

# From Coming King to Risen King

Thomas Robinson, *God's Kingdom Breaks In! 10*, Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017

## **Matthew 21:1-11**    **Sunday: Jesus Enters Jerusalem, the Humble King**

<sup>1</sup> Now when they drew **near to Jerusalem** and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Go into the village in front of you, and you will quickly find a **donkey** tied up with a **colt** beside her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, say, 'Their Lord needs them,' and he'll send them at once."

<sup>4</sup> This happened to fill up what the prophet, said,

<sup>5</sup> "Say to my daughter Zion, [Isa 62:11]

'Behold, **your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey,**  
on a **colt, the foal of a beast of burden.**'" [Zech 9:9]

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did just as Jesus directed them. <sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and colt and put their cloaks on them, and he rode on them. <sup>8</sup> The large crowd spread their own cloaks on the road, and some cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

<sup>9</sup> And the crowds walking in front of him and behind him were shouting,

**"Hosanna (Save us!) to the Son of David!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!** [Psa 118:25-26; Mt 23:39]

**Hosanna in the highest!"**

<sup>10</sup> And when he **entered Jerusalem, the whole city was quaking**, saying, "**Who is this?**"

<sup>11</sup> And the crowds said, "**This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.**"

## **Matthew 28:1-10**    **One Week Later**

<sup>1</sup> Long after the Sabbath, as dawn was breaking of the **first day of the week**, **Mary Magdalene** and the other **Mary** went to **see the tomb**.

<sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a **great earthquake**, for an **angel of the Lord** descended from heaven and came and **rolled back the stone** and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like **lightning**, and his **clothing white** as snow. <sup>4</sup> And for fear of him the **guards were quaking** and became **like dead men**.

<sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, "**You should not be afraid**, since I know that **you're seeking Jesus who was crucified**. <sup>6</sup> **He is not here, for he was raised, just as he said**. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Quickly, go **tell his disciples** that he was raised from the dead. **He is going ahead** of you to **Galilee; there you will see him**. This is my message for you."

<sup>8</sup> They quickly **left the tomb** with both **fear** and **great joy**, and ran to tell his disciples.

<sup>9</sup> Right then, **Jesus met them** and said, "Greetings!" And they came and took hold of his feet and **worshipped** him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus says to them, "**Don't be afraid! Go, tell my brothers** to go to Galilee, and **there they will see me.**"

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## **Psalm 118: 19-26**

<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness, | that I may enter through them | and give thanks to the LORD (Yahweh). | ... <sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected | has become the cornerstone. | <sup>23</sup> This is the LORD'S (Yahweh's) doing; | it is marvelous in our eyes. [Mt 21:42] | <sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD (Yahweh) has made; | let us rejoice and be glad in it. | <sup>25</sup> Save us, we pray (Hosanna), O LORD (Yahweh)! | O LORD (Yahweh), we pray, give us success! | <sup>26</sup> Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD (Yahweh)! | We bless you from the house of the LORD (Yahweh). | <sup>27</sup> The LORD (Yahweh) is God, | and he has made his light to shine upon us.

## **Matthew 20:29-34**

<sup>29</sup> In Jericho... <sup>30</sup> were two blind men sitting by the road, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, "Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!" ... <sup>32</sup> Jesus called them and said, "What do you want me to do for you?" <sup>33</sup> They said to him, "Lord, that our eyes may be open." <sup>34</sup> Jesus in compassion touched their eyes, and immediately they recovered their sight and followed him.

## **From Sunday to Sunday**

In all four Gospels the week of Jesus in Jerusalem at Passover is climactic! (Nearly a third of Mt.) We watch with Mt as Jesus affects both the city and individuals. Mt wants not so much to explain as to show us. We must see Jesus ourselves. Our eyes, minds, hearts are challenged.

The theme of the drama is set at the start: Jesus enacts the prophecy of Zech 9:9 – Yahweh's salvation comes to Zion as a humble King on a donkey. God's kingdom breaking in. Yes!

But so much has happened since. Confrontation with the temple, traps by opponents, teaching, prophecy, conspiracy, betrayal, Passover meal, Gethsemane, trial, crucifixion, ... the tomb. Now the women disciples walk past watching guards to see a tomb. Death has conquered.

## **What Do You See?**

Mt led to Jesus' kingly entry with the story of blind men receiving sight and following Jesus. All that Jesus does is filled with scriptural expectations touching people's hopes, desires, fears. Always our preconceptions and expectations are present. Peter, James & John, Judas, Mary Magdalene, Chief Priests, Pilate, modern readers: prosperous, oppressed, scholarly, open, skeptical, oblivious. Everyone knows what a king/powerful ruler is. We know what death is.

Jesus comes as a king. Humble, yes, but a king! People, disciples cheer and expect great things. We see our own hopes in him. But it goes wrong. Hopes dashed. Crucify! "We had hoped..."

We have ready a universal story of aspiration and broken dreams in which to place Jesus.

Jesus knows that human situation: We humans on our own with little, human-sized gods.

Jesus takes that experience of broken, alienated humanity into himself all the way to the end.

## **Seeking The Crucified Jesus**

But in the darkness, unseen, before the dawn, something has happened. Jesus has broken the story of brokenness and death. What no one could imagine, what can't happen, happened. In Jesus God broke death's grip to create new resurrection life – bodily, empowered by God. The power of all human empires is broken as God's kingdom of life breaks in.

The Angel rolls back the stone to show that it's done. Human-power guards are like dead men. The Angel knows that the women expect the tomb but seek Jesus, beyond all expectation. You should not be afraid. He's not here. He has been raised. He told you, but you couldn't hear it. Jesus is both past and present and future. He's ahead of you. Go! Tell! You will see him. The women still live in this world: fear. But they are beginning to see. And great joy breaks over them. The kingdom of God, his true power and Grace, will be seen.

## **Tell My Brothers and Sisters – They Will See Me!**

They run. They meet Jesus. The Angel's words become solid. They touch, hold, a solid body.

They worship in a world transformed. They had sung around the man on the donkey. They listened to his teaching, helped him in every way, despaired as he was condemned, killed.

Now nothing will ever be the same. Their former hopes were far too small.

Jesus' victory has no hint of revenge. "Tell my brothers..." the forsaking, denying disciples. "They will see me!" The priests, Romans, guards, the far away, all are welcomed into new life.