

Fact Sheet for “What Is Palm Sunday?”

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A Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy

Matthew 21:9; Mark 11:9-10; Luke 19:38; John 12:13

ESV Psalm 118:25 Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!

“Save us” – (אֲנִי יְהוָה שִׁי'א נָא) “Hosanna!”

ESV Psalm 118:26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD.

These verses were part of the “Hallelil” (Psalm 113-118, cf. “Hallelujah” – “Praise the LORD”) sung every Passover in Jesus’ day.

This is why...

ESV Luke 19:39-40 And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

Think about verse Psalm 118:27.

ESV Psalm 118:27 The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords (boughs), up to the horns of the altar!

This is possibly the reason for the Palm branches.

ESV Mark 11:11 ¶ And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Matthew 21:5; John 12:15

ESV Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Look for a moment at the next verse.

ESV Zechariah 9:10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Jesus came as our humble savior 2,000 years ago. He will not come that way in His 2nd coming!

Why a donkey?

After the report about Adonijah...

ESV 1 Kings 1:33-34 And the king said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon. ³⁴ And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet there anoint him king over Israel. Then blow the trumpet and say, 'Long live King Solomon!'

Why Sunday?

The Passover was on Thursday evening. This was the Last Supper. This was when the Passover lambs were killed and prepared for that meal.

Now consider at this.

ESV Exodus 12:1-6

The Passover lamb was to be chosen 5 days before the Last Supper, on Palm Sunday!

Why this year? Why this day?

NLT Daniel 9:25-26 Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler - the Anointed One (מָשִׁיחַ *ma-shi'-ach* Messiah, Christ) -- comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times. ²⁶ "After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end.

The Coming Prince, Sir Robert Anderson (1841-1918)

What is Palm Sunday?

ESV John 12:16 His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.

Prophetic Fulfillment!