry, Jesus courageously faced His enemies and then bravely went to the cross to die for the sins of the world. We are called to be just as courageous and brave as we obey God in our lives.

On a day of celebration like Palm Sunday, it isn't right to end here. In [Acts 1:10-11](#) angels told the disciples standing there watching Jesus disappear into heaven, “This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” However, the second time He comes, He will come riding a charger; He will come as a warrior King with majesty and power. As Paul wrote in [Philippians 2:10](#), then “every knee will bow before Him.” If you are one of His children, you will join in the greatest coronation of all time—heaven itself will ring with celebration. [Turn to Revelation 5:11-14](#). What a grand and glorious day that will be. By comparison, Palm Sunday will be as if it were a mere whisper. Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, our Lord and Savior will be crowned and we will be with Him to celebrate His victory. Let's rejoice today and every day and “praise His glorious Name forever. May the whole earth be filled with His glory” ([Psalm 72:19](#)).