

22T07a Palm Sunday

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me today for an @ the PUNLA coffee table. Palm Sunday is a very important day for Christians. Along with Resurrection Sunday or Easter and Christmas, Palm Sunday is very important but do we remember to celebrate this day with the same excitement and reverence as Easter and Christmas? I'll be honest, for much of my life Palm Sunday was only the Sunday before Easter.

I want to remind us of what Palm Sunday is and why it is so important to Christians?

Let's Pray. Father God, thank you for you. Thank you for Jesus. Thank you for being you. Guide our discussion today such that your message is spoken. Use me as you will. And if I speak poorly or in error, help the listener to only hear and remember what you want them to not my errant words. I pray these things in your name Lord Jesus, Amen

Okay, Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday marks the day Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem on the first day of the week before the upcoming Passover Festival. Passover was the most important Festival to Israelites. First remember, Israel was waiting the Messiah or Christ. They expected this Messiah to liberate Israel from oppression by the Romans. To the Jews, this was independence. The crowds believed Jesus of Nazareth was that, Messiah. Of course, we know Jesus was indeed the Christ they and the whole world was waiting for. Just not the kind of Christ they expected. But on this day, the crowds were excited and gave Jesus a welcoming worthy of the King of kings. This event was a fulfillment of what the prophet Zechariah wrote, in Zechariah 9:9-10 (NKJV) *⁹“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be ‘from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.’*

Israel just did not understand how this King, Messiah, the Christ would accomplish these things. But it says, *Behold your King...Lowly, riding on a colt of a donkey.*

This event is recorded in all four gospels, Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 12

Let me read from Matthew 21:1-5 (NKJV) *¹Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. ³And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.” ⁴All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ⁵“Tell the*

daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.'”

So, this is how Jesus got the Colt of a donkey to ride, then the story continues, Matthew 21:6-11 (NKJV) *⁶So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. ⁸And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!” ¹⁰And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?” ¹¹So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”*

The crowds were crying out, Hosanna or Savior. Savior in the highest. Savior to the Son of David. They are saying Son of David because Jesus was in the lineage of King David, He had an earthly right to the throne of David as a son of David. And He was the Christ the King of kings, Lord of lords. He was Emanuel, God with us. The people were declaring this is our King. King Jesus. The Palm Branches were a symbol of victory or triumph. This was something that was done when a king returns from battle victoriously. The laying of clothes on the road in front of the King was another symbol of reverence. I imagine this as a kind of “red carpet” treatment. Can you imagine the goose bumps on your arms and legs as you hear the crowd shouting? Hosanna, Our Savior is here, God is delivering us. This son of David is King. The anticipation and excitement had to be amazing.

I like some of the details that Luke includes in this story in Luke 19:37-40 (NKJV) *³⁷Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, ³⁸saying: “ ‘Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” ³⁹And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” ⁴⁰But He answered and said to them, “*I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.*”*

Then the next few verses in Luke frame the picture. Luke 19:41-44 (NKJV) *⁴¹Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, ⁴²saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, ⁴⁴and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”*

In the middle of this huge ruckus celebration, Jesus begins to weep. Jesus knows what is about to happen. He knows that after the cross, resurrection and ascension, Jerusalem will be leveled, completely destroyed by the Romans in 70AD. In the midst of His triumphant entrance, this amazing moment of victory. Jesus, our God, is weeping

for the people, for Jerusalem. Now that is loving God, a compassionate God. Truly our savior.

This is a great moment for all of us, when Jesus allowed everyone to see and feel that He was truly the Christ, the King, our Emanuel, our God with us. Our Savior.

I think we too often concentrate on the horror that would take place a few days later but we need to understand this was the victorious march into Jerusalem as King Jesus. Jesus knew what the next few days would be. But we need to cry out Hosanna of the Highest God, Hosanna King Jesus, that is Savior King Jesus is here. Jesus is here as a victor, not a victim. He was King when He entered Jerusalem. Not just after the grave. He was King on the Cross, not just after the resurrection. In fact, Jesus was King before the world was. As John starts his gospel. In the beginning, the word, the reason why was with God and was God. King of kings before there were any kings and Lord of lords before there were any lords.

Palm Sunday is important because it is a foretaste of the next time Jesus comes. His triumphant return as a victor when every knee will bow. I am sure glad Jesus has invited us to the celebration as children of God.

Let's Pray. Heavenly Father, Hallowed be thy name, I pray your will be done here on earth right now as it is in heaven. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your Kingdom, Give us what we need to do your will and resist the evil and selfishness of this world. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever Amen. Thank you, Lord Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen

So, Halleluiah Palm Sunday. Hosanna in the Highest, King Jesus has come and won forever Amen. Please honor this remembrance of this amazing day as a way for us to look forward to the day God's longsuffering patience will be over and His kingdom comes in it's fullest to earth. I long of the day when only God's will be done. No more war, No more disease, No more selfishness, No more fear. Just eternal life with the one we love, King Jesus. God with us forever and ever, Amen.

Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table . See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God Bless.