

The Hour Has Come!
The King Arrives in Jerusalem
John 12:12-26

The drama of the ages is nearing its climax!

His hour! (John 2:4; John 7:30; John 8:20; John 12:23; John 12:27; John 13:1; John 16:25; John 16:32; John 17:1)

The long-awaited Messiah is entering Jerusalem in great anticipation and expectation. Jesus, the miracle working prophet from the Galilee, had raised a man from the dead after four days, and now the throngs of people expected Him to deliver Israel from the oppressive hand of Rome.

Crowds are often mistaken. The *herd-mentality* or the *mob-mentality* often swells into a confused mass of emotion, sometimes the crowd does not even know why they are following along. In this crowd, John identifies several groups of people.

- ✓ **There was a partial crowd traveling from Bethany, after witnessing Lazarus' resurrection.**
- ✓ **There were large crowds of pilgrims traveling into Jerusalem for the Passover feast.**
- ✓ **There were the Pharisees watching the growing crowds, plotting to kill Jesus.**
- ✓ **There were curious Greeks/Gentiles wanting to see Jesus.**

- **The triumphant entry of the King of Israel. (12-15)** All four Gospel writers include this historic moment of Messianic claim and recognition. The whole city was stirred with emotion as Jesus enters the city. We call this Palm Sunday.

On that day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a borrowed donkey's colt, one that had never been ridden before. The disciples spread their cloaks on the donkey for Jesus to sit on, and the multitudes came out to welcome Him, laying before Him their cloaks and the branches of palm trees. The people hailed and praised Him as the "King who comes in the name of the Lord" as He rode to the temple.

Unfortunately, the praise the people lavished on Jesus was not because they recognized Him as their Savior from sin. They welcomed Him out of their desire for a Messianic deliverer: someone who would lead them in a revolt against Rome.

- **The King has come to Rule all the nations. (19-22)** The religious leaders were aware that Jesus was now being embraced by crowds and by the world! John follows their statement with an example: Greeks in Jerusalem (probably God-fearers, Gentiles who worshipped Yahweh God but stopped short of becoming Jews).

Jesus had come to be Savior of the world! His mission was not to save the nation of Israel, but to save sinners from every nation, tongue, and tribe.

- **The King has come to die. (23-26)** Herein lies the greatest mystery known to mankind: God dying for lost sinners. When Jesus had outlined the plan to the disciples earlier, Peter had rebuked the Lord. Jesus, the King of Israel, the long-awaited Messiah, was to be brutally executed and hung on a cross. This was unthinkable to the disciples!

Jesus gives an agricultural lesson: There can be no fruit, no harvest, without death! A seed that is preserved and kept will never produce fruit. It must die! And in its death, it gives life; it brings forth a harvest many times over.

No one that day could have ever imagined the events of that week; nor could they have ever imagined the harvest of fruit it produced!

Praise the Lord of the harvest!

Application: Jesus is King, and everyone will submit to His rule! Have you bowed the knee to Him?

Jesus is Savior of the World! Are you seeking to spread His glorious Gospel to the nations?

Jesus' death gives us eternal life! Do you rest in that truth? Fear and anxiety should diminish in the face of Jesus' death and resurrection.