

## WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY?

### INTRODUCTION

Today is traditionally known as "Palm Sunday". It commemorates Jesus riding into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey six days before Passover. It is also known as the triumphal entry. The account of the triumphal entry is one of the few incidents in the life of Jesus which appears in all four Gospel accounts. It is clear that the triumphal entry was a significant event, not only to the people of Jesus' day, but to Christians throughout history.

God has a word for us this morning about this King of Glory that entered Jerusalem that day.

### MESSAGE

#### A TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Triumphal entries were not uncommon in Jesus day. Roman Generals who had won military battles would lead a victory procession through the streets and the people would line the streets to honour them.

In Psalm 24 the Israelites also perform a triumphal entry, to welcome the King of Glory into Jerusalem:

**Psalm 24:7-10** (NLT) Open up, ancient gates! Open up, ancient doors, and let the King of glory enter. 8 Who is the King of glory? **The Lord, strong and mighty; the Lord, invincible in battle.** 9 Open up, ancient gates! Open up, ancient doors, and let the King of glory enter. 10 Who is the King of glory? **The Lord of Heaven's Armies— He is the King of glory.**

Bible commentaries tell us that this was the account of when king David brought the ark up to Jerusalem, to the place prepared for it. The intention of the Psalm was to lead the people above the pomp of external ceremonies to a holy life and faith in God, and the Ark represented His presence.

- Twice the demand is made; "Open up the gates so that the King of Glory can enter".
- Twice the answer comes: "Who is this King of Glory?"

## WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY?

**The two questions "who is this King of Glory?" get two answers:**

- The Lord, strong and mighty; the Lord, invincible in battle.
- The Lord of Heaven's Armies— He is the King of glory.

It was so necessary, the people needed God's presence, they needed His power, His protection, His victory.

In **Exodus 15** after opening the Red Sea for them to cross and drowning the Egyptian army, Miriam's song describes this king of glory in a wonderful way:

- **Exodus 15:3** (NLT) The Lord is a warrior; Yahweh is His name!
- **Exodus 15:6** (NLT) "Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power. Your right hand, O Lord, smashes the enemy. 7 In the greatness of your majesty, you overthrow those who rise against you. You unleash your blazing fury; it consumes them like straw.
- It's about to be veld burning season in SA. Think, once a veld burns, there is nothing left. Our God burns the enemy like dry veld grass!

**Who is this King of Glory? He is an awesome, triumphant, powerful, invincible God!**

The ark, with the mercy-seat, was a picture of Jesus Christ. When the ark was brought into Jerusalem, and they shouted "open the gates", it symbolized God's presence among the people there and then.

***Oh how we need God's presence in our midst. How we need to welcome the King of Glory into our temples. The temples of the Holy Spirit!***

This event was also prophetic, it held a future symbolism which was prophesied in **Zechariah 9:10** (NLT) Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey's colt.

On Palm Sunday it happened:

**Matthew 21:7-9** (NLT) They brought the donkey and the colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it. 8 Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, "Praise God for the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God in highest heaven!"

Spreading garments before a dignitary was a symbol of submission. Palm branches were employed also as token of victory. The Jewish supporters were expressing the hope that Jesus would be the one to lead them to victory over their Roman oppressors.

These people hailed Him as King with their many hosannas, recognizing Him as the Son of David who came in the name of the Lord. But when He failed in their expectations, when He refused to lead them in a massive revolt against the Roman occupiers, the crowds quickly turned on Him. Within just a few days, their hosannas would change to cries of "Crucify Him!". Those who hailed Him as a hero would soon reject and abandon Him.

## **And once again as the King of Glory rode in they asked, “who is this?”**

**Matthew 21:10-11** (NLT) The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as He entered. **“Who is this?”** they asked. 11 And the crowds replied, “It’s Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

- Sadly the crowds thought Jesus was a prophet... and a military deliverer.

