

Pt. 4: The Last Week of the Savior's Life

The *Anderson Tours* Holy Land Scripture Series;

Understanding God, Scripture, & Self

Episode 3: The Triumphal Entry

“Knowledge of ‘the only true God, and Jesus Christ’ (John 17:3)
is the most important knowledge in the Universe...”

President Marion G. Romney of the First Presidency (“Except a Man Be Born Again,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1981, 14)

➤ Introduction:

The Sunday Sessions of the last General Conference (April 2023) landed on the celebration of Palm Sunday. Several speakers alluded to that fact and this is how Elder Rasband began his talk...

“Today, as has been said, we join with Christians around the world to honor Jesus Christ on this Palm Sunday. Nearly 2,000 years ago, Palm Sunday marked the beginning of the last week of the mortal ministry of Jesus Christ. It was the most important week in human history.”
(Elder Ronald A. Rasband, April 2023)

➤ The Triumphal Entry ([Matthew 21:1–11](#), [Luke 19:29–44](#), [Mark 11:2–7](#); [John 12:14–15](#)) Event Prophesied:

[Zechariah 9:9](#) “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”

The Event: (We chose to use the Luke account due to its geographical references)

[Luke 21:28–40](#) “**28** ¶ And when he had thus spoken, he went before, ascending up to Jerusalem. **29** And it came to pass, when he was come nigh to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount called *the mount of Olives*, he sent two of his disciples, **30** Saying, Go ye into the village over against *you*; in the which at your entering ye shall find a colt tied, whereon yet never man sat: loose him, and bring *him* *hither*. **31** And if any man ask you, Why do ye loose *him*? thus shall ye say unto him, Because the Lord hath need of him. **32** And they that were sent went their way, and found even as he had said unto them. **33** And as they were loosing the colt, the owners thereof said unto them, Why loose ye the colt? **34** And they said, The Lord hath need of him. **35** And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon. **36** And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way. **37** And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; **38** Saying, Blessed *be* the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. **39** And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. **40** And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.”

Significance:

James Talmage in his book *Jesus the Christ* provides this insight,

“He came riding on an ass, in token of peace, acclaimed by the Hosanna shouts of multitudes; not on a caparisoned steed with the panoply of combat and the accompaniment of bugle blasts and fanfare of trumpets. ... The ass has been designated in literature as ‘the ancient symbol of Jewish royalty,’ and one riding upon an ass as the type of peaceful progress” (James E. Talmage, *Jesus the Christ*, 3rd ed. [1916], 516–17).

Elder Bruce R. McConkie in his book, *Doctrinal New Testament Commentary* added,

“Only kings and conquerors received such an extraordinary token of respect as this. (2 Kings 9:13.) In every part of this triumphal entry to Jerusalem, Jesus seems not only to permit but to court the adulation and homage normally reserved for kings and great rulers” (Bruce R. McConkie, *Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 3 vols. [1966–73], 1:578).

“Amid shouts of praise and pleas for salvation and deliverance, we see the disciples strewing our Lord’s course with palm branches in token of victory and triumph. This whole dramatic scene prefigures that yet future assembly when ‘a great multitude,’ which no man can number, ‘of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues,’ shall stand ‘before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands,’ crying with a loud voice, ‘Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.’ (Rev. 7:9–10.)” (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 1:578).

“No other man ever lived to whom such inspired acclamations of adulation, reverence, and worship have been or could properly be made. Here we see great multitudes bearing testimony of our Lord’s divine Sonship. In plain language they are hailing Jesus as the Son of David, the Deliverer of Israel, their Savior and Redeemer, the promised Messiah, the Son of God. And they are doing it wittingly, deliberately using the sacred expression, Hosanna, and quoting from the Messianic prophecy which ascribes salvation and triumph to the promised Son of David.

“Hosanna means literally, save now, or save we pray, or save we beseech thee, and is taken from the Messianic prophecy which foretold that such would be the entreaty of Israel to their Messiah in the day of his coming [see Psalm 118:22–26]” (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 1:578–79).

James Talmage again in *Jesus the Christ*:

“The purpose of Christ in thus yielding Himself for the day to the desires of the people and accepting their homage with kingly grace may not be fully comprehended by us of finite mind. That the occasion was no accidental or fortuitous happening, of which He took advantage without preconceived intention, is evident. He knew beforehand what would be, and what He would do. It was no meaningless pageantry; but the actual advent of the King into His royal city, and His entry into the temple, the house of the King of kings” (*Jesus the Christ*, 517).

➤ **Hosanna Shout!?**

Part of living in the Dispensation of the Fullness of Times is to be able to be connected to previous dispensations, rites, rituals, covenants, etc. The “*Hosanna Shout*” is an example of one such practice. This event of the Savior’s Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem riding a donkey while His followers are engaging in shouting “*Hosanna*” is no small thing. It was prophesied of by Old Testament prophets and fulfilled every whit by Jesus as He made His way into the Eternal City of Jerusalem on that historic Palm Sunday. In a future day ALL creatures of our God and King will pay homage to the Creator of our Universe by singing; “Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain” (see Revelation 5:11–14).

At the dedication of the first Temple built in this Dispensation, a “Hosanna Shout” was instituted and has been utilized at other important events in the Restoration of all things (see articles below for details).

It is important to realize that today The Church of Jesus Christ here in the *Dispensation of the Fullness of Times* includes connecting every dispensation, rite, ritual, and covenant given by God to His children. It is unique and powerful. No Church that claims to be The Church of Jesus Christ should do anything less than that! His Church and Kingdom would include all of these things instituted and significant throughout time. What an incredible thing to live in the Dispensation of the Fullness of Times!

