

TITLE: A TRIUMPHAL OR TEARFUL ENTRY?

TEXT: MATTHEW 21:1-11

INTRODUCTION: (1) VICTORIA OF ENGLAND REIGNED AS QUEEN OF ENGLAND FROM 1837 TO 1901.

* HER REIGN WAS THE LONGEST OF ANY MONARCH IN BRITISH HISTORY AND CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE VICTORIAN ERA.

** AT HER CORONATION, AT THE AGE OF 18, QUEEN VICTORIA WORE A CROWN ENCRUSTED WITH GIANT RUBIES AND SAPPHIRES SURROUNDING A 309 CARAT DIAMOND. (AND YOU HEARD ME RIGHT, A 309 CARAT DIAMOND!)

*** HER SCEPTER WAS CAPPED WITH AN EVEN LARGER DIAMOND, CUT FROM THE STAR OF AFRICA AND WEIGHED 516½ CARATS.

**** HER CORONATION MUST HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLE, THE POMP, THE SPLENDOR, THE PAGEANTRY.

(2) NOW IN OUR TEXT TODAY, WE WILL SEE ANOTHER KIND OF CORONATION, A CORONATION IN MARKED CONTRAST TO QUEEN **VICTORIA'S**.

* FOR THE KING OF KINGS COMES TO JERUSALEM. BUT AS FAR AS THE TRUE INTENT **OF THE PEOPLE WAS CONCERNED, CHRIST'S** CORONATION WAS A HOLLOW, EMPTY PRETENSE.

** THE WORDS OF THE MULTITUDE WILL BE **RIGHT, "HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID, HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST", BUT THEIR HEARTS** WERE NOT.

*** JESUS HAD NOT COME AT THAT TIME TO BE CROWNED IN CORONATION, BUT TO BE CRUCIFIED.

**** JESUS DID NOT COME TO JERUSALEM TO CONQUER ROME AS THE JEWS WANTED HIM TO AND THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD DO.

(3) JESUS CAME TO CONQUER SIN AND DEATH.

* JESUS DID NOT COME TO MAKE WAR WITH ROME BUT TO MAKE PEACE WITH GOD FOR PEOPLE.

** AND MOST LIKELY SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE LAYING DOWN THEIR GARMENTS ON THE ROAD FOR JESUS AND WAVING PALM BRANCHES AT HIS ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM, WOULD A FEW **DAYS LATER BE SHOUTING "AWAY WITH HIM, CRUCIFY HIM", WE'LL HAVE NO KING BUT CAESAR.**

*** BECAUSE OF THAT, AND BECAUSE JESUS **WILL WEEP OVER JERUSALEM, IN LUKE'S** ACCOUNT OF THIS EVENT IN LUKE 19:41, AS JESUS APPROACHES JERUSALEM, BECAUSE OF **THOSE THINGS, I'VE TITLED OUR MESSAGE TODAY, "A TRIUMPHAL OR TEARFUL ENTRY?"** QUESTION MARK.

**** FOR TRADITIONALLY, THIS CORONATION HAS BEEN CALLED **CHRIST'S** TRIUMPHAL ENTRY, WHICH TAKES PLACE ON PALM SUNDAY.

(4) AND IT WAS HIS LAST MAJOR PUBLIC APPEARANCE BEFORE HIS CRUCIFIXION, AND WAS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT EVENT IN HIS DIVINE MINISTRY ON EARTH.

* AN EVENT THAT IS FREQUENTLY DRAMATIZED BUT SELDOM STUDIED CAREFULLY OR UNDERSTOOD FOR ITS TRUE SIGNIFICANCE.

** AND BY **GOD'S GRACE, I'LL ANSWER THE** QUESTION OF MY TITLE TODAY AND COMMUNICATE A TEARFUL ENTRY TODAY. AND WITH THAT SAID, **WE'LL LOOK AT 4 POINTS** TODAY.

