

April 1st 2007: Palm Sunday: Matthew 21:1-17: A Taste of Things To Come.
The other night thinking about Palm Sunday...Lord brought to mind....hymn
Blessed Assurance.....And then it struck me

Palm Sunday was always meant to befor those who were His true disciples

A Foretaste of what is to come

- **You see....There was nothing spontaneous about Palm Sunday**

Jesus planned His ride of triumph into Jerusalem.....just as much.....planned His arrest

He organized His day from start to finish...AND it was a very busy and emotional day

The first three ...tell us.....Travelled from Jericho....previous.....**And John** tells us....
Stayed the night at the home of.....near Bethany..... {explains the crowds that followed}

On the next morning Jesus began to make the short journey.....to Jerusalem

But as they approached the city He stopped

And sent 2 disciples...to the small village of Bethphage...to collect a donkey and its colt

- **Then they put their cloaks on.....a colourful saddle fit for a king**

And Jesus mounted that colt.....and continued His journey.....and the crowd already
with Him.....led by His disciples.....started to lay their cloaks on the ground

And as the crowd grew.....so others cut palm branches from the fields

- **Luke tells us in 19:37—38**

.....And the Pharisees.....started to complain

And Jesus responded: *I tell you, if they keep quite the stones will cry out.*

By this time...they had reached the Mount of Olives

Beneath them lay the city

They could clearly see the gate....and the Temple

And there Jesus stopped once more.....and He wept over Jerusalem

Because it did not recognize the time of God's coming to it

The crowds increased.....

Cloaks and Palm leaves made a carpet of honour before Jesus

The cry went up from those in front....and those behind

Hosanna to the Son of David

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest

when he entered Jerusalem...the whole city was stirred....**People began to ask...**

The crowds answered.....**THIS is Jesus** the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee

- **And Jesus rode directly to the Temple**

Not to have Himself crowned as King

But to cleanse it in the name of His Father

The crowds were astounded at this

The chief priests and teachers.....were angry

But they could not touch Him.....for the lame and the blind came.....(Matt)

And all the time the children.....as children will....were running around and..

Shouting in the temple.....Hosanna to the Son of David

- **And the leaders got even more furious....**

And they said to Jesus.....You reckon we have made this Temple into.....

But here are all these children....Running and shouting in the House of God

And Matthew has Jesus responding

“Have you never read, “From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise.”?

- **And then as the day was ending**.....He left the temple.....Went back to Bethany
And the crowd.....Well I think they had dispersed.....rather subdued & confused

They had started the day with Jesus.....full of hope and excitement

But what really.....had Jesus achieved (*Been to a footy match.....and at the end....*)

- **I’m sure that the question** in the minds of many.....who had looked for great things from.....**Was**.....WHY HAD HE BOTHERED ????????

And again its Matthew who gives the answer

In Matthew 21:4-5.....

This prophecy comes from.....Book of Zechariah ...9:9

The interesting thing.....is that it appears to be the first part.....of a two part prophecy

The riding of the King into.....will be followed---the rest of the chapter says...

By a triumphant and complete victory.....And a setting up.....Kingdom of peace

That of course was what many in the crowd were hoping for!!!!

However....when we read the rest of Zechariah.....we see that there is a gap between

And within that gap period....the following will take place:

Zechariah 11:12.....	Betrayal
12:10b-11.....	Cross
13:1.....	The power of the resurrection

Then comes the Day of the Lord _____ Zec 14:4.....

And the second prophecy will come to its fulfilment.....**14:9**.....

- **Palm Sunday was always meant to convey a message of hope**

To show that the battle.....far from being over.....had just begun.....

But that the final victory was certain

Palm Sunday was a fulfilment of prophecy.....that set in place the events that led.....

Palm Sun was also...given by Jesus to all believ...As **FORETASTE** of what is to come

(I recall someone who always wanted a landcruiser.....)

- **so what does** Palm Sunday point towards ??? **Rev 7:9—10....13—17....**

We are not there yet

The Palm branches are not yet

Our Journey is still on earth ...with hardships...sorrows....joys ...struggles

But Palm Sunday.....is the Promise of God.....that Rev 7 will one day come to pass

When that happens....will you be part of it???????