



The Gospel According To MATTHEW

Chapter 21:1-17

“Hosanna In The Highest!!!”

As we come to Chapter 21, we find ourselves in the last week of Jesus' life, only days away from His crucifixion and resurrection. It is the time of the Passover, there are approximately 2 million people in Jerusalem attending this glorious feast. During a census taken about ten years after this time, the number of sacrificial lambs slaughtered at the Passover was determined to be some 260,000; one lamb can be offered for up to ten people.

- **In this section we discover three GREAT TRUTHS:**

> ***TRUTH #1 - (v1-9) JESUS IS THE KING OF KINGS!***

> ***TRUTH #2 - (v10-11) JESUS IS THE GREATEST PROPHET!***

> ***TRUTH #3 - (v12-17) JESUS IS THE TRUE HIGH PRIEST!***

> ***TRUTH #1 - (v1-9) JESUS IS THE KING OF KINGS!***

- **Let's observe five key events regarding *Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem:***

(1) We see the disciple's discipline go and get, they did.

(2) We see two donkeys and their divine appointment.

(3) We hear the prophet's proclamation fulfilled; Zechariah prophesied the coming King 500 years earlier (Zech. 9:9).

(4) We see the people spreading their garments on the ground in front of Jesus; this symbolized their respect and submission to His authority.

(5) Others placed *palm branches* (Jn. 12:13) in front of Him representing **salvation and joy**; in fact in **Revelation 7:9,10** we read, *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

(6) We also hear the multitudes crying out (v9) "**Hosanna**" which means "**Save now!**"

Unfortunately, these fickle folks wanted Jesus to save the nation, but not their souls. They wanted freedom from the Roman government, not freedom from the slavery of sin. They wanted a temporal heaven on earth, yet, chose hell for eternity. People are like that, "Christ in crisis," but not a committed Christian life; beware lest we fall into the same fickle, and shallow delusion, for they will crucify Him a few days later.

- **Let's discover the purpose of "Hosanna" in Romans 3:19-26 - Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

- **Titus 3:4-7 - But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

- Let's check out Dr. Luke's account of this glorious day in Luke 19:39-44 - *And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out." Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."* (Titus, the Roman General leveled the city and killed over 1 million Jews in 70 A.D.)

- Why is this day so special? Let's go back to the prophecies found in Daniel Ch. 9:20-26 - *Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, ²¹ yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. ²² And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. ²³ At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:*

²⁴ *"Seventy weeks are determined (70 weeks = 490 years, determined means decreed)*

For your people and for your holy city, (Jews and Jerusalem)

To finish the transgression,

To make an end of sins,

To make reconciliation for iniquity, (Fulfilled at Christ first coming for our salvation!)

To bring in everlasting righteousness,

To seal up vision and prophecy,

And to anoint the Most Holy. (Will be fulfilled at Christ second coming!)

²⁵ *"Know therefore and understand,*

That from the going forth of the command (given to Nehemiah, March 14, 445 B.C., Neh. Ch. 2)

To restore and build Jerusalem

Until Messiah the Prince, (Jesus arrives Sunday, April 6, 32 A.D., "Hosanna" is cried out!)

There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; (69 weeks = 483 yrs. = 173,880 days)

The street shall be built again, and the wall, (Nehemiah restores and rebuilds Jerusalem.)

Even in troublesome times.

²⁶ *"And after the sixty-two weeks (meaning the entire 69 weeks, 483 years.)*

Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; (Cut off, Jesus is crucified on Friday.)

And the people of the prince who is to come

Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. (Titus destroys Temple/city in 70 A.D.)

The end of it shall be with a flood,

And till the end of the war desolations are determined. (Antichrist is coming in the last days.)

- Daniel's prophecy of the seventy "weeks" ('seven') (v24-27) provides the chronological frame for Messianic prediction from Daniel to the establishment of the kingdom on earth and a key to its interpretation. Its main features are as follows:

(1) The entire prophecy is concerned primarily with *Daniel's "people" and their "holy city"*—i.e. *Israel and Jerusalem*.

(2) Two princes are mentioned; the first is named the *"Messiah the Prince" (v25)*; the second is described as *"the prince who is to come" (v26)*, a reference to the *little horn of Ch. 7:8*, whose "people" would destroy the rebuilt Jerusalem after the cutting off of the Messianic Prince (26).

(3) The *"seventy weeks"* of the prophecy are **weeks of years**, an important sabbatical time-measure in the Jewish calendar. Violation of the command to observe the sabbatical year brought the judgment of the Babylonian captivity and determined its length of seventy years. Cp. Lev. 25:1-22; 26:33-35; 2 Chr. 36:19-21; Dan. 9:2. Compare also Gen. 29:26-28 for use of "week" to indicate seven years.

