

THE CROWNING DAY IS COMING!

Mt. 21:1 And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, ² Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose *them*, and bring *them* unto me. ³ And if any *man* say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them. ⁴ All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵ Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass. ⁶ And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, ⁷ And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set *him* thereon. ⁸ And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed *them* in the way. ⁹ And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. ¹⁰ And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? ¹¹ And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.

The crowds in Jerusalem were ‘boiling over’ with excitement when they learned Jesus from Nazareth was on His way into the city. Already they were waving their palm branches to greet Him, **Mt. 21:9 Hosanna to the Son of David.** ... How good it is to be looking forward to the coming of the Lord! ... Remember ... it’s Passover season when the people celebrated how God had delivered their ancestors out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses ... and they needed another ‘Moses’ to free them again, this time, from the Roman invaders! ... Would Jesus be *that* person, that Messiah, that Saviour of the nation?

Of course, it wasn’t the first time Jesus had been afforded such exuberance. For example, there was the occasion in Galilee, - again approaching the Passover (Jn. 6:4), - when the crowd decided, **Jn. 6:14 This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.** ¹⁵ When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, *to make him a king*, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

Even among His own disciples there was this same sense, for example, the time the mother of James and John came and requested, **Mt. 20:21 Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.** ... And again a similar question just before He ascended from the Mount of Olives, , **Acts 1:6 Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?** ... They were looking forward to the *re*-establishment of the *Kingdom* of Israel ... and the greatest king they ever had was King David, and they wanted another one like him! And they knew their Old Testament Scriptures prophesied such a King, the Messiah, would come and reign from Jerusalem ... His Kingdom would inaugurate a time of unprecedented peace and prosperity, **Is. 35:1** The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. ² It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God. ³ Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶ Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. ⁷ And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each

lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. ⁸ And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

And this was what the excited crowds were visualizing when they saw Jesus riding into Jerusalem. They were hoping *He* would be the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies, and this hope was traditionally at its greatest coming up to the Feast of Passover. Why the Feast of Passover? ... Because on that *first* Passover in Egypt, it was the promise of God restoring His people, **Ex. 12:12** For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. ¹³ And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will *pass over* you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. ¹⁴ And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

So, these were times of great expectancy when Jesus entered Jerusalem ... It was just about one thousand years since King David had reigned, and they were now awaiting a *new* King David!

These and many more were the promises filling the minds of the people that day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem. ... There will be another *greater* day when the people of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel will be lining the streets, **Is. 24:23** ... when the LORD of hosts [... *King Jesus* ...] shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously. ... Zechariah describes it, **Zech. 8:2** Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury. ³ Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain. ⁴ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. ⁵ And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof. ⁶ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts. ⁷ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; ⁸ And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness. ... And then that same truth and righteousness will spread from Jerusalem in even greater multitudes than in the days of Pentecost in Acts 2, for Zechariah continues, ²² Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the

LORD. ²³ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you, - such will be the hunger for ‘truth and righteousness (v.8). ... And in Zechariah 9 we read the words which speak of the Messiah, ⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

These same people will have suffered horrendously during the end-time period Jeremiah describes as ‘the time of Jacob’s struggle’, **Jer. 30:7** Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even *the time of Jacob’s trouble*; but he shall be saved out of it. ⁸ For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his [*the enemy’s*] yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: ⁹ But they shall serve the LORD their God, and *David their king*, whom I will raise up unto them.

How will Jerusalem and Israel be saved through such times? Not by their own mighty armies, but here’s how it will start ... **Zech. 12:9** And it shall come to pass in that day, *that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.* ¹⁰ And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his only son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his firstborn*. ... That is going to be the day of *salvation* for Jerusalem and for Israel ... and not only salvation from their enemies but salvation from their sin for, **Zech. 13:1** In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. ... That will be when all Israel shall be saved ... the day when **Rom. 11:26** There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: ²⁷ For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Sadly, - as events were to prove, - these excited Jews waiting for Jesus coming into Jerusalem was not the ultimate fulfilment of Zechariah’s prophecy. Yes, for a very brief period they received Him as Messiah but how quickly they ‘turned’ on Him insomuch that He became **Is. 53:3** despised and rejected of men ... **Jn. 1:10** He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. ¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

And yet, wrapped up in the Lord Jesus Christ, - as He entered that day into Jerusalem, - was the plan of God for the Father sent His Son from Heaven’s glory to Bethlehem, and He journeyed from Bethlehem to Egypt and to Galilee ... And from Galilee He continued through the gate into Jerusalem, through the crowds and on to the cross of Calvary. Then from the cross of Calvary to the tomb in the Garden ... and from the tomb in the Garden

through those forty days following His resurrection ... and then up to Glory. ... And, - in the wonderful plan of God, - His journey is not finished yet for He is returning to Jerusalem, from where He will reign over all the earth.

