

“Oh Jerusalem...”

Introduction – Luke 19:28-44

Today we celebrate Palm Sunday! A day that looks back on arrival of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem. The expectation level of Jesus revealing His messiahship in what the Jewish people were looking forward to in ridding them of their rulers – the Romans! But when He went into the temple and cleared it of the corruption that filled its walls instead of going after the Romans. This could be looked at as a tipping point!

Listen to this passage:

Luke 19:45-48 (NIV)

45 Then he entered the temple area and began driving out those who were selling. **46** “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be a house of prayer’ ; but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’ ” **47** Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. **48** Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

This is a good lesson for us when we think we have prophecy of future events all figured out because boy did they miss it! So, we need to take heed!

I. THE FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

Luke 19:28-38 (NIV)

28 After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. **29** As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, **30** “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. **31** If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ” **32** Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had

told them. **33** As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” **34** They replied, “The Lord needs it.” **35** They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. **36** As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. **37** When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: **38** “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Now this event is also recorded in Matthew and Mark. Not contradictory to each other but giving a full picture from three different perspectives. Very important to understand in interpreting scripture!

So as Jesus entered Jerusalem on this day the symbolism is amazing!

Jesus would ride on the colt: the Hebrew text in Zechariah 9 mentions one animal not two.

D.A. Carson brings across “if we assume that Matthew understood Hebrew” (which he did! 😊); the full quotation affirms that Jesus rode on the colt not its mother.

Mark and Luke say the animal was so young that it had never been ridden. In the midst of this excited crowd, an unbroken animal remains calm under the hands of Messiah who controls nature!

R.T. France adds “Mark tells us that the colt had never been ridden (reference Mark 11:2) so that it would be only prudent to bring its mother as well to reassure it among the noisy crowd.”

Jesus came to Jerusalem in humility, yet with appropriate dignity. He came on a colt, as was customary for royalty. He came to Jerusalem as the Prince of Peace.

Matthew Poole brings out: “Asses were of old beasts that great persons used to ride on (reference Judges 10:4, 12:14). But after

Solomon's time the Jews got a breed of horses; so as only poor people rode upon asses, mostly reserved for burdens."

D.A. Carson adds: "Therefore for those with eyes to see, Jesus was not only proclaiming His messiahship and His fulfillment of scripture but showing the kind of peace-loving approach He was now making to the city."

Adam Clarke says: "This entry into Jerusalem has been termed the triumph of humility over pride and worldly grandeur; of poverty over affluence; and of meekness and gentleness over rage and malice."

Unlike us Jesus knew exactly what was ahead of Him! He had just spoken to the disciples about the events they were going to witness!

Matthew 20:17-19 (NIV)

17 Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, **18** "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death **19** and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

Remember how Peter at an earlier conversation polled Jesus aside?

Matthew 16:21-27 (NIV)

21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. **22** Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" **23** Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." **24** Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and

follow me. **25** For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. **26** What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? **27** For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.

Oh, how we need to take this to heart about our understanding of the events in prophecy unfolding! God knows exactly what is coming! We are called to know the times, the seasons, the people and the events but leave the outworking to God! We don't set dates! We don't try to fit people's names into the number 666 which has happened many times! Like Henry Kissinger who is now dead! 😊

**WE ARE TO BE ABOUT OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS!
WINNING PEOPLE TO CHRIST AND DISCIPLINING THEM!**

The Holy Spirit will reveal to us and open our eyes to what is going on at the appropriate time! So yes, study Daniel, Revelation, the Prophets, the Gospel, the Epistles about end time events but let God put the pieces of the puzzle together just as He did for the disciples!

Just listen to these passages that bring out how Jesus was preparing His disciples:

John 7:6 (NIV)

6 Therefore Jesus told them, "The right time for me has not yet come; for you any time is right.

Notice the word time here! It is the Greek word Kairos which refers to an appointed, proper, or opportune moment in exact time. Rather than Chronos, a linear time!

