

Fact Sheet for "It's Beginning"

John 12:12-15

Pastor Bob Singer
04/13/2014 Palm Sunday

Read passage and pray

John 12:12-13

ESV ¹² ¶ The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"

John 12:14-15

¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ¹⁵ "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

We have arrived at the most important holiday week of the year... Passion Week. It begins with Palm Sunday and ends with Resurrection Sunday (Easter). Today commemorates Palm Sunday, a very important day in OT prophecy.

Jesus had arrived in Bethany (John 12:9-11).

Calendar

Our calendar year has roughly 365 days. We have leap years in February to keep our calendar in sync with our rotation around the sun. The Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar. Twelve months would have only 360 days. Their calendar is kept in sync with two months in the fall that can have leap days, and 5 years out of 19 that will have leap months. This is why Passover falls on different days of the week, and sometimes a month later than Passion Week. This year Passover and the week of Unleavened Bread begin tomorrow night, Monday night. Roughly 2,000 years ago the Last Supper, a Passover meal, fell on Thursday night. Jesus came into Jerusalem on the Sunday before that Passover. Why is the calendar important? There is in the story of the exodus from Israel and the first Passover a command, carefully designed by God, to point to Jesus (Exodus 12:3). As the Passover is on the 14th of the month, a Thursday Passover during Passion Week would have meant that the Passover lamb was to be chosen on Palm Sunday. Paul would write about this in 1 Corinthians 5:7. John the Baptist would comment on Jesus (John 1:29).

Hosanna!

"Hosanna" - Where did this word come from? Read Psalm 118:25-26. Psalm 113-118, the Hallel, were sung every Passover. These scriptures were known well. "Save us" in Hebrew is (הוֹשִׁיעָה נָא, ho-shi-a' na'). It's actually two words meaning "save us..."

please!" Jesus was God's plan for salvation! You will notice that what the crowd shouted was not an exact quote of these two verses. They identified Jesus as the "King of Israel" using words from the Hallel.

A Donkey

Read Mark 11:1-6. Why a donkey? See 1 Kings 1:32-34. Why a donkey on which no one has ever ridden? Jesus was not receiving the kingship of Israel from any man. There is also prophecy fulfilled (Zechariah 9:9)! Consider how Matthew introduces this quote (Matthew 21:4).

Palm Branches

Read again John 12:13. This is why today is called "Palm Sunday." See also Matthew 21:8 and an OT similarity in 2 Kings 9:13.

That Palm Sunday!

Daniel 9:24 speaks of 70 weeks (70 sevens or periods of 7 years) decreed for Israel. There would first be 7 then 62 (totaling 69).

ESV Daniel 9:26a And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

Jesus' Statement about This

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."

What's the message for us?

For the one who is considering Christ see Peter's words in Acts 2:36-38 and John 14:6.

For the Christian...

Celebrate your salvation!
Stand firm in your faith!
Live for Him!