

Riding into Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-9; Mark 1:1-11

Luke 19:29-40; John 12:12-19

Riding into Jerusalem

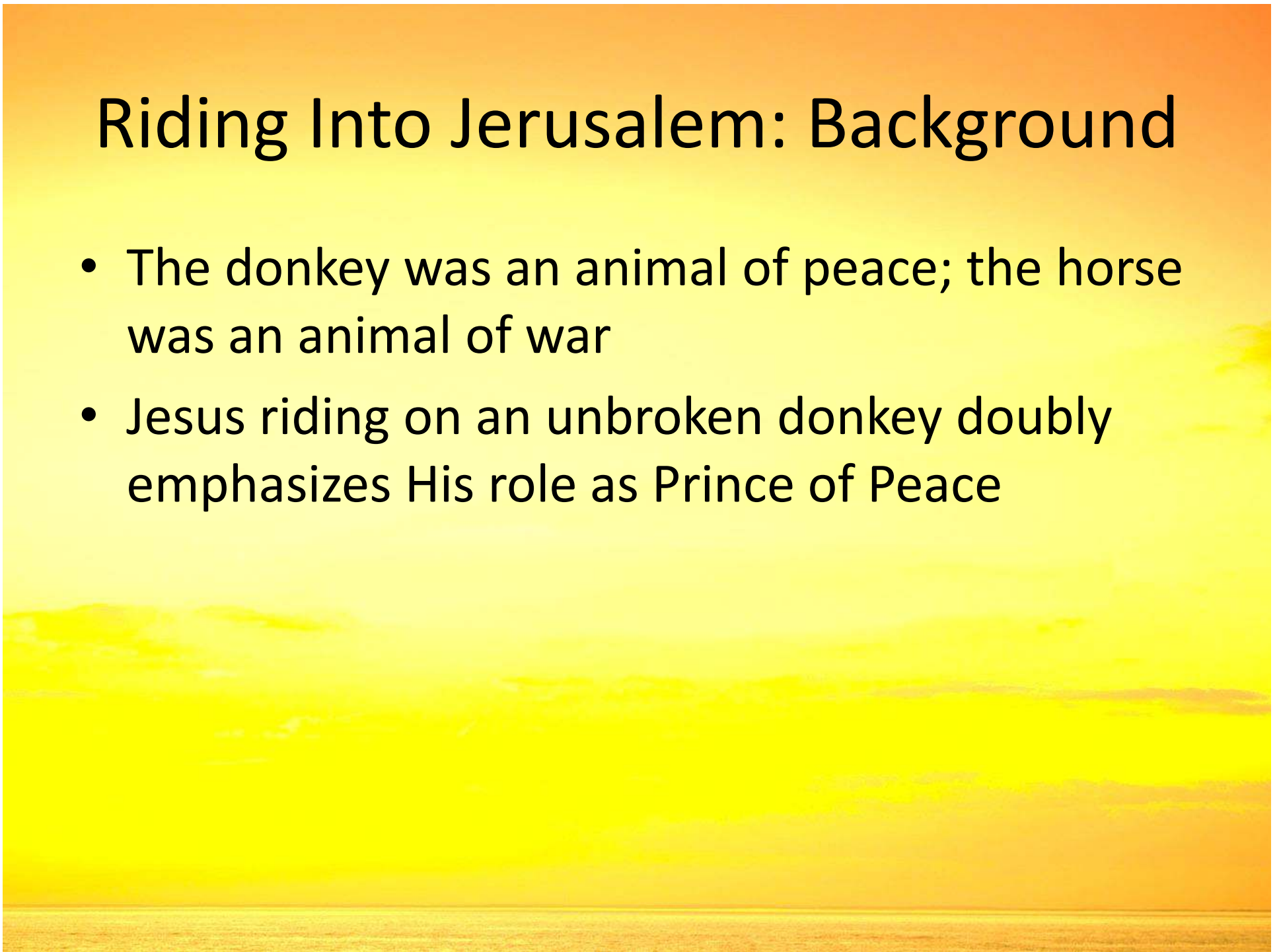
- The common folk recognized the circumstances of His entry as the coming of the King and rejoiced
 - Zech. 9:9 - “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.”
- The Sanhedrin saw what was implied and was enraged
 - Matt. 21:15 - “But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David! they were indignant”

Riding into Jerusalem

- The people sang a Psalm
 - Psalm 118:25-26 - “Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.”
- The Sanhedrin barked orders
 - Luke 19:39-40 - “And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, Teacher, rebuke Your disciples. 40 But He answered and said to them, I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.”