*** NO. 1 THE PLACE, V. 1; NO. 2 THE PROPHECY, VV. 2-7; NO. 3 THE PROCESSION, VV. 8&9; AND NO. 4 THE PERPLEXITY, VV. 10&11.

**** SO WE HAVE A LOT OF VERSES TO COVER
TODAY, SO LET'S GET RIGHT INTO THE TEXT BY
LOOKING AT OUR FIRST POINT, THE PLACE.
LOOK AT MATTHEW 21:1 PLEASE.

I. THE PLACE, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW IN MATTHEW 20:17-19, JESUS TOOK
THE 12 ASIDE AND TOLD THEM THAT HE WAS
GOING TO JERUSALEM, AND THERE HE WOULD
BE DELIVERED TO THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND
SCRIBES AND THEY WOULD CONDEMN HIM TO
DEATH.

* AND FROM THAT TIME, JESUS WAS ON THE
ROAD TO JERUSALEM SO THAT HE WOULD
FULFILL HIS FATHER'S WILL AND DIE FOR THE
SINS OF HIS PEOPLE.

** NOW HERE IN V. 1, JESUS IS NOW
APPROACHING JERUSALEM AND COMES TO
BETHPHAGE, A SMALL VILLAGE ON THE MOUNT
OF OLIVES, ON OR NEAR THE ROAD FROM
JERICHO TO JERUSALEM AND NEAR BETHANY.

(SHOW PICTURES)

*** NOW THE DISTANCE BETWEEN BETHPHAGE AND BETHANY WAS ABOUT ONE MILE, AND BETHPHAGE WAS ABOUT A MILE FROM JERUSALEM LOCATED ON THE EASTERN SLOPE OF THE MOUNT OF OLIVES.

1. NOW WITH ALL THAT IN MIND, JESUS ON THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM NATURALLY COMES TO BETHPHAGE AFTER A STOP IN BETHANY ACCORDING TO JOHN 12:1-3 WHERE JESUS HAD A MEAL WITH LAZARUS, WHOM JESUS RAISED FROM THE DEAD AND HIS TWO SISTERS, MARY AND MARTHA WERE AT THIS MEAL, MARTHA SERVING AND MARY ANOINTED HIS BODY FOR BURIAL.

* NOW JESUS WILL ULTIMATELY ENTER JERUSALEM IN V. 10 AND BE THE PASSEVER LAMB, AND BY THE WAY UP TO 2 MILLION PEOPLE WOULD BE IN JERUSALEM TO CELEBRATE THE PASSEVER AT THIS TIME OF YEAR.

** BUT ON THE WAY TO JERUSALEM HE STOPS AT BETHANY, THEN BETHPHAGE, AND FROM BETHPHAGE HE SENDS TWO OF HIS DISCIPLES, THAT ARE UNNAMED, TO DO SOMETHING THAT WILL ULTIMATELY FULFILL PROPHECY.

*** AND V. 2 TELLS US WHAT THEY ARE SENT TO **DO, WHICH TAKES US TO OUR 2'D POINT TODAY,** THE PROPHECY. LOOK AT V. 2 PLEASE.

II. THE PROPHECY, (READ V. 2)

A. NOW THE TWO DISCIPLES WERE TOLD TO GO INTO THE VILLAGE OPPOSITE THEM WHICH WAS MOST LIKELY BETHANY, ABOUT A MILE AWAY.

* NOW IN THIS VILLAGE THE TWO DISCIPLES WERE TOLD THAT WHEN THEY GOT THERE, IMMEDIATELY THEY WOULD FIND A DONKEY TIED AND HER COLT WITH HER, AND THEY WERE TO UNTIE THEM AND BRING THEM TO CHRIST.