These were a fickle people He came to. Sometimes they gave Him adulation, while other times they gave Him condemnation. They were blindly following their emotions, hoping for a 'messiah' who would rid their land of the Roman invaders. ... But do you know what would have happened, because it happened on so many occasions previously? ... God would help them, He would free them from the enemy, they would return to Him and be grateful ... *for a while* ... and then they would be away off again! You see, they were not seeking salvation for there was no national repentance. Their concept of salvation had nothing to do with crying to God for forgiveness, but it was all about them harking back to the glory days of King David.

That is what 'salvation' meant to them for, sadly, their plea was political, not penitential. They had no knowledge of their need for God's saving grace. There was nothing spiritual in their Messianic cry ... It was merely a selfish ambition as they sought someone to champion their cause.

The Messiah *is* coming though, - the first time He came as Saviour, the next time He is coming as Sovereign! ... He is waiting in Heaven for the command to take His place on the throne to be established in Jerusalem and that is why we ought to be praying, **Mt. 6:10** *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven* ... for the day *will* arrive when His Kingdom *will* be established on earth for His will *will* be done here as it is presently being done in Heaven. ... Amidst great announcement, - the shout from Heaven, the voice of the archangel, the trumpet of God, in the twinkling of an eye, the dead will be raised, we shall rise to meet Him in the air, Jerusalem surrounded by armies, and Jesus shall stand on the Mount of Olives, and He will cross to Mount Zion ... Zechariah says, **Zech. 14:5** ... *and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee*. The hymnwriter wrote,

The heavens shall glow with splendour, But brighter far than they
The saints shall shine in glory, As Christ shall them array,
The beauty of the Saviour, Shall dazzle every eye,
For the crowning day is coming by and by".

... That's what we are waiting for ... and we shall not be disappointed! This is not one of the ridiculous promises politicians make, with no intention of keeping, but this is God's Word! ... At present, the world is in an increasingly

spiralling mess ... more than it has *ever* been, - not just in the United Kingdom and Europe, but all over! And it will *keep* digging itself into a deeper hole. It will become shamelessly hostile towards God and His people, but through it all, He will keep the saints ... and when He comes to this earth He will stamp on His enemies and He will make them His footstool (Ps.110:1), ... ² The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.

At present, the enemies of God are *not* at His footstool for like their master, the devil, they are roaming about like roaring ravenous lions devouring their unsuspecting prey. But there is coming a time when the lion will be *caged* ... during the King's reign, **Rev. 20:2** And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, ³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled

The purpose in our study is to remind you in these times of confusion, duplicity, back-stabbing ... and all the rest ... of the hope we have in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is all working out as He said for He *prophesied* the conditions into which He would return. I believe we are living in those times, and that is why we need to keep praying for our loved ones to be saved, before it is too late ... It is why we need to pray for those who are suffering for their faith, and we need to pray for Jerusalem and the land of Israel [*election day today*], and we need to pray for the Church to be faithful ... and to keep believing and praying, **Thy kingdom come,**

Our Lord is now rejected, and by the world disowned,
By the many still rejected, and by the few enthroned,
But soon He'll come in glory, the hour is drawing nigh
For the crowning day is coming by and by.

That is our blessed hope ... and that is how God will complete it, to His glory. If you're not saved, you need to earnestly cry out to the Lord Jesus to take away your sin because He is coming back whether you are saved or not ... and when He does come back if you are not saved, there will be no 'second chances' for *today* is the day of salvation. ... Make sure when He returns, you are ready ... Keep looking up, **for your redemption draweth nigh** (Lk. 21:28).