Riding Into Jerusalem: Background

- The donkey was an animal of peace; the horse was an animal of war
- Jesus riding on an unbroken donkey doubly emphasizes His role as Prince of Peace



Riding Into Jerusalem: Background

- In the ancient Middle East, it was customary to cover the path of someone thought worthy of highest honor
 - 2Kings 9:13 - “Then each man hastened to take his garment and put it under him on the top of the steps; and they blew trumpets, saying, Jehu is king!”
 - 1Kings 6:29 - “Then he carved all the walls of the temple all around, both the inner and outer sanctuaries, with carved figures of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers.”

Riding Into Jerusalem: Background

- Fronds of palm (Greek phoinix). In Jewish tradition, the palm is one of the four things carried for Succoth, as symbols of rejoicing
 - Lev. 23:40 - “And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.”

Riding Into Jerusalem: Background

- The palm branch became a symbol of Christian martyrs and their spiritual victory over death
 - Rev. 7:9 - “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands”

Riding Into Jerusalem: Background

- “Hosanna” - Help, I pray! Or Save us, now!
From yasha’anna or hosh’ana (Hebrew)
- In less than five days, they will be saying:
“Stauroo autos” Crucify Him!
 - Mark 15:14 - “Then Pilate said to them, Why, what evil has He done? But they cried out all the more, Crucify Him!”

Riding Into Jerusalem: Background

- “At such a time Jerusalem and the villages round about were crowded. On one occasion a census was taken of the lambs slain at the Passover Feast. The number was given as 256,000. There had to be a minimum of ten people per lamb; and if that estimate is correct it means that there must have been as many as 2,700,000 people at that Passover Feast.” *(William Barclay, Commentary on John, p. 115)*

The King Rides

- The triumphant entry was not Jesus' greatest glory
 - John 12:23-24 - “But Jesus answered them, saying, The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. 24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.”

The King Rides

- Jesus realizes the immense import of this event
 - John 12:27-28 - “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your name. Then a voice came from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.”

The King Rides

- He sees what's coming; the world does not
 - John 12:29-36
- He rode into the city in triumph; in a few days He would trudge up Mount Calvary in shame

The King Rides

- What if the Jews had accepted Jesus as King that day?
 - Rev. 13:8 - “All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

The King Rides

- He came to die to save us
 - 2Peter 3:9 - “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”
 - 1Cor. 1:18 - “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”
 - John 10:10 - “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly”

The King Returns

- **His ride**

- Riding on a colt
- He came alone
- He wore a crown of thorns
- Called King of the Jews
- Had no money for taxes
- He was mocked
- He came as a man
- He was meek and lowly
- He had nails in His hands
- He hung on a cross
- Judged in Pilate's hall
- He came as the Lamb

- **His return**

- Riding a great white horse
- Returns with saints and angels
- Will wear a Crown of crowns
- Will be King of kings
- He will own everything
- They will fear
- He will come as God
- He will come in power & glory
- He will have a rod of iron
- He will sit on a throne
- He will be Judge of the world
- He will be the Lion

The King Returns

- He entered the city to die; He will return to rescue the righteous
 - Jer. 29:11 - “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

The King Returns

- “To the multitude witnessing Jesus’ entry into the city, it must have been only a matter of time until the trumpets rang out and call to arms sounded and the Jewish nation swept to its long delayed victory over Rome and the world. Jesus approached Jerusalem with the shout of the mob hailing a conqueror in his ears -- and it must have hurt him, for they were looking in him for that very thing which he refused to be.” (*Barclay’s Commentary on John, p. 117*)

The King Returns

- He is King over a greater nation than Judah of old; He is King of kings reigning from heaven.
 - John 18:36 - “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

The King Returns

- Dan. 2:44 - “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”
- Dan. 7:14 - “Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.”

The King Returns

- One of the greatest ironies of that week is that it began with the people confessing Him as King when it began
 - John 12:13 - “Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!”

The King Returns

- And ended with them denouncing him as a criminal
 - John 19:14-16 - “Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, Behold your King! 15 But they cried out, Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him! Pilate said to them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar! 16 Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away.”

The King Returns

- Aristotle would have called this “peripeteia,” a dramatic reversal of circumstances or fortune. He would have been wrong.
- The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem followed immediately by His ignominious crucifixion was the fulfillment of God’s eternal plan, and it highlighted the desperate condition of sin in which the human race was drowning.

The King Returns

- 1Peter 1:17-23 - “And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,”