

21:1-22

- **REVIEW...**
 - FIRST - The Presentation of the King – **Matthew 1-7**
 - SECOND – The Ministry of the King – **Matthew 8-18**
 - THIRD - The Rejection of the King - **Matthew 19-25**
 - To the cross...
 - Jesus and the DISCIPLES were making their way to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover...
 - But this would be Jesus FINAL trip - so He again told His disciples what would happen...
 - He would be BETRAYED - CRUCIFIED - but on the third day He would RISE again!
 - Becoming the Greatest...
 - Then the mother of James and John came and asked Jesus for a FAVOR...
 - When He asked what did she WISH [θέλω] - it was for her sons to SIT next to Jesus...
 - When the other DISCIPLES heard this they became JEALOUS - so Jesus reminded them...
 - To be the GREATEST in the Kingdom - they must become the SERVANT of ALL!
 - Opening Eyes...
 - As they left the city of JERICHO - two BLIND men called out to Jesus to heal them...
 - When He asked them what did they WISH [θέλω] - they said to SEE...
 - That was a prayer Jesus could answer - so He opened their eyes - and they FOLLOWED Him!
- **1ST - TRIUMPHAL ENTRY... vs. 1-11**
 - 1st - Coming to Jerusalem... vs. 1
 - Passover...
 - Now when they drew near Jerusalem - and came to Bethphage at the Mount of Olives!
 - Every year the Jews were REQUIRED to come for the PASSOVER - **Exodus 23:14-17**
 - The city would receive almost two MILLION pilgrims [Josephus]
 - So as Jesus and His DISCIPLES arrived - they were NOT alone!
 - Mount of Olives...
 - The Mount of Olives is the highest point on the EAST side of Jerusalem [826 meters]
 - To this day it is best place to look out and see the TEMPLE mount...
 - It is the place where Jesus would ASCEND up into heaven - Acts 1:9
 - It will also one day be the place where Jesus will RETURN - **Zechariah 14:4**
 - Bethphage...
 - The Triumphal entry is one of KEY events in the life of Jesus - recorded in all FOUR gospels
 - John gives us the most information leading up to the event!
 - Jesus had just brought Lazarus [brother of Mary and Martha] back from the dead - **John 11:44**
 - News of this spread among the crowds gathered for the PASSOVER celebration...
 - Then SIX days before the PASSOVER - He returned to BETHPHAGE...
 - BETHPHAGE - House [בֵּית] of the figs [פֶּי] - near the village of Bethany...
 - Where Mary [Lazarus sister] poured spikenard [expensive perfume] on His feet...
 - Judas complained - he wanted the Oil to be sold and given to the POOR - **John 12:5**
 - Not because he cared for the poor - but because he was a THIEF [motive for betrayal]
 - 2nd - The Donkey... vs. 1-7
 - Seeing everything... vs. 1-2
 - Then Jesus sent two disciples saying to them: Go into the village opposite you.
 - Immediately you will find a donkey tied - and a colt with her.
 - Jesus sent [ἀποστέλλω] TWO of the DISCIPLES to go and get a DONKEY...