(4) **These 490 prophetic years are each 360 days long.** This is proved by the biblical references to the seventieth week of seven years, which is divided into two halves (v27), the latter half being variously designated as *"a time and times, and half a time"* (Dan. 7:25; cp. Rev. 12:14); **forty –two months** (Rev. 11:2; 13:5); **or 1260 days** (Rev. 11:3; 12:6). In this connection it should be remembered that, in the grand sweep of prophecy, prophetic time is invariably so near as to give full warning, so indeterminate as to give no satisfaction to mere curiosity (cp. Mt. 24:36; Acts 1:7).

(5) **The beginning of the seventy weeks is fixed as "the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem" and its wall (v25). The only decree in Scripture authorizing the rebuilding of the city and its wall is recorded in Neh. 2; dated in "the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes" (i.e. March 14, 445 B.C.), it is well attested in ancient history. From this date as a beginning, the first sixty-nine weeks reach to "the Messiah, the Prince."**

(6) At a later time, after the "sixty-two weeks" which follow the first "seven weeks" (i.e. after sixty-nine weeks), two important events will take place: (1) **Messiah will be "cut off" and will have none of His regal rights ("but not for Himself").** And (2) **the rebuilt city and sanctuary will again be destroyed, this time by "the people" of another "prince" who is yet to come.**

(7) IN SUMMARY:

- Command given to rebuild and restore Jerusalem was on **MARCH 14, 445 B.C. (Nehemiah Ch. 2)**

- Countdown to MESSIAH begins: **69 Weeks = 483 years (360 days in a year) or 173,880 days.**

- **CHRIST is hailed as SAVIOR ("HOSANNA!") on APRIL 6, 32 A.D., (today this is known as "Palm Sunday") this is exactly 173,880 days from when the command was given on MARCH 14, 445 B.C.**

- **CHRIST was "CUT OFF," CRUCIFIED on FRIDAY of that week, on the "PASSOVER." JESUS is "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)**

(Insight for Daniel 9:26 – *"And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary"* – Titus and the Roman army did both in 70 A.D. Jesus prophesied this event in Matthew 24:1,2; Luke 21:5-6. The Jewish people were then dispersed throughout the world without a homeland.)

> TRUTH #2 - (v10-11) JESUS IS THE GREATEST PROPHET!

(v10-11) Briefly, what's a PROPHET? - A person who spoke for God and who communicated God's message courageously to God's Chosen People—the nation of Israel and to all mankind. One trait characterized them all: a faithful proclamation of God's word and not their own (Jer 23:16; Ezek 13:2).

- Jesus gives reference to Himself as prophet in John 12:42-50 - *Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. Then Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him — the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."*

> **TRUTH #3 - (v12-17) JESUS IS THE TRUE HIGH PRIEST!**

(v12-13) Here we find religious corruption in Temple of God. Jesus cleansed the temple once before at the beginning of His public ministry, some 3 years ago (John 3:13-25), but the rip offs are back. When people would bring their animals to sacrifice in the temple the religious leaders would examine them and say that it's not good enough, thus, you must purchase their animal at an inflated rate of 10 times the regular market price.

The moneychangers operated in the Temple area (known as the Court of the Gentiles), because all money given to the Temple had to be in the Tyrian silver coin. According to Ex 30:11-16, every Israelite above the age of 20 was required to pay an annual tax of a half-shekel into the Temple treasury.

The moneychangers, however, were charging a 25% rate of exchange. The purpose of the court of the Gentiles in the temple was to give the "outcasts" an opportunity to enter the temple and learn from Israel about the true God. But the presence of the "religious racketeers" turned many sensitive Gentiles away from the God of Israel.

Jesus' zeal for righteousness and the house of God is displayed in His actions; and His statement in verse 13 is a strong warning to all of Christendom.

Peter also warns us in 2 Peter 2:1-3 - *But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.*

(v14-17) **It's a great and glorious day!** The blind sees the Savior! The lame walk with the Savior! The Savior heals the sick! Children are praising the Savior, crying out **HOSANNA!** But non-believers are indignant, just like today.

Christians throughout the nation and the world are crying out HOSANNA, but the world has become intolerant and spiteful toward Jesus Christ and His followers; truly nothing has changed. But we have changed through His wonderful salvation, and one glorious day we will be fully changed when we arrive in HEAVEN!

REJOICE!!! - *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. (Phil 3:20-21)*

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!!! AMEN!!!