

03242024 **Details Count in the Kingdom** ...You must understand the Bible is primarily a story about God's desire to be reunited with and to live forever in relationship with His creation... In Jesus story of redeeming humans there are certain parts of the narrative that must be included whenever it is told...obviously the highlights or most important parts...yet the details are also important and fill out the story....the details make the story make sense...

So today as we celebrate the Jesus Triumphant entry into Jerusalem ... **the preplanned public pronouncement that he is the long awaited King of king's the Messiah has arrived** the one promised from Genesis who has come to reconcile humanity back to God...

... This event is so important all four Gospels describe it

Before we commence with our study today I want you to know ...Everything counts in the Kingdom... including the Details! God is the God of the big picture and the God of the details...as we sit here today 2k+ years separate us from the event of Jesus and the details can be easily overlooked nor understood in our time... but they play a significant role in Jesus entering into Jerusalem... we will examine a few today **First the day itself is very significant!**

John the Baptist prophesied who Jesus was when he saw Jesus coming to him to be baptized... *ESV JN 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

John identified the purpose of Jesus....The lamb to be sacrificed ..and that lamb must be sacrificed on Passover...but the lamb must be chosen four days before Passover...Jesus rode into Jerusalem four days before Passover... as there are two sabbaths one Passover...one weekly of special Sabbath..

To understand why Jesus riding into Jerusalem this is significant we must go back again into the Old Testament... back to the first Passover, back to Egypt..

- To the majority of Christians today, the date of Nisan 10th, could seem insignificant. But, for a first century Jew, this was a highly

important date on their calendar. Nisan 10, was the designated date for the selection of the Passover lamb, instituted by the Lord God himself.

ESV EX 12:1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.

- That is why the date of Nisan 10, for early Jews, was known as “lamb selection day.”
- This triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem occurred on the Sunday before Jesus was crucified on the 10th of Nisan AD32
- **NOW selecting their Passover lamb, it couldn't be just any animal. Their sacrificial lamb must meet all God's required qualifications for a Passover lamb.**

ESV 12:5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight

- The sacrificial lamb must pass a thorough inspection to ascertain there were no visible signs of disease, scabs, sores, deformities, undernourishment, be totally “without defect” even a small blemish or it would be dismissed as unacceptable.
- **When Jesus rode into Jerusalem while the crowd praised His worthiness, it was on “lamb selection day.”** this was to be a cause of Celebration....before the sacrifice

NLT EX 12:14 “This is a day to remember. Each year, from generation to generation, you must celebrate it as a special festival to the LORD. This is a law for all time. .

- **So, Jesus Followed exactly the order for the Passover lamb in accordance with Scripture.**
- **And there is another important detail... The donkey...**

- **All his life, Jesus had walked everywhere. But now he deliberately decided to cover this short distance on an unbroken never ridden donkey.**
- **By so doing, he would be publicly declaring that he was the Messiah. on Sunday, Jesus and the disciples joined other pilgrims to go the remaining two miles to Jerusalem.**

NLT Luke 19: 29 As he came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead. ³⁰ “Go into that village over there,” he told them. “As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks, ‘Why are you untying that colt?’ just say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³² So they went and found the colt, just as Jesus had said. ³³ And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owners asked them, “Why are you untying that colt?” ³⁴ And the disciples simply replied, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵ So they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it for him to ride on.

- **Probably sat side saddle... On a colt not broken in....never ridden before...** The fact that the colt had not been broken or trained to allow riders posed no problem for the King—the Creator of all animals. The colt submitted to his Master's touch.
- **Colts take years to learn to tolerate such a scene and to overcome the flight nature so instinctive for their kind. Yet, for the Creator He can gain full trust from His creatures by merely a touch.**

But Why did Jesus ride a donkey? Prophetically...There are at least three reasons.

First, Zechariah prophesied 500 years earlier: *NLT ZEC 9: 9 Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey's colt.¹⁰ ... your king will bring peace to the nations.*

Secondly, a donkey is integral to the story of Abraham's offering of Isaac, a reenacting of the passion of a Father sacrificing his first born

son...riding on a donkey... Foreshadowing Jesus passion...

ESV GE 22:1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ² He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy^[a] will go over there and worship and come again to you.” ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸ Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

- **Isaac his only promised son...another way of saying it God will provide himself as the offering...as John the Baptist tells us...**

The third reason is that King Solomon rode a donkey to his coronation on a mule/donkey that had once belonged to David it is the animal which carries the King in the line of David...