- It was a COLT [young donkey] no one had EVERY sat on - **Luke 19:30**
- How did Jesus know the DONKEY was there - because He SEES everything!
- **Hebrews 4:13** - "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God!" [NLT]
- Owning nothing... vs. 2-3
 - Loose them and bring them to Me. If anyone says anything to you shall say:
 - The Lord has need of them. Immediately he will send them!
 - They were to untie it and bring it [imperative] to Jesus...
 - And when anyone asked what they were doing [it was NOT their donkey] - **Luke 19:33**
 - All they had to do was say the LORD [κύριος] needed to borrow it!
 - Imagine if the PRESIDENT had to borrow a CAR on the day of his inauguration...
 - Just so that he could make it to the ceremony - it might raise some questions!
 - There are a lot of people who think following Jesus is the KEY to a better life...
 - But Jesus was NOT wealthy here on earth [no car - no home] - **Matthew 8:20**
 - The message of the Gospel is not about this life - it is about ETERNAL life!
- Humble King... vs. 4-7
 - All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet saying:
 - Tell the daughter of Zion: Behold your King is coming to you.
 - Lowly and sitting on a donkey - a colt the foal of a donkey.
 - So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them.
 - They brought the donkey and the colt - laid their clothes on them - and set Him on them!
 - ALL of this was done to FULFILL the words of the PROPHET - **Zechariah 9:9**
 - Who told the people of ZION [Jerusalem] - how their KING [מלך] would come...
 - He would come HUMBLY [עָנָו] - riding on a DONKEY...
 - The DISCIPLES obeyed - and did what Jesus said...
 - When they brought the DONKEY - they set their clothes on it for Jesus to sit on!
 - When a KING came riding on a donkey [unthreatening] - it was a sign He wanted PEACE!
 - Jesus did NOT coming to CONQUER the world - and establish His Kingdom...
 - Jesus came the FIRST time bringing PEACE between God and Man - CONQUERING sin...
 - But He will NOT be riding a donkey when He returns for the SECOND time - **Revelation 19:11**
 - He will come on a white HORSE with all the armies of heaven to make WAR...
 - He will set up His Kingdom here on Earth - the MILLENNIAL reign [1000 year]
- o 3rd - Choosing the Lamb... vs. 8-11
 - Palm Branches... vs. 8
 - A very great multitude spread their clothes on the road.
 - Others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road!
 - The MULTITUDES came to meet Jesus as He rode down the Mount of Olives...
 - Some laid their CLOTHES on the road - others laid [imperfect] branches!
 - Antiochus Epiphanes [Seleucid] set up an idol to Zeus in the Holiest of All - **Daniel 8:11**
 - Judas Maccabees [hammer] began a revolt and overthrew the king [164 B.C.]
 - After the Jews cleansed the Temple [Hanukah] - they celebrated with Palm branches...
 - Carrying palm branches the people sang grateful praises - 2 Maccabees 10:7
 - The Jews wanted a MESSIAH who would overthrow ROME [like the Maccabees]
 - Because they were looking for the WRONG kind of king...
 - FOUR days later this same crowd would cry out CRUCIFY - **Luke 23:21**
 - Save us now... vs. 9
 - Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out saying:
 - Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!
 - Hosanna in the highest!
 - The HUGE crowd all around Jesus [in from and in behind] - kept crying out [imperfect]

- HOSANNA - a Hebrew words that means SAVE us [עֲשֵׂנוּ] now [אָּנוּ]
- It was from a PSALM of ascent the people would sing every year - **Psalm 118:26**
- They recognized Jesus as the Son of David [Messiah] - **II Samuel 7:11**
- Who came in the name of the LORD to save - Jesus name means God [יהוה] saves [עֲשֵׂנוּ]
- But he did NOT come to save them from Rome - God sent Him to be the sacrificial LAMB!
- FOUR days before PASSOVER - every household chose their sacrificial LAMB - **Exodus 12:3**
- On this same day [Palm Sunday] God choose His LAMB!
- **John 1:29** - "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
- Just as DEATH passed over anyone covered by the blood of the LAMB - **Exodus 12:13**
- Anyone who puts their faith in the SACRIFICE of Jesus - will be set free!
- The Prophet... vs. 10-11
 - When He had come into Jerusalem all the city was moved saying: Who is this?
 - So the multitudes said: This is Jesus -the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee!
 - When Jesus arrived - the whole [παῖς] city was SHAKEN [σειώ]
 - When they asked WHO was Jesus - they were told He was the [ὁ] PROPHET from Nazareth...
 - But the people got it WRONG [He is God] - and as a result Jesus WEPT - **Luke 19:41**
 - Because they were supposed to KNOW - they DONKEY - the DAY!
 - Daniel told Israel the exact day the Messiah would come - **Daniel 9:25-26**
 - From the command to rebuild Jerusalem [March 14 - 445 B.C.] - **Nehemiah 2:8**
 - After 483 years [69x7] - or 173,880 days [April 6 - 32 A.D.] - Jesus rode into Jerusalem...
 - The Jews were all very RELIGIOUS – they all went to CHURCH every week...
 - But they did NOT read their Bible - the did NOT know the Word...
 - So they missed how [donkey] and when [April 6] the Messiah came!
 - So many people are RELIGIOUS – but they miss Jesus...
 - That is why it is so important for us to get into the Word - **Romans 10:17**
 - We want to learn all about our Lord - so we do NOT miss Jesus when He comes again!
- 2ND - CLEANSING THE TEMPLE... vs. 12-16
 - 1st - Den of thieves... vs. 12-13
 - Buying and selling... vs. 12
 - Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple.
 - And overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves!
 - The FIRST thing Jesus did when He arrived in Jerusalem - was go into the TEMPLE...
 - He CHASED out anyone who was BUYING or SELLING sacrifices!
 - The Temple had become a moneymaking industry..
 - The priests would always find a flaw in a sacrifice – you had to buy theirs at TRIPLE rate...
 - All purchases had to be with a Sanctuary Shekel - exchange rate was EXTORTION...
 - So Jesus drove people from the temple – overturned their tables!
 - House of Prayer... vs. 13
 - He said to them: It is written -My house shall be called a house of prayer.
 - But you have made it a den of thieves!
 - This was the SECOND time Jesus cleaned house - the FRIST time was in - **John 2:15**
 - Because this was NOT a NEW problem - it had been around since the Old Testament...
 - Jesus quoted Jeremiah who had said the same thing - **Jeremiah 7:11**
 - The purpose of the Temple was a place for ALL nations to meet with God - **Isaiah 56:7**
 - But MEN took advantage of others - and used it as a way to make MONEY!
- CHURCHES are to be a place where people come to MEET the Lord...
- Instead in many people are taught about a God who only wants their CASH...
- Giving people the idea that Jesus is just another SCAM - a way to make a MONEY...