But the disciples were not so ignorant:

Jesus Himself once asked this question of the disciples. It was just phrased slightly differently: **Matthew 16:15-20** (NLT) Then He asked them, **“But who do you say I am?”** 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 17 Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. 18 Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock (the fact that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the king of Glory) I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”

The New Testament answer to this question is so much more powerful: **“You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.”**

Against this truth not even the spiritual powers can stand:

- All the powers of hell will not conquer the church because the King of Glory has entered.
- This King of Glory has entered and now holds the key to the Kingdom of Heaven!
- And the same awesome power that the King of Glory has, is delegated by Him to us!
- We can now forbid things and permit things to take place!
  - “Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven”.

***What has our expectation of Jesus Christ been? Are we simply shouting hosanna because of what we think we can get from Him? What if His presence in our lives achieves a totally different result from the one we are expecting? Would we still be ready to crown Him as King of Glory in our lives? Have we possibly deserted Him because He didn’t meet our expectations?***

## **HE CAME NOT TO CONQUER MAN**

**Zechariah 9:9-10a** (NLT) Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey’s colt. 10

I will remove the battle chariots from Israel and the warhorses from Jerusalem. I will destroy all the weapons used in battle, and your king will bring peace to the nations.

The story of the triumphal entry is one of contrasts.

- It is the story of the King of Glory who came as a lowly servant on a donkey, not a prancing steed, not in royal robes, but on the clothes of the poor and humble.
- Jesus Christ comes not to conquer man by force as earthly kings do, but by love, grace, mercy, and His own sacrifice for His people.
- His is not a kingdom of armies and splendor but of lowliness and servanthood. He conquers not nations but hearts and minds.
- This King of Glory didn't come with physical power, He came with awesome spiritual power to destroy the all the weapons of the devil (no weapon formed against you will prosper, no tongue raised against you will stand).
- This King of Glory came **to bring peace**, not just to the Jews, but to ALL nations!

***Has Jesus, the King of Glory made a triumphal entry into our hearts? Does He reign there in peace and love. As His followers, do we exhibit those same qualities? Does the world see the true King living and reigning in triumph in us?***

## **WHAT DOES THIS ENTRANCE OF THE KING OF GLORY MEAN TO US HERE TODAY?**

### **1. It gives us bold entrance to Heaven**

When he had finished his work on earth he ascended in the clouds of heaven. The gates of heaven have been opened to Him, those doors that may be truly called everlasting, which had been previously been shut to us.

Our Redeemer found them shut, but, having by his blood made atonement for sin He gained authority to enter into the holy place:

**Hebrews 9:12** (NLT) With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—He entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and **secured our redemption forever**.

- When Jesus ascended to heaven, He demanded entrance, not for Himself only, but for us too.
- As the forerunner, He has entered and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
- He didn't only carry the keys of hell and death, but also those of heaven and life in His hand.
- We can now come boldly before the Father's throne of grace!

## 2. **It establishes God's Kingdom in us. We are the temples of the Living God.**

Christ's presence in us is like that of the ark in the temple; it sanctifies us. It is required that the gates and doors of our heart be opened to Him, not only as admission is given to a guest, but as possession is delivered to its rightful owner.

When He comes in, we become temples of the Most High, filled with His presence.

***Does this King of Glory, reign in our hearts today, do we welcome Him daily with hosannas? Are we willing to be the temple within whom the King of Glory dwells daily?***

### **CONCLUSION**

No doubt remains as to who this Great King is that needs to enter! The doors and gates must to be thrown open, thrown wide open, to give Him admission.

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

- He is Jehovah, our righteousness, an all-sufficient Saviour to us.
- If we give Him entrance. He is strong and mighty, and the Lord of hosts; He is Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- He gives us victory over all the power of the enemy.
- He gives us access to the very throne of God!

**Revelation 3:20** (NLT) "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

- ***Jesus was not speaking to sinners here; He was speaking to the church!***
- ***He stands at the door to our hearts today. Will we open up and allow Him a wonderful, triumphal entry?***