

Palm Sunday Devotions

☐ **Monday - He Shall Reign Forever and Ever.** 2 Samuel 7:12-14

Speaking through the prophet Nathan, the Lord promised King David a successor, saying, "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever" (2 Sam. 7:12-14). Though portions of this prophecy were fulfilled by David's son, Solomon, and can only be ascribed to him (esp. v. 14), it would find its ultimate fulfillment in Christ, for only "He shall reign forever and ever" (Rev. 11:15, cf. Hallelujah chorus, Handel's Messiah). Read Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5

☐ **Tuesday - The Exactness of God's Promises.** Matthew 21:4-5

Exactly one thousand years after Solomon was crowned King of Israel and rode on a donkey through the cheering crowds into Jerusalem in 971 BC (1 Kgs. 1:38-46), Christ rode into the city in the same manner, signifying His right to throne of David. Jesus' entrance in this fashion was prophesied by the prophet Zechariah (520 BC), and on Sunday, April 1, 30 AD, this prophecy was precisely fulfilled, when Jesus made what has been called His "Triumphal Entry" into Jerusalem. The Lord declares, "I am watching over My Word to perform it" (Jer. 1:12). Christian, not one of His good promises toward you has failed (Josh. 23:14). Read Zechariah 9:9

☐ **Wednesday - Christ Greeted With Palm Branches.** John 12:13

Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem is called Palm Sunday, because "the great multitudes of people took palm branches and went out to meet Him" (John 12:13). Their palm branches symbolized at least two things: [1] Palm branches were used during the Jewish feast of booths to celebrate their deliverance from bondage in Egypt (Lev. 23:40-43); [2] Similarly, in the [Roman] culture that these first century Jews lived, the palm branch was a symbol of victory. And so, here we have a beautiful symbol of why Christ came: to give us deliverance and victory over the sin. Read Revelation 7:9-10

☐ **Thursday - Hosanna, Save Now!** Matthew 21:9

As Jesus rode into town that Sunday, thousands of Jews were already streaming into Jerusalem for the upcoming Passover the following Saturday. The Jewish celebration of Passover looked back upon Israel's deliverance from bondage in Egypt, but in every Jewish mind it also looked forward to the coming of Messiah, whom Israel hoped would deliver them from bondage to Rome. And as Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds shouted "Hosanna," which means "Save now!" But Israel was not nearly as interested in deliverance from the yoke of sin, as in deliverance from Roman rule. And what about you? Are you as interested in deliverance from your sins, as in deliverance from your problems? Dear Lord, please save us from the past penalty of sin and the present power of sin in our lives. Hosanna! Save now! Read 1 Timothy 1:15

☐ **Friday - Jesus' Past & Future Triumphal Entry.** Matthew 21:1-11

In 332 BC, when Alexander the Great defeated Darius and captured Palestine from the Persians, he entered Jerusalem on a great warhorse. In contrast, here we see Jesus, "humble, and mounted on a donkey," to deliver His people from bondage to sin, by His substitutionary death on the cross. Over the centuries the church has received much derision for the fact that our conquering hero should come so meekly and be nailed to a cross. But meekness is not weakness, and when Christ returns at the end of the age, Alexander's triumphal entry will look like a funeral march by comparison. For we read "And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war. . . . And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, 'King of kings and Lord of lords'" O what a Triumphal Entry that will be! Read Revelation 19:11-16