



The Final Week of Jesus' Public Ministry

- The public ministry of Jesus lasted roughly three years, 156 weeks, approximately 1000 days.
- The Gospel writers clearly believed this final week of Jesus' public ministry to be most important.
 - Matthew devotes 30% of his Gospel to Holy Week.
 - Mark devotes 40% of his Gospel to Holy Week.
 - Luke devotes 62% to Holy Week and Jesus' journey to Jerusalem.
 - John devotes 47% to Holy Week and beyond.
- It is clear the events of this final week are of paramount importance in the story of Jesus.

The Final Week: Palm Sunday

As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to ...the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. ² "Go into that village over there," he told them. "As soon as you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks, 'What are you doing?' just say, 'The Lord needs it and will return it soon.'"

⁴ The two disciples left and found the colt standing in the street, tied outside the front door. ⁵ As they were untying it, some bystanders demanded, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" ⁶ They said what Jesus had told them to say, and they were permitted to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it, and he sat on it. ⁸ Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting,

"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!

Hosanna in the highest!"

Mark 11:1-10 (NLT/NIV)

The Story Behind the Story

- If Jesus knew that the Pharisees were plotting to kill him, why would he and his disciples go to Jerusalem?
 - He went to Jerusalem to celebrate _____.
- Why did Jesus ride a donkey down the Mount of Olives when He was only a half mile from Jerusalem?
 - It was a symbolic act that goes back to _____.

- It was a fulfillment of _____.

Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey. Zechariah 9:9 (NLT)

- Why did the crowd wave palm branches and shout, “Hosanna?”
 - Palm branches were a sign of victory.
 - “Hosanna!” means _____.
 - The crowd was quoting Psalm 118:26 when they shouted, *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*
- The procession of Jesus into Jerusalem was not the only royal parade that day.
 - Parade #2 -- _____
He was the Roman Governor of Judea who rode into Jerusalem bringing 1000 armed Roman soldiers in all their regalia. His parade was designed to be a show of force to suppress any notion of rebellion during Passover.
 - Parade #3 -- _____
He was the Jewish puppet-king of the Romans. He entered with his royal troops. His supporters lined the streets cheering his arrival.
- Luke tells us: *As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it (Luke 19:41). Why did Jesus cry over Jerusalem?*
 - He knew that the crowd would not only reject Him, but His teachings – to love their enemies, to pray for those who persecute them, and to do good to those who did wrong. They would reject Him as the Prince of Peace and choose the way of the sword.
- As Jesus wept for the people of Jerusalem, He said, *“How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. ⁴⁴ They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not accept your opportunity for salvation.”* (Luke 19:42-44, NLT)
 - Prophecy Fulfilled – By 66 A.D., the people of Jerusalem rallied around two would-be messiahs who led a revolt against Rome. Rome sent 60,000 armed soldiers to crush the rebellion. By 70 A.D., the Roman army killed one million Jews, destroyed Jerusalem, plundered the temple, torn down the walls and burned it to the ground fulfilling the prophesy of Jesus.