

4/5/2020

Is Prophecy Being Fulfilled in Plain Sight?
Matthew 21:1-17

In our passage today notice how hard Matthew, the apostle, is trying to get the readers of his day and ours to see that Jesus, the other people, and the events themselves are fulfilling prophecy.

Triumphant Entry

When they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage at the Mount of Olives, Jesus then sent two disciples, telling them, "Go into the village ahead of you. At once you will find a donkey tied there with her colt. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them at once." This took place so that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled:

*Tell Daughter Zion, "See, your King is coming to you, gentle,
And mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."*

Zechariah 9:9

The disciples went and did just as Jesus directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt; then they laid their clothes on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their clothes on the road; others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them on the road. Then the crowds who went ahead of him and those who followed shouted:

*Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!*

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in an uproar, saying, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Matthew 21:1-11

Cleansing the Temple

Jesus went into the temple and threw out all those buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. He said to them,

"It is written, my house will be called a house of prayer,

Isaiah 56:7

But you are making it a den of thieves!"

Jeremiah 7:11

Matthew 21:12-13

Children Praise Jesus

The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. When the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonders that he did and the children shouting in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant and said to him, "Do you hear what these children are saying?" Jesus replied, "Yes, have you never read:

You have prepared praise from the mouths of infants and nursing babies?"

From the *Septuagint* Psalm 8:2

Then he left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

Matthew 21:14-17

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Matthew and Jesus quote and refer to the *Tanak* (the Jewish Scriptures), *Old Testament* 4 times!

I said last week, "I'm not a Prophet, nor the son of a prophet." And I don't know for sure what God is doing; but I can tell you He's doing something. Jesus told the Pharisees, that everybody ought to read the signs. (Matt. 16:1-4)

In Texas the dogwood trees have bloomed and the Bluebonnets are beautiful. Spring is on its way if not already here. The time to remember the crucifixion and celebrate the resurrection is almost here - next Sunday in fact.

I can also tell, since we still can't gather together to worship, Jesus's prophecy in John 4:22 & 24 is coming to pass,

This is the hour, this is the day, this is the time - we must worship where we are even if it's not where we would like to be. But, I'm telling you we must worship how we won't be prepared and able to endure this time with our faith and influence in tact giving glory to God.

This may be a practice hour to prepare us for the final hour or it may be the beginning of the final hour. I'm not smart enough to know.

But what I do know, is - now is the time to learn how to worship where we are and with whomever will worship God our Father, Jesus our Savior, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter and Counselor in spirit and truth.

I also know it's time to witness where we are and to whoever will listen.

I pray that my life and the love of the local church away the folks will pay attention, repent of the sins, and, come to Jesus for forgiveness and a life change.

I believe Matthew gives us some reasons (example why lifestyle is so important).

1. Obedience Enables Us and Encourages Others to Worship! 21:1-9

Obedience and True Worship always honors Jesus. When Jesus is honored we are allowed to see God at work.

When God is at work others and ourselves will either repent OR rebel!

What's your response? Failure to respond positively to Jesus is rebellion. Indecision is rebellion. Putting the decision off till later is rebellion.

Jesus said you're either with me against me; you either gather in OR scatter out! (Matt. 12:30)

What have you been doing? Does that need to change? It's not too late to change, you're still breathing and Jesus has not yet returned

I believe "Passion Week" revealed then and still reveals what God is doing more than in any other time in Jesus' ministry.

All 4 Gospels record events of this week culminating in the crucifixion and the resurrection. Very few events are recorded by all 4 Gospels.

Must be important!

Can you find the other events that are recorded by all 4 Gospels?

Ponder: What's so important about these events?

2. Sincere Worship Will Cleanse Our Hearts Like Jesus Cleansed The Temple! 21:12-13

Maybe:

3. A Clean Heart Is The Key To Miracles Today As It Was That Day! 21:14

Only after Jesus cleansed the temple did Jesus perform miracles that day
(Read 2 Chronicles 7:13-14)

Maybe - If we will worship in these different, for most Americans, and difficult days for the whole world -

4. Our Children Will Follow Our Lead And Praise Jesus! 21:15-16

If this is only the practice hour - maybe Worship will become precious for a lifetime.

If this is the final hour Worship is the only thing that will see us through.

If you are a Christian: Have you been taking anything or people for granted: Family, Friends, a Job, Freedom to be mobile, Relationship with Jesus, or your freedom of "Public Worship"?

If you are wondering or know you are not; you need to:

Admit that you are a sinner and you need a Savior!
Believe that Jesus is the only available Savior and will forgive you if you ask Him!
Commit yourself to follow Him as Lord of your life for the rest of your life!

The promise God through the Bible is:

You will be forgiven!
Your life will be changed!
Heaven will become your eternal home!
If you need Help with information contact us @
cbcpalestine.org

If you choose to trust Jesus and follow Him as Lord
I encourage you to tell at least 3 people before you go to bed.

I also encourage you to contact me; or another pastor of a church that believes the Bible is God's Word!

May God bless you today as you worship where YOU are with whomever you can. Remember:
Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name there I will be also." (Matt. 18:20)

Let's continue to use our technology for the greatest good, the glory of God.

Don't forget to read the Psalm and Proverb of the day so you will be prepared to serve the Lord and
speak for Him to someone else.

If you have any questions or I can help in any way let me know.