** NOW THE TWO ANIMALS WERE OBVIOUSLY OUT OF SIGHT AND A LITTLE BIT OF DISTANCE AWAY, IT APPEARS ABOUT A MILE AWAY.

*** AND THE MOTHER DONKEY WAS BROUGHT ALONG NO DOUBT IN ORDER TO INDUCE HER OFFSPRING TO COOPERATE.

**** FOR THE YOUNG COLT WOULD NOT HAVE EASILY LEFT ITS MOTHER AND WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO HANDLE THAN DONKEYS NORMALLY ARE, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE COLT HAD NEVER BEEN RIDDEN ACCORDING TO MARK 11:2 AND LUKE 19:30.

1. NOW EITHER THIS WAS PRE-ARRANGED OR JESUS IN HIS OMNISCIENCE JUST KNEW THEY WERE THERE AND I WOULD LEAN TOWARD **CHRIST'S OMNISCIENCE.**

* FOR JESUS ALSO KNEW THE DISCIPLES WOULD BE QUESTIONED ABOUT TAKING THE ANIMALS. FOR NOTICE WHAT JESUS SAID IN V. 3.

B. READ V. 3. NOW LUKE IN HIS PARALLEL ACCOUNT OF WHAT WE ARE STUDYING SAYS **THE OWNERS DID INDEED ASK, "WHAT ARE YOU DOING UNTYING THE COLT?" IN LUKE 19:33.**

* AND THE DISCIPLES SPOKE TO THEM JUST AS JESUS HAD TOLD THEM, AND THEY GAVE THEM PERMISSION.

** **"THE LORD HAS NEED OF THEM."** THOSE WORDS WERE UTTERED AND NO PROBLEM. THE **"LORD'S" NEED WAS SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO** RELEASE THE ANIMALS.

*** NOW ALL OF THIS WILL FULFILL PROPHECY, FOR LOOK AT V. 4 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 4. NOW THESE EVENTS TOOK PLACE TO FULFILL PROPHECY. **AND IT'S INTERESTING THAT CHRIST'S LIFE AND MINISTRY WERE MARKED BY TWO OVERRIDING PURPOSES, NO. 1 TO DO HIS HEAVENLY FATHER'S WILL AND NO. 2 TO FULFILL THE O.T. PROPHECIES OF THE MESSIAH'S FIRST COMING, JOHN 4:34,** MY FOOD IS TO DO THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME AND TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WORK. QUOTE JOHN 6:38, JOHN 5:39, MATTHEW 5:17 AND LUKE 24:27.

* NOW AS WE LOOK BACK TO MATTHEW 21:4, WHAT SPECIFIC PROPHECY WOULD CHRIST FULFILL HERE? WELL, THE ANSWER IS IN V. 5, LOOK AT IT PLEASE.

D. READ V. 5. NOW THE FIRST PART OF V. 5 IS PROPHESED IN ISAIAH 62:11, WHICH SAYS: **"BEHOLD, THE LORD HAS PROCLAIMED TO THE END OF THE EARTH, SAY TO THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, LO, YOUR SALVATION COMES; BEHOLD HIS REWARD IS WITH HIM, AND HIS RECOMPENSE BEFORE HIM."**

*** NOW THE 2'D PART OF V. 5 IS PROPHESED IN ZECHARIAH 9:9 WHICH SAYS: "REJOICE GREATLY, O DAUGHTER OF ZION! SHOUT IN TRIUMPH, O DAUGHTER OF JERUSALEM! BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU; HE IS JUST AND ENDOWED WITH SALVATION, HUMBLE, AND MOUNTED ON A DONKEY, EVEN ON A **COLT, THE FOAL OF A DONKEY.**"**

**** NOW PUTTING THOSE TWO VERSES TOGETHER, THE FIRST PART OF THE PROPHECY MAKES REFERENCE TO THE "DAUGHTER OF ZION" OUT OF ISAIAH 62:11.**

***** AND THE DAUGHTER OF ZION REFERS TO THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM, WHICH WAS SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS "ZION" BECAUSE MOUNT ZION IS THE CITY'S HIGHEST AND MOST PROMINENT HILL.**

