**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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