*ESV 1KI 1: ² King David said, “Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.” So they came before the king. ³³ And the king said to them, “Take with you the servants of your lord and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon. ³⁴ And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet there anoint him king over Israel. Then blow the trumpet and say, ‘Long live King Solomon!’ **Solomon comes in the name of His Father the Lord David King of Israel...riding on a Donkey to be declared the new King of Israel!!!***

- **After Solomon's coronation the King's would ride horses...so Jesus riding a donkey harkens back to the Davidic throne...**
- **This is an invitation to see Jesus as He is, the Son of God. The King... in the line of David**

Question? Do you think the Donkey for one minute thought this Celebration was about him? How come we so often think when we are called on to do something for Jesus it is all about us?

So the donkey carried Jesus up the Mount of Olives, 2700 feet high, crossed Kidron Valley, on the east side of Jerusalem. From its summit they could look down on Mount Zion, two hundred feet below, and see Jerusalem and the gleaming temple.

all the while antiphonally singing the Psalm 118.

Luke 21:37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: ³⁸ “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

- **They are following him to Jerusalem. Because they had seen what Jesus has done. They had heard what he had taught.**
- **They are celebrating and praising Jesus as the “Blessed King who comes in the name of the Lord!” who is the promised the Messiah**

*****Laying Palm branches before him**

NLT John 12:13 took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, “Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD! Hail to the King of Israel!”

- **laying palm branches was a specifically Jewish and Middle Eastern cultural practice, and were a widely recognized symbol of victory, triumph, and glory.**
- **When a King had achieved a great victory in battle or accomplished something worthy of honor, people would wave palm branches to celebrate them.**
- **And is mentioned several times in the Hebrew Bible.**

- **The Feast of Tabernacles was one of three pilgrimage festivals when Jews would travel to Jerusalem commemorating God's protection of the Israelites during their wilderness journey...for seven days they would celebrate at the temple waving Palm branches**
- **The palm branches were a reminder of the temporary shelters or "tabernacles" God provided for the Israelites in the wilderness.**
NLT Leviticus 23:40 On the first day gather branches from magnificent trees^[1]—palm fronds, boughs from leafy trees, and willows that grow by the streams. Then celebrate with joy before the LORD your God for seven days.
- **The palm branch as a symbol of celebration and homage continues in the final book of the Bible.**
- **In Revelation 7:9, saints worshiping God wave palm branches, connecting back to the honor shown to Jesus in the Gospels.**

ESV Rev 7:9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" **This signals victory and glory of the Father and the lamb at the temple in Heaven**

- **So The palm branches laid before Jesus as he entered Jerusalem carried deep cultural meaning for the people of his time. By laying palms in his path, the crowds affirmed Jesus as the prophesied Messiah and king coming to claim his throne in Jerusalem.**

And they also spread cloaks...before him *ESV Matthew 21:8 Most of the crowd spread their **cloaks** on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.*

This imagery echoes royal processions described in 1 and 2 Kings, where people scattered their garments to welcome victorious kings

NLT 2 Kings 9:13 Then they quickly spread out their cloaks on the bare steps and blew the ram's horn, shouting, "Jehu is king!"

- The day, The donkey, the palm branches, the cloak, the praise, the psalms sung All showed the people's acceptance of Jesus as the messianic conquering King sent from God... arriving in the holy city to go to His temple.
- This recognition is not lost on the Pharisees as they understand the words and the symbolism.....

ESV Luke 19: 39 And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." 40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

- And they know full well what all the symbolism.
- So They command Jesus to stop them from calling you the King...the messiah saying, in effect, "Jesus, you know that you are not really King. You are not really the Son of David..."
- Yet They called him Teacher ...so he teaches them... "I tell you ... the Lord Jesus said that if His followers stop shouting His praise, inanimate stones would be the ones to shout in their place.
- As humans created in His own image and likeness (see [Genesis 1:27](#)), we are the ones who should glorify Him primarily.
- And if we refuse to do that, the stones or creation recognize their creator and praise Him. These religious leaders are dumber than rocks!
- Throughout [Psalm 148](#), there are numerous examples of created things praising their Creator *ESV PSA 128: 9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! 10 Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!..... 13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.*

Everything in creation declares His praise. However, we are created in God's image ([Genesis 1:27](#)), so we are the ones who should be praising God.

We know even more than they did.....He was the Lamb of God ...who takes away the sin of the world...He must be celebrated before the Passover... Friday must come first but Sunday is coming!!!