So, the unfolding of events on this triumphal entry and other days following were going to be in exact accordance with God's eternal plan as the apostle Peter brings out:

I Peter 1:10-12, 18-20 (NIV)

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, **11** trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. **12** It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things. **18** For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. **20** He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

Peter and the other apostles finally had understood as Jesus after His resurrection explained:

Luke 24:25-27, 44-49 (NIV)

25 He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” **27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. **44** He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” **45** Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. **46** He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, **47** and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things. **49** I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

So, my prayer is that we realize the days we are in! Don't worry, don't fear, look unto Jesus! Surrender, yield, give yourself totally to Him!

II. EXUBERANT WORSHIP

Luke 19:39-40 (NIV)

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” **40** “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

This worship is exuberant! Which is characterized by a lively energy and excitement!

Oh, how I long for this type of worship as Pastor David and I experienced at a Hillsong Worship night back in 2017! Three hours of worship, awesome musical instruments, a mega church packed with worshipers, singing with everything that was within them!

As Jesus said:

John 4:23-24 (NIV)

23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. **24** God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

The word time here is HORA which signifies a time or period, an hour or a season. “But the time (hour) (hora) is coming and now is...” is used to describe the time we are living in now. The opportune moment for true worship! Its emphasis is a specific or ordained time established by God for a shift in how humanity relates to the Father. It should not be confused with Chronos (general, chronological time) or Kairos (an opportune or specific time), though hora here carries the significance of a Kairos time!

So as Jesus came into the world and reconciled us to God by His death and resurrection we now have entered into this hora time that is a

further, ongoing revelation of true worship in spirit and in truth! We take this Kairos moment to act upon this awesome revelation of God!

As John saw in Revelation:

Revelation 4:8-11 (NIV)

8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.” **9** Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, **10** the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: **11** “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

Revelation 5:9-13 (NIV)

9 And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. **10** You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” **11** Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. **12** In a loud voice they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” **13** Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

I plead with you to enter into worship with your whole being!

III. JESUS WEPT OVER JERUSALEM

Luke 19:41-44 (NIV)

41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it **42** and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. **43** The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. **44** They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

Jesus truly cares for all of us! Jerusalem was going to reject Him as their Messiah! Jesus knew what was going to happen 37 years later as Rome would destroy Jerusalem and the temple!

As Jesus warned:

Matthew 24:1-2 (NIV)

24 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. **2** “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down.”

Now I want you to notice here again the word time – Kairos, which here refers to an appointed time, a suitable season or divine opportunity! In this context Jesus uses it to highlight the missed time of visitation or opportunity for salvation. They missed it! This serves as a warning for us! Not to miss the timing of God! We are called to:

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; **6** in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

And to recognize:

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)

8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. **9** “As the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

WE NEED TO TAKE THIS TO HEART IN AMERICA! We are living in a time of opportunity to share the gospel as never before! We need to live in this window of opportunity realizing that Jesus told about:

John 9:4 (NIV)

4 AS LONG AS IT IS DAY, WE MUST DO THE WORK OF HIM WHO SENT ME. NIGHT IS COMING, WHEN NO ONE CAN WORK.

As the writer of Hebrews declares:

Hebrews 3:7-15 (NIV)

7 So, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear his voice, **8** do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, **9** where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did. **10** That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, ‘Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.’ **11** So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’ ” **12** See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. **13** But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. **14** We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. **15** As has just been said: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.”

Conclusion

So, may we take these passages, these warnings to heart! Do not worry, fear or be paralyzed by the things happening in the world around us. We must daily walk with our Lord and live out our faith boldly and courageously being led by the spirit! As Jesus clearly speaks to us:

John 16:1-4 (NIV)

1 “All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. **2** They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. **3** They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. **4** I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.

So as God said to Joshua may we take it to heart:

Joshua 1:6-9 (NIV)

6 “Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. **7** Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. **8** Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”