

Palm Sunday
The Triumphal Entry
&
The Second Time Israel
Rejected Her Kingdom

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The first time Israel rejected the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth, with God as her King, was after God saved Israel from bondage in Egypt.

Moses led Israel out of Egypt, to Canaan. God told Moses to choose 12 men, one from each tribe to scout out the land He was going to give them. Out of the 12, only Caleb and Joshua were ready to obey God and conquer the land.

Numbers 13:25, 30-31

²⁵**And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.**

³⁰And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. **31But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.**

God had to postpone His offer of the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth and made Israel

wander in the wilderness for 40 years until all of the people aged 20 and up, who had disobeyed Him, were dead.

Numbers 32:10-13

10And the LORD'S anger was kindled the same time, and he swore, saying, **Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward**, shall see the land which I swore unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me: **Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the LORD.** And the LORD'S anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, was consumed.

When Israel was finally able to inhabit the land, God told them that if they would obey Him, He would bless them but if they did not, they would perish and not stay long in the land.

Deuteronomy 30:15-18

See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that **I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments**, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. **But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land**, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.

God told Moses that Israel would not obey Him. God told Moses that the people were not going to obey Him and would break His covenant.

Deuteronomy 31:30

For when I shall have brought them into the land which I swear unto their fathers, that

floweth with milk and honey; and they shall have eaten and filled themselves, and waxen fat; **then will they turn unto other gods, and serve them, and provoke me, and break my covenant.**

Of course, Israel did as God had told Moses, they disobeyed God. They did not prolong their days upon the land.

The second time the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth was offered to Israel was when Jesus came to earth to be Israel's King on Palm Sunday.

John the Baptist's entire ministry was to let everyone know that the promised King was on earth to set up His Kingdom.

Matthew 3:1-2

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, **Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

God had promised King David a Kingdom that would last forever, with David's son as King.

1 Kings 9:5

Then **I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever**, as I promised to David thy father, saying, **There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.**

Jesus Christ was that son of David—in the flesh—through His mother Mary. Mary's ancestor was King David's son Nathan. Of course, in the spirit, Jesus is the Son of the Almighty God! He is fully God and fully man.

John sent some of his disciples to ask Jesus if He was the King who was promised. Jesus did not answer him directly, instead He reminded John of what He was doing.

Luke 7:20-22

When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for

another? And in that same hour **he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight. Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised,** to the poor the gospel is preached.

The miracles He listed should had reminded John of those that Isaiah had prophesied about the Messiah.

Isaiah 35:4-6

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. **Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing:** for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

The people knew that the miracles that Jesus was performing were prophesied of the promised King, the son of David.

The people all knew who Jesus was by the miracles He performed.

Matthew 12:22-23

Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?

In the Old Testament, Zechariah had prophesied Jesus' triumphal entry as the King of Israel. It was not as a conquering hero, but as a humble man.

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, **thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a**

colt the foal of an ass.

So, when Jesus came into Jerusalem as King riding on a colt, the foal of an ass, the people all knew He was their promised King, and He was there to set up His Kingdom.

Matthew 21:4-9

All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Sion, **Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.** And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way. **And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.**

Did you ever wonder why this celebration—of Jesus coming into His kingdom—seemed to come to an abrupt halt in every gospel account? Luke’s account tells us why.

Instead of acknowledging Him as King, the Pharisees, the Jewish leadership, told Jesus to rebuke His disciples for celebrating Him as the rightful King of Israel. Jesus told them that what He was doing was so powerful that if His disciples did not acknowledge Him as the long-awaited King, creation itself would do it!

Luke 19:39-40

And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. And he answered and said unto them, **I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.**

After He was rejected by the Jewish leadership, instead of proceeding with setting up His Kingdom of Heaven on the Earth, Jesus went where He had a view of the city of Jerusalem and wept over it. The Jewish leaders had rejected their Messiah and the Kingdom for the second time. Jesus

prophesied that Jerusalem and the temple would, once again, be destroyed. Jesus' prophecy was fulfilled in 70 A.D. when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem.

Luke 19:41-44

And when he was come near, **he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day,** the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For **the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another;** because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

In Matthew, Jesus is recorded as placing the rejection squarely with the scribes and Pharisees. Because they were not interested in going in, they took the Kingdom of Heaven (on the earth) from the rest of Israel.

Matthew 23:13

But woe unto you, **scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Later in the same chapter, Jesus compares Israel to chicks that He, as a mother hen, would love to gather to Himself. However, He would honor their rejection and not return until they acknowledge Him as their Messiah and King and call for Him to return.

Matthew 23:37-39

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, **how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!** Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, **Ye shall not see me henceforth,** **till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

This is also found in the Old Testament. Hosea prophesied that Jesus would return to His place (at the right hand of His Father in Heaven) until the Jews repent and call on Him to return.

Hosea 5:14-15

For I will be unto Ephraim as a lion, and as a young lion to the house of Judah: I, even I, will tear and go away; I will take away, and none shall rescue him. **I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.**

God will punish Israel for seven years for disobeying His Law—just as He told them He would—when He gave the Law to Moses to give to Israel. During this tribulation, Israel as a nation, will acknowledge their offence and call on Jesus Christ to return.

Leviticus 26:18

And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

The next time Jesus comes back to set up His Kingdom (after Israel acknowledges Him as their Messiah and King and calls for Him to return) it will be as a conqueror, to do battle with Satan and all the forces of evil that followed after him.

Revelation 19:11-16

And I saw heaven opened, and **behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.** His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. **And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations:** and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

This time, as a conquering King, Jesus will be riding a horse, as a conquering warrior, not a donkey, as a humble king.

Revelation 19:17-21

And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. **And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and**

all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Christ's angels, who will be the army coming with Him, will round up the unbelievers and send them to hell.

Matthew 13:41-42

The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Paul tells us that the unbelievers will not see it coming. They will have survived the Great Tribulation and think they are safe.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. **For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them,** as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

The believers will enter the Kingdom that Christ

has prepared for them.

Matthew 25:34

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, **Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

In the Kingdom, everyone will have the Law written in their hearts and they will obey the Lord. The nation Israel will finally accept the Lord as their Savior and King and, as a nation, have their sins forgiven.

Hebrews 8:6-13

But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, **Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took**

them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.