***** NOW THE 2'D PART OF THE PROPHECY IN V.**

5, FROM ZECHARIAH 9:9 IS FROM THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH, WHO 500 YEARS EARLIER HAD PREDICTED THAT THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM WOULD HAIL THE MESSIAH AS THEIR KING AS HE WAS COMING INTO THE CITY AND THAT HE WOULD BE GENTLE OR HUMBLE, AND MOUNTED ON A DONKEY, EVEN ON A COLT, THE FOAL OF A BEAST OF BURDEN.

1. NOW IT SEEMS ODD TO SOME THAT ANY KING, MUCH LESS THE KING OF KINGS SHOULD MAKE HIS ENTRY MOUNTED ON A DONKEY RATHER THAN A BEAUTIFUL WHITE STALLION OR IN A REGAL CHARIOT.

* BUT JESUS THE KING, WAS NOT THE KIND OF KING THE JEWS EXPECTED OR EVEN WANTED.

** JESUS DID NOT COME IN WEALTH BUT IN POVERTY; HE DID NOT COME IN GRANDEUR BUT IN MEEKNESS; AND HE DID NOT COME TO KNOCK OFF ROME BUT TO SAVE HIS ELECT.

*** AND THE INCARNATION WAS THE TIME OF HUMILIATION, NOT THE TIME OF GLORIFICATION. AND BECAUSE JESUS WAS A KING LIKE NO OTHER KING, HIS CORONATION WAS LIKE NO OTHER CORONATION.

*** **JESUS, THE BEARER OF SIN'S BURDEN** WOULD COME RIDING INTO JERUSALEM ON A BEAST OF BURDEN. WOW! WHAT A SAVIOR, WHAT A LORD!

2. AND GUESS WHAT? THE TWO DISCIPLES ACTUALLY DID WHAT THEIR LORD TOLD THEM TO DO, WHICH IS WHAT DISCIPLES ARE SUPPOSED **TO DO AND DIDN'T EVEN QUESTION** HIM. LOOK AT V. 6 PLEASE.

E. READ V. 6. NOW THESE TWO DISCIPLES ARE OBEDIENT. THERE IS NO ARGUING, THERE IS NO QUESTION, WHAT FOR? OR WHY DO I HAVE TO WALK TWO MILES ROUND TRIP? BUT THEY DO EXACTLY WHAT CHRIST TELLS THEM TO DO.

*** AND ISN'T THAT WHAT WE AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS ARE SUPPOSED TO DO? AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO DO EXACTLY WHAT JESUS TELLS US TO DO, WITHOUT DEBATE, ARGUMENT OR A BAD ATTITUDE.**

**** AND I REALIZE THIS IS PRETTY BASIC, YET VERY DIFFICULT FOR US AT TIMES.**

***** FOR WE THINK WE HAVE A BETTER WAY, OR WE THINK JESUS IS A COSMIC KILL-JOY TAKING AWAY EVERYTHING THAT IS FUN, OR HOW COULD HE HAVE US DO THIS OR THAT? IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, IT'S STUPID, IT'S TOO HARD, ETC.**

****** AND SERIOUSLY, DON'T YOU THINK IF BETHANY IS THE VILLAGE THE TWO DISCIPLES HAD TO GO TO, THAT THEY COULD HAVE SAID, "LORD WE WERE JUST THERE WITH LAZARUS, WHY DIDN'T YOU HAVE US GET THOSE TWO ANIMALS THEN?"**

1. "LORD, WHY DO WE HAVE TO WALK TWO MILES ROUND TRIP AND WASTE ALL THIS TIME WHEN WE CAN GET A COUPLE OF DUMB DONKEYS HERE IN BETHPHAGE?"

