**Palm Sunday April 2, 2023**

**Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord - John 12:12-19**

Jesus is due **all of our praise as King** John 12:12-15

* “On the next day”
	+ The 5th day before Passover (Sunday) – see John 12:1
* “feast”
	+ The Feast of the Passover (see Exodus 12:14)
* “coming to Jerusalem”
	+ Jesus spent much of His ministry life around the
	Sea of Galilee
	+ It was 70-80 mile walk from Galilee to Jerusalem
	+ Bethany was the location of the start,
	which is 2 miles outside of Jerusalem
* “branches of the palm trees”
	+ A symbol of worship in both OT and NT
		- 1 Kings 7:36: adorned Solomon’s Temple
		- Nehemiah 8:15: Jews reassembled in Jerusalem
		- Ezekiel 40-41: adorned the vision that Ezekiel had
		- Revelation 7:9: used by saints in heaven
	+ These instances demonstrate the consistent use of palm branches as a visible method of worship (kinesthetic learners take heart!)
* “Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King of Israel”
	+ Quoted from Psalm 118:25-26
	+ Hosanna means, “save us, please”
	+ Blessed means, “receiving God’s favor”
	+ “name of the LORD” = the one true God of Israel
* “King of Israel” is not an earthly king, but an eternal King
	+ Fulfilling God’s covenant promise to David
	2 Samuel 7:13, “I will establish the throne of his kingdom **forever**”
* “young donkey”
	+ Fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9
	+ It is an animal of peace, not war
	+ Not a declaration of establishment of Israel as a nation again, as many had hoped
	+ When Christ returns to Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives, it will be to defeat His enemies (Revelation 19)

The miracles of Jesus **authenticate His identity** John 12:16-18

* Even though Jesus was with the disciples, they could not fully see God’s purposes in this event
	+ Only after His resurrection and ascension could His followers fully grasp the significance of the worship

Despite fulfilled prophecy and unexplainable miracles, **many people persisted in unbelief of who Jesus is** John 12:19

* Not literally every person was in unbelief, but especially the more learned ones were the ones with the biggest doubts

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