➤ **Post-Entry: Teaching & Cleansing the Temple**

Matt 21:9-13 “And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. **10** And **when he was come into Jerusalem**, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? **11** And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee. **12** ¶ **And Jesus went into the temple of God**, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, **13** And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves...”

Cleansing the Temple:

First cleansing vs. final cleansing:

When Jesus first cleansed the Temple He said, “...make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise” (John 2:16). On this occasion He declared, “My house...ye have made...a den of thieves.” (Matt 21:13) Jesus claiming to be who He is and His divine mission is what really upset the Jewish leaders and priests.

***NOTE:** The recorded teachings of Jesus during this final week of His life (see chapter summaries below). Much of it is directed to the Chief Priests and Jewish religious leaders (those who would be responsible for His death). He had some choice words and parables for them to consider during this final week. Jesus got their attention most when they declared to Him that they were the seed of Abraham and He responded by declaring, “...before Abraham was, I am” (John 8). Jesus’ mission was to declare the truth about His Father, His Father’s Plan and His role in that plan. It was too much for these misguided leaders to handle (“My sheep hear my voice”).

He also provided His true followers with some great material as well. It’s interesting to note what topics Jesus taught others during His final week of teaching/ministering:

Notable Teachings to Believers/Others: Marriage, the 1st Commandment, & His return to the Eternal City of Jerusalem (Mt of Olives Discourse - see –next week’s class material)

Summary of Teachings / Events Recorded during His final Week:

Matthew Account:

Ch. 21: Jesus rides in triumph into Jerusalem—He cleanses the temple, curses the fig tree, and discusses authority—He gives the parables of the two sons and the wicked husbandmen.

Ch. 22: Jesus gives the parable of the marriage of the king’s son—Pay tribute to Cæsar and to God—Worldly marriages endure in this life only—The first commandment is to love the Lord—Jesus asks, What think ye of Christ?

Ch. 23: Jesus pronounces woes upon the scribes and Pharisees—They will be held responsible for killing the prophets—They will not escape the damnation of hell.

Ch. 24: Jesus foretells the doom of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple—Great calamities will precede His Second Coming—He gives the parable of the fig tree.

Ch. 25: Jesus gives the parables of the ten virgins, the talents, and the sheep and the goats.

Mark Account:

Ch. 11: Jesus rides into Jerusalem amid shouts of hosanna—He curses a fig tree, drives the money changers from the temple, and confounds the scribes on the matter of authority.

Ch. 12: Jesus gives the parable of the wicked husbandmen—He speaks of paying taxes, celestial marriage, the two great commandments, the divine sonship of Christ, and the widow's mites.

Ch. 13: Jesus tells of the calamities and signs preceding the Second Coming—There will be false Christs and false prophets—He gives the parable of the fig tree.

Luke Account:

Ch. 19: He rides in triumph into Jerusalem, weeps over the city, and cleanses the temple again.

Ch. 20: The chief priests oppose Jesus—He gives the parable of the wicked husbandmen—Render unto Cæsar and God that which is theirs—Jesus teaches the law of marriage.

Ch 21: Jesus foretells the destruction of the temple and of Jerusalem—He tells of the signs to precede His Second Coming and gives the parable of the fig tree.

John Account:

Ch. 12: Mary anoints Jesus' feet—His triumphal entry into Jerusalem is recounted—He foretells His death—To receive Christ is to receive the Father.

Links to the Scriptures:

Old Testament:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/1?lang=eng>

New Testament:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/nt?lang=eng>

Book of Mormon:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm?lang=eng>

Doctrine & Covenants:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament?lang=eng>

Pearl of Great Price:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/pgp?lang=eng>

Quotes & Resources:

["Hosanna and Hallelujah—The Living Jesus Christ: The Heart of Restoration and Easter"](#)

By Elder Gerrit W. Gong, *Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, April 2020*

["Hosanna to the Most High God"](#) by Elder Ronald A. Rasband, April 2023

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[“What Is Palm Sunday and Why Does It Matter to Latter-day Saints?”](#) **Church News Article March 29, 2023**

[“The Hosannah Shout”](#) **Newsroom Article; July 25, 2022**

[“What is the Hosanna Shout?”](#) **September 1973 Q&A’s**

[The Triumphal Entry](#) – NT Teachers Manual Resource Material

President Nelson Message on Palm Sunday 2021:

On Palm Sunday 2021, President [Russell M. Nelson](#) released a video message inviting all to feel “[the peace and hope of Easter](#)” by focusing on the Savior. Amid the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Prophet testified that real peace is found in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

“I invite you to make this coming week truly holy by remembering — not just the palms that were waved to honor the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem — but by remembering the palms of His hands,” President Nelson said. He quoted the Savior’s promise in [Isaiah 49:16](#): “Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands” — a promise, President Nelson said, that Jesus Christ “will never forget you.” “After all that Jesus Christ did for you, I invite you to do something this week to follow His teachings,” he continued. “You might make your prayers more earnest. You could forgive someone or help a friend in need. You can start today on a new spiritual quest.”

President Nelson concluded with his testimony of the living Christ: “As our resurrected and atoning Savior, He stands ready to help us grow from the dramatic, unexpected events in our lives. And this Easter season, let us worship and praise Him for the peace, hope, light and truth He brings to us.”

Study the New Testament accounts of the Lord’s triumphal entry:

- [Matthew 21:1-11](#)
- [Mark 11:1-11](#)
- [Luke 19:29-44](#)
- [John 12:12-19](#)

Grow your relationship with Jesus Christ during Holy Week with [this resource on ComeUntoChrist.org](#).