- God does not want or need our ANYTHING – He is the creator of Heaven and Earth...
- His church should be a place of PRAYER – where men can come to KNOW God...
- I fear if Jesus walked into many churches TODAY - He would OVERTURN a lot of tables!

o 2nd - Perfect praises... vs. 14-16

- The unworthy... vs. 14
 - Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple and He healed them!
 - BLIND and LAME people were NOT allowed into the Temple - **Leviticus 21:17-20**
 - Because imperfection was not permitted in the presence of a PERFECT God...
 - But Jesus welcomed the BLIND and LAME - and HEALED [θεραπεύω] them...
 - Because Jesus came to bring IMPERFECT people to God!
- Not happy... vs. 15-16
 - When the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did.
 - And the children crying out in the temple and saying: Hosanna to the Son of David.
 - They were indignant and said to Him: Do You hear what these are saying?
 - When the RELIGIOUS leaders saw the SHOCKING [θαυμάσιος] things Jesus did...
 - Chasing out those who BOUGHT and SOLD in the Temple [their business]
 - Letting in people who they considered to be UNWORTHY [blind and lame]
 - All the while hearing the CHILDREN cry out HOSANNA [save us now]
 - It made them INDIGNANT [ἀγανακτέω] - to be ANGRY - **Matthew 20:24**
 - So they questioned Jesus - if He was listening to what the KIDS were saying...
 - Luke tells us they went on to DEMAND that Jesus tell them to stop!
 - **Luke 19:40** – “He answered and said to them: I tell you that if these should keep silent the stones would immediately cry out.”
 - One of the BEST souvenirs you can get in Israel - is a ROCK from Jerusalem [and they are free]
 - Stick it on a board and put a title - this could have been a SINGING stone!
- Simple message... vs. 16
 - Jesus said to them: Yes. Have you never read.
 - Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?
 - Jesus answered by stating[indicative]: they would NEVER understand [ἀναγινώσκω]
 - Why PRAISE [αἶνος] is PERFECT when it comes from young children [νήπιος]
 - They would NEVER understand because they put their faith in their RELIGION!
 - The Jewish leaders put their TRUST in keeping all the RULES...
 - But what any CHILD can tell you - is that we are NOT good at keeping RULES...
 - Therefore we will NEVER be good enough to reach up to HEAVEN...
 - The GOOD news is God reached down to EARTH so He could save us!
 - **Matthew 11:25** - “You have hidden these things from the wise and revealed them to babes!”
 - God WANTS people to go to HEAVEN - He LOVES the whole world - **John 3:16**
 - Therefore - the Gospel message is NOT complicated - in God made is EASY...
 - It is so SIMPLE men have tried to ADD to it to make it more COMPLICATED...
 - They add WORKS - man made requirements to make people EARN their salvation...
 - To be SAVED one must believe AND: tithe - be baptized [by them] - attend [their] church...
 - But they miss what little CHILDREN know - the BLIND can see - and ROCKS understand...
 - Just BELIEVE in Jesus [died on the cross] - confess Him as Lord - and we are saved!
 - **Romans 10:13** - “Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

