

TITLE AND NUMBER: 21. What kind of King?

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): John 12:12-16

Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, just as it is written: 'Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion: see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt'. (v14-15)



LOOKING FURTHER: Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 19:29-38; Mark 11:1-11; Zechariah 9:9-10

What does this Bible passage tell us?

As Jesus entered Jerusalem for the final time, the Passover festival was about to be celebrated. The Passover is at the heart of Jewish life. It's a time to celebrate when God, through the sacrifice of a perfect lamb, protected His people from death and set them free from slavery in Egypt. However, this Passover was to be different. Jesus himself would take the place of the Passover lamb and His death would mean that we, his followers, would be set free from having to lead lives of sin, and be set free from death into eternal life.

Palms were used in Israel to greet a victorious King back from battle. The conquering king, or hero, would ride into town on the back of a huge warhorse, with his spoils of war and stories of battles won as the crowds shouted out 'Hosanna' - save us now.

The crowd, who had gathered to greet Jesus, were there to see the man who had raised Lazarus from the dead. Palm branches were being waved to greet Him as he made his entry in to Jerusalem and the crowds were calling out 'Hosanna'.

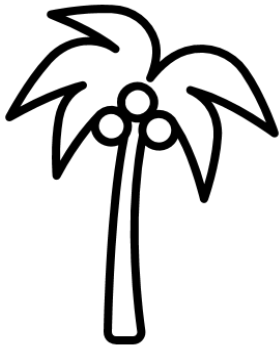
Jesus was being welcomed into Jerusalem as a conquering king. However, He wanted the crowd to understand that although He was a king, He was not the sort they expected and so He chose to ride in on a donkey. John, the Gospel writer, quotes from the prophet Zechariah, saying that Jerusalem's king would come seated on a donkey. This king would be gentle, humble and peaceful.

Jesus had indeed come to save them as God had promised them, but not through battle. Instead, Jesus would save them by dying on a cross, something that they didn't understand at the time.

Reflections:

- Have you ever hoped God would do something for you, but He did something different that turned out better? Bring it to mind and give thanks to God for answering your prayers.
- The crowds expected a warrior, but Jesus won the battle by being gentle, humble and peaceful. If this is a new way of acting for you. Why not pray for the chance to be more like Jesus in your conversations and actions.
- Lazarus, as well as many others, had a story to tell about what Jesus had done for him. Think about your story and what Jesus has done for you, and then find someone to share this with.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