*** "LORD, THAT'S STUPID." AND I ASK YOU TODAY, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN BETHPHAGE AND HAD TO GO TO BETHANY? (SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING)**

**** WELL, LISTEN, DOING EXACTLY WHAT GOD TELLS US TO DO, RIGHT AWAY, WITH THE RIGHT HEART ATTITUDE IS ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS, BEST!!**

***** AND IT MAY NOT MAKE SENSE TO US, BUT BY FAITH DO IT, FOR OUR LORD NEVER GIVES US A COMMAND THAT IS NOT IMPORTANT AND THAT DOES NOT NEED TO BE OBEYED, AND WHEN WE OBEY IT, IT IS ALWAYS BEST FOR US AND LEADS TO BLESSING.**

**** OBEDIENCE LEADS TO THE BLESSING OF JOY. AND THE DISCIPLES DID WHAT JESUS TOLD **THEM TO DO, AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE** ARE SUPPOSED TO DO.

2. AND IN V. 7 THE TWO DISCIPLES BRING THE DONKEY AND COLT TO JESUS, LOOK AT V. 7 PLEASE.

F. READ V. 7. NOW BECAUSE THEY HAD NO BLANKETS TO PAD THE ANIMALS BACKS AND WERE NOT SURE WHICH ONE JESUS WOULD RIDE, THE TWO DISCIPLES LAID ON BOTH OF THE ANIMALS THEIR GARMENTS ON WHICH JESUS SAT.

* AND ACCORDING TO LUKE 19:35, JESUS CHOSE THE COLT THAT HAD NEVER BEEN RIDDEN, THE SMALLEST AND LOWLIEST OF THE TWO, AND MOUNTED IT WITH THE HELP OF THE DISCIPLES.

** AND JESUS WOULD RIDE THAT DONKEY COLT INTO JERUSALEM AND FULFILL PROPHECY, WHICH LEADS US TO OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE PROCESSION THAT WILL LEAD INTO JERUSALEM, LOOK AT V. 8 PLEASE.

III. THE PROCESSION, (READ V. 8)

A. NOW AS JESUS BEGAN TO RIDE INTO THE CITY OF JERUSALEM ON PALM SUNDAY; MOST OF THE MULTITUDES THAT WERE HEADING TO JERUSALEM FOR THE PASSOVER SPREAD THEIR GARMENTS, LIT. THEIR CLOAKS, THEIR MANTLES, THEIR TUNICS IN THE ROAD.

* AND THIS WAS SYMBOLIC OF RESPECT AND HONOR AND EVEN SUBMISSION TO A MONARCH, A KING, ROYALTY, SOMEONE VERY IMPORTANT, KIND OF LIKE ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET.

** THIS WAS DONE FOR JEHU IN II KINGS 9:13
AS HE WAS ANOINTED KING OVER ISRAEL.
II KINGS 9:13 SAYS **"THEN THEY HURRIED AND
EACH MAN TOOK HIS CLOTHES AND PLACED IT
UNDER HIM ON THE BARE STEPS, AND BLEW
THE TRUMPET, SAYING, "JEHU IS KING!"**

** AND BEYOND THAT, AS WE GO BACK TO
MATTHEW 21, OTHERS WERE CUTTING
BRANCHES FROM THE TREES AND SPREADING
THEM IN THE ROAD.

*** AND WE LEARN FROM JOHN 12:13 THAT THE
BRANCHES WERE FROM PALM TREES - GIVING
**US "PALM SUNDAY" SYMBOLIC OF SALVATION
AND JOY, A MAGNIFICENT TRIBUTE TO CHRIST.
THERE WAS EXCITEMENT AND ECSTASY.
PEOPLE WERE GETTING INTO THIS. (NOW LOOK
AT V. 9 PLEASE TO SEE WHAT THEY WERE
SAYING).**

B. READ V. 9. NOW THE LORD JESUS AT THIS TIME WAS COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY A MASS OF HUMANITY – THE MULTITUDES, SOME OF WHOM WERE GOING BEFORE HIM AND SOME WHO FOLLOWED AFTER.

