

I. PALM SUNDAY – FATHER GOD'S MESSIANIC HOPE

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Ps. 118:26

“Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!” Matt. 21:9

And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.” Gen. 3:15

- A. Today we commemorate, celebrate and remember Palm Sunday. This is the day that our Christian tradition reminds us of Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem to the joyous exuberant shouts of the people.
- B. It is this day we believe the events of Passion Week begin. This is the tenderest moment in the Christian calendar when the Son of David, Jesus, the Messiah; took the sin of the world to a Roman cross and killed it.
- C. Jesus' road to the cross was intentional, willful, full of passion and zeal, and wholehearted.
- D. Today, this day, Palm Sunday, the atmosphere of Jerusalem was electric with the arrival of Jesus on a donkey, with the tumultuous exuberant loud shouts of the Jewish people.
 - 1. The shouts were motivated in so many ways.
 - a. ***Shouts of relief.*** “HE IS FINALLY HERE!!!!” After all these years of their hope deferred, decade after decade, century after century, NOW FINALLY Messiah has come!
 - b. ***Shouts of warning.*** “HEY ROMANS, HEY PHARISEES AND RELIGIOUS ELITE; OUR GUY IS HERE, YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT!!!” In all the excitement somehow I don't think the Romans would have been all that intimidated by a man on a donkey.

“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. Zech. 9:9

- E. I have often wondered how Jesus would have looked and responded that day to the shouts of the people. Was he smiling along with them, receiving their worship? Was he pensive and serious purposely not connecting to their joy, knowing that by the end of the week they would so quickly turn against him? How quickly they would turn and their shouts would be, “Crucify him!”
- F. Father God promised in his first ever judgment and prophecy of the Bible that his Son would crush (bruise) Satan's head.

And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.” Gen. 3:15

- G. David was promised that a son from his family line, his dynasty, would sit upon his throne forever (2Sam.7:12-16). David's dynastic line was disrupted by the Babylonian captivity.
- H. Isaiah is the premier prophetic preacher of Messianic hope and expectation. Throughout the writings of Isaiah, Messiah is seen as:
1. Teacher of God's Law: Isa. 2
 2. The Lord Ruler King: Isa. 6
 3. God's Son given as an enduring leadership gift from God: Isa. 9
 4. David's son restored to the family throne: Isa. 11
 5. Rescuer and Deliverer who will judge the nations: Isa. 35, 40, 63
 6. God's Servant Leader: Isa. 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-9
 7. God's Servant Leader who will suffer for eternal righteousness sake: Isa. 52:13-53:12
 8. God's most anointed and invested Servant minister: Isa. 61
- I. Just through Isaiah's prophecies alone there is a very deep dramatic expectation for Messiah to "save" (release from external earthly oppression) His people.
- J. On the day Jesus ascended into heaven this Messianic expectation was still motivating the disciples.

6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" Acts 1:6

- K. Suffice it to say, when Jesus arrived to begin his run in ministry, the expectation for him to prove himself as Messiah according to external proofs (pedigree, power, influence, fame, wealth, etc) setting Israel free from Rome and establishing Israel in its eternal Kingdom expectation – and not to perform according to man's expectation would have been extremely disappointing.
1. Israel's rejection was simply due to a sin that they (and all men make) their blindness to choose leaders based on external perceptions.
 2. The Romans rejected Christ due to prejudice and prideful human superiority.
 3. The Jewish religious elite rejected him because of their pride and greed.
 4. Therefore Paul the Apostle is right when he declares that, "***All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God***" (***Rom. 3:23***). The issue with humankind since the garden was sin and human pride.
- L. The expectation in the people was that Jesus would break the Romans and religious elite; the intention of Jesus was that he would be God's lamb, dead by the end of the week.

II. OUR BLESSED HOPE

¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. Titus 2:11-14

- A. Paul tells Titus several things about our need for hope in the 2nd Coming of Jesus. Paul uses Palm Sunday and the consequences of false fleshly hopes.
1. *Grace of God that brings salvation has appeared...* in the person of Jesus.
 2. *...teaching us...* we are instructed on how to respond to God's grace.
 3. *...denying ungodliness and worldly lusts...* rejecting false fleshly desires and expectations. When you as an Orthodox Jew believe your Messiah will rule the world from Jerusalem and your God has proven his power many many times, and you think your personal holiness will qualify you to be a leader in Messiah's kingdom; your spirit of pride would be extremely dark. Consecrated from...
 4. *...live soberly, righteously and godly...* Consecrated unto.
 5. *...looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ...* Jesus calls us to make a decision. He will not share us with other idols or lesser gods.
 6. *...who gave Himself for us...to redeem...and purify for Himself His own special people zealous for good works...*
- B. Paul inspires our hope as believers with the ultimate truth found in Palm Sunday. Though the fleshly false expectations of Israel were not met, the desire and intention of Father God and Jesus were – and the earth has never been the same since.
- C. The Lamb of God accomplished his goal, he became sin once and for all, and crushed the head of Satan. Friends, we owe him our lives.