

## Christ's Entry Into the World

**Matthew 21:5-9 HCSB** Tell Daughter Zion, "See, your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden." (6) The disciples went and did just as Jesus directed them. (7) They brought the donkey and the colt; then they laid their robes on them, and He sat on them. (8) A very large crowd spread their robes on the road; others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them on the road. (9) Then the crowds who went ahead of Him and those who followed kept shouting: **Hosanna** to the Son of David! **Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!** **Hosanna** in the highest heaven!

### Who comes?

No temporal deliverer but a divine King. The Son of God. God the Son. Around 1,800 years earlier, when he was blessing his sons from his death bed, Jacob made the following prophecy.

- **Genesis 49:10-12 HCSB** The scepter will not depart from Judah, or the staff from between his feet, until He whose right it is comes and the obedience of the peoples belongs to Him. (11) He ties his donkey to a vine, and the colt of his donkey to the choice vine. He washes his clothes in wine, and his robes in the blood of grapes. (12) His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth are whiter than milk.

Some 700 years later, when she fulfilled her vow by giving her miracle baby Samuel back to the Lord, the Spirit inspired Hannah to cry out in prayer:

- **1 Samuel 2:10 HCSB** Those who oppose the LORD will be shattered; He will thunder in the heavens against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. He will give power to His king; He will lift up the horn of His anointed.

A century later the Lord, through the prophet Nathan, told David:

- **2 Samuel 7:12-16 HCSB** When your time comes and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your descendant, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. (13) He will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (14) I will be a father to him, and he will be a son to Me. When he does wrong, I will discipline him with a human rod and with blows from others. (15) But My faithful love will never leave him as I removed it from Saul; I removed him from your way. (16) Your house and kingdom will endure before Me forever, and your throne will be established forever."

Solomon, David's son is the obvious person that comes to mind. He was David's son and he built the Beit ha Mikdash. However, he sinned with his many wives and led many astray. Furthermore, he lived and died and certainly did not establish David's throne forever.

The Lord was using the near/far prophetic principle to predict the coming of the Messiah. He is the one who is called the "Lord's Son." He is the one whose throne will endure forever.

You may ask "What of v.14 where it says 'when He does wrong, I will discipline him?'" Jesus was in all ways tempted like us yet without sin.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, the sins of the world fell upon His shoulders and He took the punishment of death in our place. He received weals and stripes, inflicted by Roman soldiers, the "human rod and with blows from others." Through those stripes we are healed.<sup>2</sup>

Century after century, God's prophets, both male and female consistently predicted the coming of the King.

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<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 4:15

<sup>2</sup> Isaiah 53:4-5

- **2 Peter 3:8-9 HCSB** Dear friends, don't let this one thing escape you: with the Lord one day is like 1,000 years, and 1,000 years like one day. (9) The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

### To whom does He come?

To a world in desperate need of a Redeemer. To a broken people in need of a Ruler. To the individual soul seeking a Guide. Lower your flag to Him in unconditional surrender and you will find amnesty.

- **Psalms 2:1-12 HCSB** Why do the nations rebel and the peoples plot in vain? (2) The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers conspire together against the LORD and His Anointed One: (3) "Let us tear off their chains and free ourselves from their restraints." (4) The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord ridicules them. (5) Then He speaks to them in His anger and terrifies them in His wrath: (6) "I have consecrated My King on Zion, My holy mountain." (7) I will declare the LORD's decree: He said to Me, "You are My Son; today I have become Your Father. (8) Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your inheritance and the ends of the earth Your possession. (9) You will break them with a rod of iron; You will shatter them like pottery." (10) So now, kings, be wise; receive instruction, you judges of the earth. (11) Serve the LORD with reverential awe, and rejoice with trembling. (12) Pay homage to the Son, or He will be angry, and you will perish in your rebellion, for His anger may ignite at any moment. All those who take refuge in Him are happy.

### In what manner does He come?

Gently and meekly. These twin graces should be compelling. If we stand condemned it is not because it is His will. If we stand condemned it is because we rebel in spite of His grace and magnanimity.

Often people quote "Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow" as they evangelize. Let's take a look at the context of that verse shall we?

- **Isaiah 1:16-20 HCSB** "Wash yourselves. Cleanse yourselves. Remove your evil deeds from My sight. Stop doing evil. (17) Learn to do what is good. Seek justice. Correct the oppressor. Defend the rights of the fatherless. Plead the widow's cause. (18) "Come, let us discuss this," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are as red as crimson, they will be like wool. (19) If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land. (20) But if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Listen to the voice of God's Holy Spirit of Wisdom!

- **Proverbs 1:22-33 HCSB** "How long, foolish ones, will you love ignorance? *How long* will *you* mockers enjoy mocking and *you* fools hate knowledge? (23) If you turn to my discipline, then I will pour out my spirit on you and teach you my words. (24) Since I called out and you refused, extended my hand and no one paid attention, (25) since you neglected all my counsel and did not accept my correction, (26) I, in turn, will laugh at your calamity. I will mock when terror strikes you, (27) when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when trouble and stress overcome you. (28) Then they will call me, but I won't answer; they will search for me, but won't find me. (29) Because they hated knowledge, didn't choose to fear the LORD, (30) were not interested in my counsel, and rejected all my correction, (31) they will eat the fruit of their way and be glutted with their own schemes. (32) For the

waywardness of the inexperienced will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them. (33) But whoever listens to me will live securely and be free from the fear of danger."

### **How should He be received?**

Eagerly. We must go and greet Him.

Abjectly. We must willingly bow the knee.

As of prime importance. We must cast our cloaks before Him (acknowledging that He comes before our daily needs and personal comfort).

Creatively. We must wave palm branches before Him (finding creative ways to demonstrate our gratitude).

However, we must go beyond what these people did.

- **Matthew 21:10-11 HCSB** When He entered Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken, saying, "Who is this?" (11) And the crowds kept saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee!"

They had been quoting Old Covenant messianic prophecy from Psalm 118.

- **Psalms 118:21-28 HCSB** I will give thanks to You because You have answered me and have become my salvation. (22) The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. (23) This came from the LORD; it is wonderful in our eyes. (24) This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (25) LORD, save us! LORD, please grant us success! (26) Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you. (27) The LORD is God and has given us light. Bind the festival sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar. (28) You are my God, and I will give You thanks. *You are* my God; I will exalt You.

However, where the Psalmist declared the One who was to come in the name of the Lord to be salvation (v.21); the rejected cornerstone (v.22); the Lord Himself (vv.24-25); and God Himself (vv. 27-28); when they were asked who was the one they were getting all excited about, they limited themselves to the paltry "This is the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

The question again is "How should He be received?" My answer to you is "AS HE PRESENTS HIMSELF."

We must set aside our personal agendas and take Him as He presents Himself. We must put away our sinful pride and allow Him to reign unchallenged in our hearts. He was not merely a good man. He was not a great teacher. He was not an outstanding prophet. He was God! He is our King. Let us bow the knee to His sovereignty today.

- **Jude 1:24-25 HCSB** Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless and with great joy, (25) to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now, and forever. Amen.