*** AND THEY ARE "CRYING OUT" CONTINUALLY** AND REPEATEDLY FOR THIS VERB IN THE GREEK IS IN THE IMPERFECT TENSE MEANING CONTINUAL OR REPEATED ACTION IN THIS USAGE.

**** AND WHAT THEY ARE CRYING OUT REPEATEDLY IS, "HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID, BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF LORD; HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!"**

***** AND THE WORD HOSANNA IS A PLEA MEANING "SAVE NOW".**

****** AND THE PHRASE "SON OF DAVID" WAS A**
COMMON MESSIANIC TITLE, SO IN THIS FIRST
PHRASE THE MULTITUDES WERE CRYING OUT
REPEATEDLY, SAVE US NOW MESSIAH! SAVE US
NOW!

1. NOW SPECIFICALLY THE PEOPLE WERE
QUOTING FROM A POPULAR PRAISE FROM WHAT
WAS CALLED THE HALLEL WHICH CONSISTED OF
PSALMS 113-118.

* NOW THE HALLEL WAS CHANTED BY JEWS AT
CERTAIN JEWISH FESTIVALS AND WERE PSALMS
OF PRAISE AND BEGIN WITH HALLELUJAH OR
PRAISE THE LORD!

** NOW SPECIFICALLY THE PART OF THE HALLEL
THAT IS QUOTED IN V. 9 IS PSALM 118:25&26
WHICH SAYS: "O LORD, DO SAVE, WE BESEECH
THEE; O LORD, WE BESEECH THEE, DO SEND
PROSPERITY! BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; WE HAVE BLESSED
YOU FROM THE HOUSE OF THE LORD."

*** NOW AS WE GO BACK TO V. 9 OF OUR TEXT, THE MULTITUDE ACKNOWLEDGED WHO JESUS WAS, THE MESSIAH, THE ONE WHO WAS BLESSED, COMING ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE OF THE LORD, HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST, THE SAVIOR FROM THE MOST HIGH GOD.

**** AND YOU MIGHT BE THINKING, RAY, THIS IS WONDERFUL, JESUS IS FINALLY GETTING THE WORSHIP HE DESERVES.

2. WELL CONTEXTUALLY AND FROM OTHER **SCRIPTURE, I DON'T THINK SO.** FOR YOU SEE THE MULTITUDE ACKNOWLEDGED WHO JESUS WAS, BUT THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND OR TRULY BELIEVE WHAT THEY KNEW.

* FOR YOU SEE THEY WERE WRONG IN THEIR BELIEF ABOUT THE SORT OF DELIVERER HE WAS. THEY KNEW THAT HE WAS A KING, BUT THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF HIS KINGSHIP OR HIS KINGDOM.

** THE PEOPLE WERE GETTING EXCITED AND CAUGHT UP IN THE EMOTION OF THE THOUGHT OF BEING SAVED FROM ROME - THEIR HATED ENEMY, NOT THEIR SIN, THEIR REAL ENEMY.

*** THE PEOPLE WANTED A CONQUERING, REIGNING MESSIAH WHO WOULD COME IN GREAT MILITARY POWER TO THROW OFF THE BRUTAL YOKE OF ROME AND ESTABLISH A PHYSICAL KINGDOM AT THAT TIME.

**** **BUT THIS MESSIAH'S THRONE WOULD BE A CROSS, AND HE WAS NOT A POLITICAL SAVIOR OR DELIVERER, BUT A SPIRITUAL SAVIOR AND DELIVERER.**

3. AND THE FRENZY OF THE PROCESSION WAS, SAVE US NOW FROM ROME - KING JESUS, SAVE US FROM PHYSICAL BONDAGE, NOT SPIRITUAL BONDAGE FROM SIN.

