

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**MATTHEW 21****Matthew 21**

Matthew twenty-one is rapid-fire story after story, and teachings of Jesus that happened in the closing weeks of Jesus' earthly life, before His agony, trial, crucifixion, burial, resurrection, and forty days later, His ascension. The chapter opens with Jesus' "Triumphal entry" into Jerusalem from the top of the Mt. of Olives, from his lodging place in Bethany, with his closest friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead. This was a fulfillment of the prophecy of the prophet Zechariah (9:9) and the prophet Isaiah (62:11).

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey."

"Indeed the LORD has proclaimed To the end of the world: "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.'"

This "Triumphal entry" into Jerusalem happened on "Palm Sunday," as it is called in the Western world. This first day would have been the week of Pesach/Passover and corresponded to Nissan/Aviv 10. If you read the books of Moses (the first five books of the Bible), you will see that Nissan 10 is the day when the lamb of the Passover would have been chosen. This lamb was to be a yearling, without spot, without blemish. The lamb was to be the best of the flock. On Nissan 10, the lamb was to be chosen and separated from the flock and brought into the house. This lamb would have become precious to the members of the household. After all, it was the

best of the best. It was the prize lamb. Passover was on Nissan 14, and on that day, the lamb would have its throat cut, bled out, and sacrificed as a substitute for the first-born son of every family. The lamb's blood was to be put on the entranceway, the door of each Israelite family. This is the way God brought about deliverance from the bondage of Egyptian slavery.

Jesus presented Himself that day to the nation of Israel and to the city of Jerusalem. He was and is the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the blood sacrifices, the Passover lamb, and the atonement for sin- all in one person, one sacrifice. Jesus was rejected that day by the national leaders of the Jewish people. Jesus returned to Bethany after visiting the Temple and a day of teaching and questioning by the religious leaders. As He made His way back up the steep Mt of Olives, He turned and wept over the city. The people shouted what is in the Scriptures detailed below. Yet within a few days, this same Jesus, whom they shouted as God walking and coming to the sacred house of worship, would be rejected and crucified within a few short days from this "Triumphal entry."

"Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord. God is the Lord, And He has given us light; Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You. Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." (Psalm 118:24-29)

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord, please help me to continue to praise You as the Messiah, King, Redeemer, and the "Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." You are worthy of all my praise, for You are good! Your mercy endures forever! Amen