

Welcome the King

Rejoice we have a King

John 12:12-19

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the king of Israel!"

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵ "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;
see, your king is coming,
seated on a donkey's colt."

¹⁶ At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

¹⁷ Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

If I were a rapper

We're going to sing a rap-song together now. What I need you to do is to chant each line after me, and to cheer madly when I lift my arms into the air:

Ho-sann-a; Ho-sann-a;

Hear the people cheer (arms in the air)

Riding on a donkey

See the King appear (arms in the air)

Riding to Jerus'lem

In lowliness and love

Jesus the Messiah

Sent from heaven above (arms in the air)

(Sing the song twice)

Transition

- Who is this man that empties out the grave of Lazarus?
- Who is this man that is riding on a donkey
- Who is this man that everyone is making much of?
- Who is this man that causes the religious leaders to go into fits of rage?

I. Jesus the king of the festival

John 12:12-13

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A. Up until now Jesus has downplayed himself.

1. This has been confusing for some.
2. He has quietly performed miracles.
3. He asked those who were healed and delivered to quietly rejoice and now make a big deal of HIM.

Jesus first miracle with his mother

- After confirming to his disciples that he was indeed the Messiah, Jesus instructed them not to tell anyone. (Matthew 16:20; Mark 8:29-30; Luke 9:20-21)
- Jesus healed a leper and told him not to tell anyone that it was he who had done this. The man, however, did not comply with this request. (Mark 1:40-44; Matthew 8:1-4; Luke 5:12-15)
- Jesus told demons not to speak about him and tell others who he was. (Mark 1:34, 3:11-12)

This is a total shift in everything that Jesus has done up until now.

4. His time had not yet come

- a. In other words, God has a timing for everything and the way Jesus would be revealed to the world would be according to God's perfect timing.
- b. The timing of heaven not the timing of man.
- c. In God's divine timeline his son would be revealed for everyone to see.

B. The king of the festival.

1. What is this about?
2. What kind of festival is this?
3. Why was everyone coming into Jerusalem for this festival.

C. The festival was a reminder of where they had come from.

1. Egypt
2. Slavery
3. Toil and whips and bondage

4. No freedom
5. No hope of every having freedom
6. No hope of their sons or daughters having freedom
7. They just got used to living in bondage.
8. Bondage became a way of life
9. No hope of every getting out.

D. God heard their cries.

Exodus 3:7-10

⁷The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey...

⁹And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

- E. God sent a delivered.
- F. God sent the death angel
- G. God sent the delivering message.
 - How can we be saved from this???
- H. That is what they are celebrating.
 1. That is the festival.
 2. That is why they are gathering.
 3. They are remembering they once were slaves and have been delivered!

How about you?

Have you been delivered?

Have you been set free?

II. Jesus fulfills prophecy

John 12:14-15

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵"Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;
see, your king is coming,
seated on a donkey's colt."

John 12:16

¹⁶ At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
 Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
 See, your king comes to you,
 righteous and victorious,
 lowly and riding on a donkey,
 on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

III. Jesus has come to save**John 12:13**

They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,
 "Hosanna!"
 "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"
 "Blessed is the king of Israel!"

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowd shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!". This phrase, echoing a passage from Psalm 118, meant "Save now! Praise the one who comes in the name of the Lord," and was a way of proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah.

Here's a more detailed look:

- **"Hosanna":**
 This word, derived from Hebrew, means "Save us now" or "Please deliver us". It was a cry for salvation and a recognition of Jesus as the one who would bring it.
- **"Son of David":**
 This phrase referred to the Jewish expectation of a Messiah who would come from the line of King David.
- **"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord":**
 This quote from Psalm 118:26 was a messianic declaration, used to proclaim Jesus as the one sent by God.

The crowd's enthusiastic greeting of Jesus as the Messiah was a pivotal moment in the Gospels, marking the beginning of the events leading up to his crucifixion.

I want to give a little lesson in Greek and Hebrew, to make sure we all know what the New Testament means when it says in three different places, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" (Matthew 21:9, 15); or, "Hosanna in the highest!" (Mark 11:9, 10); or simply, "Hosanna!" (John 12:13).

A Lesson in Greek and Hebrew

You all know that the New Testament was first written in Greek, and the Old Testament was first written in Hebrew. Wherever the word "hosanna" occurs in the New Testament, do you know what the Greek word is? Right! It's "hosanna." All the English translators did was use English letters (h-o-s-a-n-n-a) to make the sound of a Greek word.

But if you look in a Greek dictionary to find what it means, you know what you find? You find that it is really not originally a Greek word after all. The men who wrote the New Testament in Greek did the same thing to a Hebrew word that our English translators did to the Greek word: they just used Greek letters to make the sound of a Hebrew phrase. I know this sounds sort of complicated. But it's really not. Our English word "hosanna" comes from a Greek word "hosanna" which comes from a Hebrew phrase *hoshiya na*.

And that Hebrew phrase is found one solitary place in the whole Old Testament, Psalm 118:25, where it means, "Save, please!" It is a cry to God for help. Like when somebody pushes you off the diving board before you can swim and you come up hollering: "Help, save me . . . *Hoshiya na!*"

A Shift in Meaning

But something happened to that phrase, *hoshiya na*. The meaning changed over the years. In the psalm it was immediately followed by the exclamation: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" The cry for help, *hoshiya na*, was answered almost before it came out of the psalmist's mouth. And over the centuries the phrase *hoshiya na* stopped being a cry for help in the ordinary language of the Jews. Instead it became a shout of hope and exultation. It used to mean, "Save, please!" But gradually, it came to mean, "Salvation! Salvation! Salvation has come!" It used to be what you would say when you fell off the diving board. But it came to be what you would say when you see the lifeguard coming to save you! It is the bubbling over of a heart that sees hope and joy and salvation on the way and can't keep it in.

So "Hosanna!" means, "Hooray for salvation! It's coming! It's here! Salvation! Salvation!"

And "Hosanna to the Son of David!" means, "The Son of David is our salvation! Hooray for the king! Salvation belongs to the king!"

And "Hosanna in the highest!" means, "Let all the angels in heaven join the song of praise. Salvation! Salvation! Let the highest heaven sing the song!"

Luke 19:39-40

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

⁴⁰ “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” (NIV)

Luke 19:39-40

³⁹ But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, “Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!”

⁴⁰ He replied, “If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!” (NLT)

John 12:17-19

¹⁷ Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”

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