* AND AS I SAID EARLIER, JESUS DID NOT COME TO CONQUER ROME, BUT TO CONQUER SIN AND DEATH. BUT THE PROCESSION COMING INTO JERUSALEM WAS FOR A KING, BUT NOT THE KIND OF KING JESUS WOULD BE.

** FOR THE SHOUTS WILL TURN IN A FEW DAYS FROM HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST, TO AWAY **WITH HIM, CRUCIFY HIM, WE'LL HAVE NO KING** BUT CAESAR.

*** WHICH LEADS US TO THE PERPLEXITY, OUR LAST POINT TODAY. LOOK AT V. 10 PLEASE.

IV. THE PERPLEXITY, (READ V. 10)

A. NOW MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT OF JESUS' TEARFUL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM AS WE SEE WHAT WILL EVENTUALLY HAPPEN, CLOSES WITH AN ELEMENT OF PERPLEXITY, A PUZZLING BEWILDERED END.

* FOR ON ONE HAND AS JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM THERE WAS SHOUTING AND THE CITY WAS STIRRED.

** AND THE GREEK WORD FOR STIRRED OR MOVED IS THE WORD SI-O, WHICH LIT. MEANS TO SHAKE, TO AGITATE, TO CAUSE TO TREMBLE, SHAKEN LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE AND FROM THAT WORD WE GET OUR ENGLISH WORD SEISMOGRAPH, A MACHINE THAT MEASURE VIBRATIONS IN THE EARTH.

*** AND WHAT WE HAVE IS AN EARTHQUAKE EVENT HITS JERUSALEM ON ONE HAND, 8 ON THE RICHTER SCALE, THERE IS FRENZY, EMOTION, PEOPLE ARE EXCITED, BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE IS THE QUESTION, WHO IS THIS?

**** AND THE QUESTION WHO IS THIS MOST LIKELY CAME FROM PEOPLE WHO WERE **ALREADY IN JERUSALEM, WONDERING WHAT'S GOING ON, WHO'S CAUSING THIS EARTHQUAKE?**

- AND THAT'S A LEGITIMATE QUESTION, BUT MY PERPLEXITY IS CAUSED BY THE ANSWER, LOOK AT V. 11 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 11. NOW THE RESPONSE OF THE MULTITUDE WAS, THIS IS THE PROPHET JESUS, FROM NAZARETH IN GALILEE.

*** NOW HERE'S WHAT IS PERPLEXING TO ME** CONTEXTUALLY. THIS APPEARS TO BE THE MULTITUDES FOLLOWING JESUS AND SHOUTING COMING INTO JERUSALEM, LAYING DOWN THEIR JACKETS AND WAVING PALM BRANCHES.

**** AND IF IT'S THE MULTITUDES TALKED ABOUT** IN VERSES 8&9, WHICH APPEARS TO BE THE CONTEXT, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT MOST OF THEM WERE JUST IN AN EMOTIONAL FRENZY FOR AWHILE.

***** FOR THEY HAD JUST BEEN SHOUTING, "HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID."**

****** BUT IT APPEARS THAT THEY DID NOT** COMPREHEND WHAT THEY SAID, FOR WHEN THE MASS OF EMOTIONS SUBSIDED, THEY WERE HARD PUT TO SAY WHO JESUS REALLY WAS, OTHER THAN A PROPHET WHO CAME FROM NAZARETH IN GALILEE.

1. FOR IF THIS IS THE SAME MULTITUDE, THEY NO LONGER CALLED HIM THE SON OF DAVID OR PRAISED HIM AS THE GREAT DELIVERER. HE WAS NOW NO MORE THAN A PROPHET.

* AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN THAT THE PEOPLE CALMED DOWN SOME AND WERE A LITTLE AFRAID OF THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT AT JERUSALEM WHO COULD MAKE LIFE DIFFICULT FOR THEM. AND THAT IS ONLY CONJECTURE, BUT A POSSIBILITY.

