

The Spotless Lamb

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19

This event is important in the narrative of Jesus' efforts to save his people from their sins.

Jesus is in Bethany six days before the Passover (John 12:1) and is anointed with oil at Simon's house. (Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8)

Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11) and the news of that event began to spread in Jerusalem—John 12:9-11, 18.

The Triumphal Entry begins in two locations, comes together and forms a large strung out crowd (John 12:12) between Bethany and Jerusalem. The crowd from Bethany forms around Jesus as he has his disciples bring him on a young colt (John 12:14).

Concept: The details work themselves out according to Zechariah 9:9.

They cover the colt with cloaks and others put their cloaks on the road in front of the colt (Luke 19:35-36). Matthew records that people from both ends of this procession cut branches from the trees (Matthew 21:8).

The crowd that came with Jesus from Bethany was testifying to those who were curious about Lazarus (John 12:17).

Precept: Jesus is embracing his part of the great 'Covenant of Redemption' and prepares himself for the cross to save his people from their sins. (Luke 22:42; John 18:11)

The Gospel writers have a variety of details regarding this important week but they all cover the Triumphal Entry into the city of Jerusalem. Why? Some details dovetail with the Old Testament.

First, God is behind this entire event, even if the disciples and those close to Jesus are oblivious to it. (Acts 4:23-28)

Second, a large part of this narrative is focused on pain and suffering, injustice and pure evil and God does not step in; he chose not to step in. He has a greater purpose that he and the Son agreed to and know about, even as everyone else remains blind.

Third, in the text of Leviticus 16 we read about this event with spiritual eyes and can see what God is doing.

Precept: This is no ordinary king; this is the story of the ordeal of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords; He was the King already and this story is the most important story ever to play itself out; and God is fully in control. If you don't know this King he is calling to you to repent, believe in him and come follow him for the remainder of your life.

Conclusion: Perhaps the most telling moment of this narrative is what some gospel writers reveal after this event has taken place; Matthew 23:37-39; Luke 19:41-44.

A second important element in this narrative is that Jesus was determined to "go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51).