



**A Powerful yet Personal God**

**Mark 11:1-11**



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# I. A Powerful yet Personal God: (Transcendent yet Immanent)

- New City Catechism . . .
- **Question 2: What is God?**
- God is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. He is eternal, infinite, and unchangeable in his power and perfection, goodness and glory, wisdom, justice, and truth. Nothing happens except through him and by his will.

# I. A Powerful Yet Personal God

## (Transcendent yet Immanent)

**Psalm 86:8–10, 15**

There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,  
nor are there any works like yours.

All the nations you have made shall come  
and worship before you, O Lord,  
and shall glorify your name.

*For you are great and do wondrous things;  
you alone are God. . . .*

*But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.*

# I. A Powerful yet Personal God:

## (Transcendent yet Immanent)

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## II. Proceeding to Jerusalem

- A. Prophecy by Jesus (11:1-3)
- B. Preparation of the Donkey (11:4-7)
- C. Proclamation by the People (11:8-10)
- D. Priority of the Temple (11:11)

# Requisition by a King

- “In the ancient world, including Israel, one of the prerogatives of the king was to commandeer a beast of burden whenever he needed it. As the King, Jesus exercised that right and commanded His disciples to get a colt. Something else is significant: the colt had never been ridden. . . . The principle in the Jewish culture was that no one was allowed to ride on the king’s horse or the king’s donkey. Only the king could ride his beasts.”

--R.C. Sproul, *Mark: An Expositional Commentary*, p. 251

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# Donkey Definitions

## (Mark 11:2-5)

- Colt: A colt is a young male donkey which is less than four years of age.
- Filly: A filly is a young female donkey which is less than four years of age.
- Foal: A foal is a baby male or female donkey up to one year old.

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# Shouting for Joy

(Mark 11:9)

- “Hosanna”: “Save, I pray” or “Lord, save us now”

This became an exclamation of praise

- Save us, we pray, O LORD! (Psalm 118:25)
- “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!” (Psalm 118:26)

# An Old Testament Prophecy

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, your king is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation is he,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall speak peace to the nations

(Zechariah 9:9-10)

# Simon Maccabee's Triumphant Entrance

- “On the twenty-third day of the second month, in the one hundred and seventy-first year, the Jews entered the citadel [in Jerusalem] with shouts of praise, the waving of palm branches, the playing of harps and cymbals and lyres, and the singing of hymns and canticles, because a great enemy of Israel had been crushed.”

--1 Maccabees 13:51 (“Apocryphal” books)

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# From Ezekiel to Jesus

- “Here is the supreme irony: In 586 BC, Ezekiel saw the glory of God leave the temple, leave the holy city, and ascend to Bethany on the Mount of Olives. At the triumphal entry, the One whom the Scriptures define as the brightness of God’s glory (Hebrews 1:3) descended from Bethany and the Mount of Olives, entered the East Gate of the Holy City, and went to the temple . . . In 586 BC, the glory of God left the temple, but when Jesus came, the glory of God came back. Yet no one understood that the King of glory was in their midst, about to meet the destiny to which He was called and for which He was born.”

--R.C. Sproul, *Mark: An Expository Commentary*, p. 251

# Takeaways:

## How do we “know” the ways of God?

- Why would those shouting mistake Jesus as a military liberator?  
(Limitations to “facts,” traditions, and human discernment;  
sometimes we simply see what we want to see.)
- How can we “know” that which is of God (and thus beyond human reason or understanding)?

**“You learn about [mysteries] by way of revelation”**

-- “Data-driven” by Jill Lepore (*The New Yorker*, April 3, 2023)



# Takeaway: Humility Required

## (God's Sovereignty in Salvation)

- “If we believe the gospel, we should praise God for giving us the grace to believe it, for he is the only One who made the difference for us. Therefore, the Christian life must be marked by gratitude and humility. In and of ourselves, we are no [different] than our non-Christian neighbors. The only difference is that something (or rather, someone) absolutely wonderful has come into our lives and changed everything”

--Mika Edmondson

# Only One Way to God: Jesus Christ

- Jesus answered, “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6 NIV).
- <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup> And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved (Acts 16:30-31 ESV)

# Let Us Pray

