

Fact Sheet for **“His Hour Had Come”**

Pastor Bob Singer
04/14/2019

This is Palm Sunday. It is the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. It is the beginning of “Passion Week.” The word passion is from the Latin *pa-ti*, which simply means “to endure” or “to suffer.” It was during this week that Jesus suffered for our sins, was buried, and would be resurrected the following Sunday morning. The four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) all attest to this. In fact, a third of their gospel record is about Palm Sunday forward.

But let me change to an entirely different subject for a moment... the nature of our Bible. The KJV of 2 Timothy 3:16 begins with these words... “All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God”. The word “inspiration” can literally be translated “God-breathed.” Peter would write...

ESV 2 Peter 1:21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

This inspiration of the Bible, and the Holy Spirit’s work in it, guaranteed that what was written was also recorded without error, and is incapable of teaching anything false. This has come to be known by the term “inerrancy.” In fact, Jesus himself spoke of the absolute accuracy of the biblical text in Matt. 5:18.

But the inspiration of scripture brings along with it something else that would be impossible if a bunch of people were just writing their own religious thoughts without God’s involvement... a subtle complexity.

The Bible was written over a period of roughly 1,500 years by more than 40 human authors. **If** God were not involved you would expect contradictions between their writings... but there are none. It would also be well-nigh impossible for all the bits and snippets of what they wrote to fold perfectly together into those subtle complexities. This morning I want to show you one of those subtle complexities that culminated in the events of Passion Week. I will begin with this question, “When did Jesus know that he would be crucified on this particular week?” A second question that seems reasonable **if** Jesus was only like us is, “Why would he then go to Jerusalem at this time?” Let’s begin with John 13:1, which introduces the Last Supper, the evening before he was crucified. (Stop for a moment and read that verse.) Then the next verse in John speaks of the meal being served. Here Jesus knew when the Last Supper began that his time had come.

But, let’s go back six months earlier. Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Jewish holiday of Sukkot (Tabernacles). Read Jn. 7:6, 8, 30; and 8:20. In fact, let’s go back to the very beginning of his public ministry, to the wedding at Cana where he turned the water into wine (Jn. 2:4).

Two Years Earlier (Jn. 2:19)

One and a Half Years Earlier (Matt. 12:40)

In the Previous Month

First announcement to the disciples of his death, burial, and resurrection
(Matt. 16:21; Mk. 8:31; Lk. 9:22)

Mount of Transfiguration (Lk. 9:30-31)

Second announcement to the disciples of his death, burial, and resurrection
(Matt. 17:22-23; Mk. 9:30-32; Lk. 9:43b-45)

A Response to Herod (Lk. 13:33)

Third announcement to the disciples of his death, burial, and resurrection

(Matt. 20:17-19; Mk. 10:32-34; Lk. 18:31-32)

Jesus would have known Isaiah 53 and Daniel 9. In fact, the 69th week of Daniel 9, which is followed by the Messiah being “cut-off”, ends on the exact day of Palm Sunday.

In fact, he would have known all the OT prophecies about himself. Jesus knew all along what would happen to him during Passion Week!

Jesus' arrest and crucifixion were not a surprise to him. He was planning for this all along. And this is why Jesus would say the following:

Matt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-25

Jn. 13:33; 14:28-29; 16:28; 17:4-5, 11

Matt. 26:39 (with parallels in Mk. 14 and Lk. 22)

Lk. 22:52-53 (with parallels in Matt. 26 and Mk. 14)

Jn. 19:10-11

When did Jesus know that he would be crucified on this particular week? Take a look at these verses.

ESV Philippians 2:5-8 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Obedience to the Father is one answer as to why he went to Jerusalem then. Another is to provide for our salvation. Jesus knew that he would be crucified on this particular week all along.

Jesus' passion on this particular week nearly two millennia ago did not come as a surprise to him. As he lived among us he knew it all along. Before Adam and Eve were created it was already in God's plan, and Jesus became obedient to the Father in that plan.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John did not have a conference one day before they wrote their gospels, in order to coordinate what they wrote. They just wrote what was true. And what they wrote was superintended by the Holy Spirit. Their gospels speak with one voice that Jesus knew all along what would happen during Passion Week, and that those events couldn't have happened at any other time. All the details fold perfectly together without contradiction, not only in the four gospels but also in the rest of the Bible.

This didn't happen by coincidence. It couldn't have happened if the 40+ authors of scripture were only writing their own religious thoughts and God was not superintending their writing.

Trust your Bible. It is indeed the word of God. And, particularly in this season of year, remember a thought at the core of what this week means.

ESV John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.