



Messiah Arrives (Palm Sunday)

(Luke 19:28-40 ESV)

Luke 19:28-40 ESV

²⁸ And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'"

³² So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. ³³ And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ And they said, "The Lord has need of it."

Luke 19:28-40 ESV

³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if they were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

The Messiah Arrives: Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Luke 19:37-38)



A Question of Identity

Who IS this Jesus?

I. Prophecies of the Arrival of the Messiah

- **Zechariah's prophecy of the future** (c. 520 B.C. after the defeat of Babylonians by the Medes and Persians in 540 B.C.) :
 - 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. (Zechariah 9:9)

II. A. Celebrating the Arrival of the Messiah

- **Only John's gospel identifies the branches as palm branches**
- The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took **branches of palm trees** and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" (John 12:12-13a)

II. A. Celebrating the Arrival of the Messiah

- ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:38)
- **Connections to the Old Testament:**
- Save us, we pray, O LORD! . . . Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! (Psalm 118:25,26)

II. A. Celebrating the Arrival of the Messiah

- **But the crowd expects a military Messiah:**
- ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! [“Save Now!] Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, **even the King of Israel!”** (John 12:13)
- **A reenactment of when the Israelites drove out their occupiers—the Syrians/Seleucid empire—in c. 161 B.C. . . . [The Romans later conquered the Israelites in c. 63 B.C.]**
- “When **Simon Maccabee** drove Israel’s enemies out of Jerusalem, people celebrated by waving palm branches: ‘On the twenty-third day of the second month, in the one hundred seventy-first year [of Persian rule], the Jews entered it **with praise and palm branches**, and with harps and cymbals and stringed instruments, and with hymns and songs, because a great enemy had been crushed and removed from Israel’ (1 Maccabees 13:51 NRSV)” [Esau McCaulley *Christianity Today*].

II. B. Willfully “Unseeing” the Arrival of the Messiah (Luke 19:39)

- **Religious leaders refuse to recognize Jesus as the promised Messiah:**
- And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “**Teacher [“Rabbi”]**, rebuke your disciples.” (Luke 19:39)
- **The disciples had also been slow to recognize Jesus as the Messiah:**
- Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. ¹⁵ And he cautioned them, saying, “Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod [the Herodians].” ¹⁶ And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. ¹⁷ And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? **Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened?** ¹⁸ **Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear?** And do you not remember? ¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” They said to him, “Twelve.” (Mark 8:14-19)

III. “Wonderful” Moment of Opportunity (Luke 19:40)

- He answered, “I tell you, if they were silent, the very stones would cry out.”
(Luke 19:40)
- **Jesus is better than a military leader:**
- 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. (Zechariah 9:9)

III. “Wonderful” Moment of Opportunity

- **Awareness** of Christ’s Presence
- **Recognition** that Jesus is the promised Messiah
- **Commitment** to Jesus as your Savior and Lord

III. “Wonderful” Moment of Opportunity

- **The opportunity and time for salvation is now!**

. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

- Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2)



Let Us Pray

A pair of hands is shown in silhouette, raised and joined at the palms to form a cross shape. The hands are positioned against a bright, glowing sunset or sunrise sky. The sun is visible through the center of the cross formed by the hands, creating a strong lens flare effect. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.