

THAT YOU MAY KNOW

Who Is This King of Glory?
John 12:12-19
November 13, 2022

MAIN POINT: Jesus, the humble Servant-King, saves through his life, death, and resurrection, and will return again as the glorified Conquering-King to vanquish his foes.

I. THE (HUMBLE) COMING (OF THE) KING (v. 12)

- Jesus enters Jerusalem in anticipation of the feast (i.e., Passover) on the first day of the week—what has come to be known as Palm Sunday—with large crowds surrounding him.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF THE CROWD (vv. 17-18)

- John provides the reason why the large crowds were present to usher Jesus into Jerusalem, namely Jesus' raising Lazarus from the dead (cf. John 11:38-44).
 - The crowds who had witnessed Jesus bringing Lazarus back to life (cf. John 11:45-46) testified of this event to others (v. 17), leading to a great reception of Jesus into Jerusalem (v. 18).

III. THE CORONATION OF A KING (vv. 13-15)

- The waving of palm branches (v. 13) was associated with the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) (cf. Lev. 23:40), but also came to be associated with the political revolution during the time of the Maccabean Revolt (167-160 BC) and subsequent cleansing of Jerusalem in 142 BC.
 - The crowds cried out from Psalm 118:25-26, and declared Jesus to be from the line of the kings of Israel (v. 13).
 - The only other time "the king of Israel" is used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament is Isaiah 44:6, where Yahweh is described as king and redeemer.
- Like Solomon before him (cf. 1 Kings 1:38-40), Jesus' coronation included a ride on a beast of burden and shouts of acclamation (vv. 13-15).
- Jesus intentionally found the young donkey (v. 14) in order to fulfill Zechariah 9:9; he indeed is the humble king of Israel (cf. Isa. 44:6; Zech. 9:9-10).

IV. SHADE OF CONFUSION (vv. 13, 16, 19)

- The crowds were anticipating a political revolutionary who rides the war horse (v. 13); Jesus enters Jerusalem, gentle and lowly, riding atop a young donkey to save his people through his death and resurrection (John 12:20-36).
- The disciples only understand the full import of Jesus' actions and words *after* he was glorified (i.e., crucified and resurrected) (v. 16).
- The Pharisees see the people flocking to the Chief Shepherd (v. 19); yet, being so turned in amongst themselves, they fail to see and receive their true King.

Suggested Reading:

The Kingdom of God and the Glory of the Cross by Patrick Schreiner

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read John 12:12-19

1. In waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna," what was the large crowd who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem displaying? What were they expecting of Jesus?
2. How were Jesus' actions both consistent with and a corrective to what the crowds were expecting? What did Jesus come to accomplish, and how would he do it?
3. How has the testimony of the Bible and the ministry of Jesus demolished and reconstructed your own understanding of the kingdom of God? In what ways does Jesus' kingship run contrary to your perception of kingship in this world?
4. In what kind of king and kingdom do you hope? Consider the manner of your fears and anxieties in this world, and ask whether you have placed your hope outside of the wise and sovereign rule of King Jesus.
5. How does Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem as the humble Servant-King set the stage for his final advent as the glorified Conquering-King, and how should we then live in light of that?