

AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: “The King Enters Jerusalem” Luke 19

Scripture of Lesson: Luke’s Gospel 19: 28-48

1. *The king of kings enters Jerusalem*

A. The purpose of the Lord’s royal entry into Jerusalem:

- a. The first purpose of His royal entry into Jerusalem was to fulfill the prophecy of this event by prophet Zechariah [Zech. 9:9]:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your King is coming to you;

He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

- b. The second purpose of this deliberate activity by the Lord was to influence the religious leaders in Jerusalem so that they would expedite their plan to kill Jesus. Their original plan was to arrest Him after the Passover because they feared an uprising if done during the Passover festivities [Matt 26: 3-5]. When the religious leaders saw this outright celebration of the Lord’s entry into Jerusalem as a king, riding on a donkey as Solomon did [1 Kings 1: 33-34], they could not delay the scheme. “The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world [John 1: 29],” pronounced by John the Baptist, had to be slain in time for the Sabbath. So, Lord Jesus did what was needed to ensure the timing of His own crucifixion to occur on the day prior to the Sabbath day as Sabbath lambs are traditionally killed.

B. The significance of the Lord Jesus riding on an unbroken colt

- a. The owner of this colt was a believer who cooperated with the Lord’s plan for this event. The preparation had been made when the two disciples sent by the Lord went to his house [19: 32-34].
- b. The Lord’s riding on an unbroken colt symbolizes His sovereign dominion over all creation of God. Even an unbroken mule recognized the Creator and submitted to His dominion over itself. How much more should all humans, created in God’s image and likeness, submit to the sovereign lordship of Jesus Christ!
- c. The manner of people placing their clothing and tree branches on the path of the king’s mule ride was a traditional way the Jews celebrated a royal procession. Because the crowd showed the same respect and honor to Lord Jesus as they would to a king, provoked anger in the Pharisees. And they demanded that He scold His disciples for orchestrating this royal procession, which, to them, seemed utterly unfit to a lowly preacher from Galilee [9: 39].

2. *The Lord’s message of peace*

- a. The crowd shouted, “Blessed be the King that comes in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest [v. 38].” There was no peace on the earth at the time. Yet, because the Lamb of God set His face like a flint and moved forward toward His death so as to fulfill God’s plan of human salvation, there was peace in heaven. The heavenly crowd was cheering Him on. And this fact was somehow conveyed in the form of the shouting message from the lips of the Jerusalem crowd.
- b. At the protest of the Pharisees, Lord Jesus proclaimed that, if the crowd was silent, even the stones of Jerusalem would shout the same message of celebrating the King’s entry into His holy city [v. 40]. He had in mind His future coming as the King of kings and Lord of lords in the last days. On that Day of the Lord, He will come with the heaven’s honor, and there will be peace on earth because His enemies will have been vanquished, and the great winepress of God’s wrath will have been complete.
- c. At this time, however, Lord Jesus was still offering a message of peace together with His personal grief and lamentation over their depravity, thus crying;

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. [Luke 19: 42-44]

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ” [Matt 23: 37-39]

Josephus, a Jewish historian of the day, wrote of the six months long siege of Jerusalem by the Roman army led by the future emperor, Titus, followed by a slaughter of some 1.1 million Jews and the utter destruction of the temple in AD 70, all as prophesied by Lord Jesus at this time. Yet, the Lord shouted the message of peace to the people of Jerusalem at this time. When He saw their plight some four decades in the future, He wept and lamented over the coming brutality of the Roman military attack and the calamity to the people of Jerusalem.

- d. Yet, the Jewish leaders failed to hear the last message of peace from their Messiah. He then chased out the merchants in the Court of the Gentiles within the temple ground [v. 45]. This violent act of the Lord demonstrated God’s anger over the corruption of the priesthood of the time. They had made the temple as ‘a den of thieves’ [v. 46] instead of ‘the house of prayer.’ Seeking monetary profits by God’s ministers within the place of worship brought the Lord’s anger. He had declared, *“You cannot serve God and mammon together [Matt 6: 24].”*

3. Application to us

- a. Lord Jesus was diligent in taking steps to have God’s will fulfilled in His life, even to the cross of Calvary. Let us have the same diligent and courageous attitude to live out the life as children of the light.
- b. Lord Jesus preached the message of peace to the people even to the last week of his ministry. Let us be diligent in preaching God’s message of peace to those around us.
- c. Those who are in the ministry of Jesus Christ should devote their life of ministry wholly with the love for the Lord and love for the flock of God, but without any covetousness.

Discussion topics:

1. *How do we celebrate the lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives? Do we give the honor, respect, and praise that are due to Him each day?*
2. *How do we relate the historicity of the AD 70 Jerusalem destruction to the apocalyptic prophecies? Do we have a ‘wait and see’ attitude or are we actively preparing for the Day of the Lord?*