** BUT **ULTIMATELY CHRIST'S ENTRY INTO** JERUSALEM WAS A TEARFUL ENTRY, FOR WHAT WOULD HAPPEN? HOW THE PEOPLE WOULD CHANGE, HOW THEY POSSIBLY HAD ALREADY CHANGED IN V. 11, AND HOW JESUS WOULD WEEP OVER JERUSALEM ORDAINING THAT IT WOULD ULTIMATELY BE LEVELED BY TITUS SOME 40 YEARS LATER AS JUDGMENT FOR THEIR REJECTION OF THEIR MESSIAH - SO IN **OUR TEXT TODAY WE SEE CHRIST'S TEARFUL** ENTRY, NOT A TRIUMPHAL ENTRY.

AND AS I WRAP UP THINGS TODAY (1) ONE THING THAT JUMPS OUT AT ME IN OUR TEXT IS THE FICKLENESS OF PEOPLE.

* ONE DAY, PEOPLE CAN BE FOR YOU, THE NEXT DAY AGAINST YOU.

** BUT EVEN BEYOND THAT, THE FICKLENESS OF **QUOTE "RELIGION" TODAY** JUMPS OUT AT ME. **WHAT I CALL "BANDWAGON RELIGION" OR "RIDE THE WAVE RELIGION," THE HOT "IN" CHURCH.**

*** AND WHAT I MEAN BY THAT IS, MANY PEOPLE TODAY ARE OPEN TO A JESUS WHO THEY THINK WILL GIVE THEM WEALTH, HEALTH, SUCCESS, HAPPINESS, AND THE OTHER MATERIAL THINGS THEY WANT.

**** LIKE THE MULTITUDES AT THE ENTRY OF JESUS INTO JERUSALEM, THEY WILL LOUDLY ACCLAIM JESUS AS LONG AS THEY BELIEVE HE WILL SATISFY THEIR SELFISH DESIRES.

(2) HOWEVER LIKE THE SAME MULTITUDE A FEW DAYS LATER, THEY WILL REJECT AND DENOUNCE JESUS WHEN HE DOES NOT DELIVER AS EXPECTED.

* FOR WHEN HIS WORD CONFRONTS THEM WITH THEIR SIN AND THEIR NEED OF A SAVIOR, THEY CURSE HIM AND TURN AWAY.

** AND THE JEWS THOUGHT THEIR GREATEST ENEMY WAS ROME, BUT IN REALITY IT WAS THEIR SIN.

*** LIKewise, WE MAY THINK OUR GREATEST ENEMY IS POVERTY OR DISEASE OR TERRORISTS OR PEOPLE WHO HAVE HURT US, BUT OUR GREATEST ENEMY IS SIN.

**** AND SIN DECEIVES. AND YOU MAY THINK YOU ARE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS BECAUSE YOU HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED HIM OR PROFESSED HIM, BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TROUBLE COMES, AND HOW MUCH OBEDIENCE IS IN YOUR LIFE TO THE THINGS OF CHRIST.

(3) I JOHN 2:3&4 SAYS: (QUOTE THEM) ALSO QUOTE JOHN 8:12, I CORINTHIANS 6:9-11 AND I SAMUEL 15:22&23.

* NOW WITH THOSE VERSES IN MIND, I SAY IN **THE LOVE OF CHRIST, DON'T BE DECEIVED** TODAY. AND IF YOU ARE A TRUE DISCIPLE OF CHRIST, YOUR LOVE FOR HIM, LIKE THE TWO DISCIPLES WHO OBEYED HIM IN OUR TEXT, WILL BE SHOWN BY YOUR UNQUALIFIED OBEDIENCE, AT LEAST YOUR DESIRE TO OBEY.

** QUOTE JOHN 14:15 AND I JOHN 5:3 AND THEN COMMUNICATE THE TEMPERATURE OF OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST IS MEASURED BY THE THERMOMETER OF OBEDIENCE. (THEN PRAY)