

Sermon, April 1, 2012
“Thy Kingdom Come” – Daniel 2:31-44; Luke 19:29-40
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

The purpose and meaning of the triumphant entry of Jesus was so much greater than anyone could possibly imagine, salvation was indeed at hand but nothing like what ordinary people thought...

The arrival of the King ushered in a Kingdom so great that it was beyond what was expected, it was the Kingdom of God.

Before we look at the events of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem let's go back in time some 600 years to Daniel the prophet...About 600 years before, in the city of Babylon a prophet of Israel was summoned to the great King Nebuchadnezzar and asked to tell him and interpret a dream, upon penalty of death if he was wrong.

1. God had given Daniel the King's dream.

- **Daniel 2:32-35** ³² *The head of that statue was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.*
- ³⁴ *As you looked on, **a stone was cut out, not by human hands**, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and broke them in pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, **were all broken in pieces** and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the **stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.***

2. God had given Daniel the interpretation of the King's dream.

- **Daniel 2:38-40** *you are the head of gold. ³⁹ After you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over the whole earth. ⁴⁰ And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron; just as iron crushes and smashes everything, it shall crush and shatter all these.*
- **The first kingdom** was the **Babylonian Empire** at the time of Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar (head of Gold) and fell in 550BC...
- **The next was the Medo-Persian empire** (kingdom of silver) 550-330BC (220yrs)... which fell around 330BC at the hands of Alexander the Great who ushered in
- **the third kingdom** (kingdom of bronze), the 270 year **Greek empire's** greatest contribution of the time was the influence of their language which was spoken as a common language across the empire from Egypt to India up through Greece to what is modern day Austria.
- **The fourth kingdom** (kingdom of iron and clay) was the beginning of the **Roman Empire** which conquered Syria in 63BC General Pompey and controlled Israel during the time of Christ...
- Among the great contributions of the Roman Empire was infrastructure, road systems, organization of authority and ease of travel in better safety, under an already common language of Greek...PAX Romana

3. The stage was now set for the next kingdom, the kingdom of God

- **Daniel 2:44** ⁴⁴ *And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall this kingdom be left to another people. It shall crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever;*
- **God had orchestrated events in such a way that enabled the spread of His Kingdom...**
- **Galatians 4:4-5** ⁴ *But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵ so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*
- So now there is a commotion brewing around 30 AD in Jerusalem, the promised King who would bring salvation from oppression, ...oppression of the Romans.
- The king was coming...He was a celebrity, a teacher, a dignitary, to the disciples who were there cheering he was their friend, He was Messiah, He had recently raised a dead man from the grave (Lazarus), performed many miracles over the last three years...
- He was coming to free the captives from the bondage of Roman oppression...
- The expectation for Him was at **the pinnacle of what a Jew could imagine!**

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4. Jesus was preparing to enter Jerusalem...on a donkey?!

- **Luke 19:29-35** *Jesus sends His disciples to get a young donkey, for Him to ride into Jerusalem*
- A King would surely ride in on a mighty war horse, riding on a donkey was a sign of a man of peace, not war...The true understanding of the triumphant entry of the King starts with His mode of travel...a young donkey.
- **Fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9,** ⁹ *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and **endowed with salvation, Humble,** and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*
- Zechariah's prophecy saw Messiah as the Prince of Peace of **Isaiah 9:6...** ⁶ *For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*
- The host of angels gave the message to the shepherds near Bethlehem...
- **Luke 2:14** ¹⁴ *"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth **peace** among men with whom He is pleased."*

5. Yet the crowd cheered wildly, enthusiastic about their expectations of Messiah, King of Israel

- **Luke 19:36-38** ³⁶ *As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"*
- Yes there was certainly cause for cheering, demonstrating exuberant love, excitement and a euphoric atmosphere...

6. Christ was arriving in Jerusalem to bring peace, not between Rome and Jews, but between God and mankind!

- In the next few days the crowd's vision of Messiah would be dashed when they realized that this man was not coming to wage war against the Romans.
- He was not speaking of any uprising He would lead...in fact, later when He was taken prisoner and Pilate allowed for the release of a prisoner, the same crowd (enticed by the jealous religious leaders) chanted for the release of a murderer Barabas and for Jesus they cheered once again, only this time ... "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"
- They had unwittingly set the stage for the true Kingdom of God that would stand forever...
- **Isaiah 53:5-6** ⁵ *But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And **by His scourging we are healed.** ⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; **But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him***
- **Colossians 1:19-20** ¹⁹ *For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having **made peace through the blood of His cross;***
- **Romans 5:1** *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,***

Conclusion:

- **You see, there is cause for celebration, for cheering**
- **The Kingdom of God has come!**
- The whole purpose of the triumphant entry of Christ was for our salvation, to bear the penalty for our sins on the cross, to bring peace between you and God, to restore and reconcile your relationship to God.
- The real triumphant entry is the entry of Christ in your heart!
- **Romans 10:9** ⁹ *that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;*