● 3rd - THE FIG TREE... vs. 17-22

o 1st - Covering sin... vs. 17-19

- No Fruit... vs. 17-19
 - Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany and He lodged there.
 - Now in the morning as He returned to the city He was hungry.

- Seeing a fig tree by the road He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves!
- Jesus had just PROVOKED the religious leaders - they were ready to KILL Him - **Luke 19:47**
- Therefore Jesus left the city and spent the night in Bethany [3 kilometers away]
- The next morning on His way back to the city - He got HUNGRY...
- He saw a healthy looking [green leaves] FIG tree and hoped to find some FRUIT...
- But it was the wrong season [καρπός] so there was NONE [οὐδείς] - **Mark 11:13**
- Never again... vs. 19
 - [He] said to it: Let no fruit grow on you ever again. Immediately the fig tree withered away!
 - Jesus said to the TREE: no fruit will grow [subjunctive] on you ever again...
 - The moment He said it - the tree withered and died!
 - When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden - they hid from the LORD...
 - To try and COVER up what they had done - they put on FIG [תְּאֵבִי] leaves - **Genesis 3:7**
 - Jesus was looking for FRUIT in the people - but what He found instead was RELIGION...
 - Man trying to COVER up their sinfulness by looking good on the outside...
 - But anyone who look to RELIGION - will NEVER be able to bear GOOD fruit!
- o 2nd - Do not doubt... vs. 20-22
 - Amazed... vs. 20
 - When the disciples saw it they marveled saying: How did the fig tree wither away so soon?
 - When the DISCIPLES saw the SHOCKING [θαυμάζω] thing Jesus had done...
 - Unlike the RELIGIOUS leaders - they were NOT angry...
 - Instead they wanted to UNDERSTAND - and asked Jesus HOW [πῶς] He did it!
 - Moving mountains... vs. 21
 - Jesus answered and said to them: Assuredly I say to you.
 - If you have faith and do not doubt you will not only do what was done to the fig tree.
 - But also if you say to this mountain: Be removed and be cast into the sea - it will be done!
 - AMEN [Ἀμήν] - If [subjunctive] they had FAITH [πίστις] in in the right place [Jesus]
 - And did NOT doubt [διακρίνω] - to depend on [διὰ] their judgement [κρίνω]
 - They would NOT only be able to CURSE a FIG tree...
 - They could say to the MOUNTAIN be removed - and it would [indicative] obey!
 - The mountain they were on was called Mount MORIAH...
 - MORIAH [מֹרְיָה] - meaning the LORD [יה] sees [רָאָה]!
 - When we put our FAITH in Jesus - and NOT in good works [religion]
 - We will KNOW that to try and COVER sin - will NEVER bring good fruit...
 - But we will also KNOW that Jesus can do what we NEVER could...
 - He can take our SINS that God SEES [מֹרְיָה] - and cast them into the SEA!
 - **Micah 7:19** - "[He] will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea."
 - Ask anything... vs. 22
 - Whatever things you ask in prayer - believing - you will receive!
 - AND [ΚΑΙ] when we come to the REALIZATION that Jesus is the ONLY answer...
 - Then ALL [πᾶς] - ANYTHING [ὅσος] that we ask for in PRAYER by FAITH [πιστεύω]
 - We WILL receive [indicative] from the Lord!
- Because if we are spending time with God – we will KNOW what God WANTS...
- If we are TRUSTING in Jesus – we will ask for those things that God DESIRES...
- Since the desire comes from God – we can be certain He will make it happen!
- **John 15:7** – “If you abide in Me and My words abide in you - you will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified - that you bear much fruit.”