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Why Jesus? Why the Passover?

John 1:29: (NASB) *The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

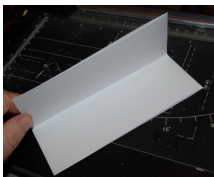
It was over 2,000 years ago that the world changed. As we look back, we can trace the events of Jesus' last week to the fulfilling of many prophecies. The events of what we now call Palm Sunday were a striking beginning to a series of circumstances that showed the value of Jesus and his sacrifice in an unmistakable and inspiring way. This is the story that we tell. Stay with us as we look at Jesus, prophecy and the Jewish Passover and their remarkable correlations.

First, a prophecy: Zechariah 9:9-12:



Observations:

- **Verse 9:** An unmistakably clear prophecy of the main event of Palm Sunday. It literally describes what was to happen.
- **Verse 10:** A microcosm of the consequence of the Messiah's rejection mixed with the broad spectacle of his all-encompassing dominion to the ends of the earth. This part of the prophecy is yet future.
- **Verse 11:** A continuation of the dominion - the resurrection from death.
- **Verse 12:** An admonition to come back to Christ, whom they were to reject, and the consequences of that rejection.



There are prophecies that talk about Israel having a long period of favor and then a long period of disfavor. Jesus himself said, "*Behold your house is left unto you desolate,*" meaning the casting off of the nation. In this sense, the word "double" doesn't mean "two," it means "folded over." In other words, for the same amount of time of favor would be a time of disfavor.

Favor: From the death of Jacob (corrected from the audio) until the rejection by Jesus in AD33 = 1845 years.

Disfavor: AD33 to 1878 when the Berlin Congress reopened Israel (Petah Tikvah) to the Jews = 1845 years.

Compare the elements of his rule to this prophecy: Isaiah 9:6-7: There are many elements

here that relate directly back to Zechariah's prophecy. We have two different prophets and two different times giving a similar message.

The events of Palm Sunday were a clear fulfillment of prophecy.

Zechariah 9:9-12	Isaiah 9:6-7
"He shall speak peace to the nations"	"Prince of Peace"
"his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth"	"of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end"
"behold your king is coming to you"	"upon the throne of David and over his kingdom"
"he is just and having salvation"	"to order and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward"

Passover - Palm Sunday - what about the timing?

Now, let's look at the connections between Palm Sunday and the Passover:



Introduction to the Feast of Passover, A Stauros Film Production

- *There was just one passover, every year thereafter was an anniversary celebration of that one passover.*

Similarly, there was one crucifixion and death of Jesus; every year we celebrate what it meant.

Exodus 12:3: The one lamb would be enough to feed the entire household. The lamb was to be completely consumed.



(Nisan 10): A compilation of [Mark 11:1-11](#), [Matthew 21:1-11](#), [Luke 19:28-44](#) and [John 12:12-19](#):

For the sake of detail and simplicity we will combine the four accounts, with [Mark 11:1-11](#) as a base. Here is the complete reading that the audio program discusses individually:

Mark 11:1-3: (NRSV) ¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' **Matthew 21:4-5:** ⁴*This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.* **John 12:16:** *His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.* **Mark 11:4:** They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, **Luke 19:33:** *its owners asked them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?"* **Mark 11:6:** They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. **Matthew 21:6-7:** ⁶*The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.* **Luke 19:37:** *As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives,* **Mark 11:8:** Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields...(among them was) the whole multitude of the disciples, **John 12:17-18:** ¹⁷*the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead. ¹⁸It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him.* **Luke 19:37:** *...(they) began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"* **Matthew 21:9:** *Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!* **Mark 11:9-10:** ⁹Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!" **Luke 19:39-44:** ³⁹*Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop."* ⁴⁰*He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."* ⁴¹*As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴²saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."* **Matthew 21:10-11:** ¹⁰*When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."* **John 12:19:** *The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"*

We will now break this down into sections:

Mark 11:1-3: (NRSV) ¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' **Matthew 21:4-5:** ⁴*This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.* **John 12:16:** *His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.*

We see that Jesus *did* understand the prophecies. He knew he was there to fulfill those prophecies. However, circumstances surrounded the events that Jesus could not possibly have engineered. His whole life was devoted to doing the Father's will. He instructs his disciples to get the animals in order to prepare for this victorious ride into Jerusalem.



FIRST CONNECTION: THE TIMING - PASSOVER PREPARATION AND JESUS' PREPARATION

John 12:1-8: The dramatic raising of Lazarus probably occurred a few weeks before this account. Jesus was at the home of Lazarus the day before entering Jerusalem when anointed by Mary to prepare for his death. John 12:9-13



Observations:

- Lazarus was a spectacle to the public;
- Feeling threatened, the chief priests and Pharisees were waiting for Jesus, and now Lazarus as well;
- Word traveled through the multitudes and they also waited for Jesus;
- Jesus entered Jerusalem and the hearts of the people on the 10th of Nisan. (The exact same day the Jews of the Passover were to bring in a lamb to their households, the sacrifice that would release them from slavery.)

How were Jesus and the lamb similar?

Mark 11:4: *They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, Luke 19:33: its owners asked them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" Mark 11:6: They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Matthew 21:6-7: The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.*

SECOND CONNECTION: THE LAMB ENTERS THE HOUSE AND JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

Exodus 12:3 Zechariah 9:9 Lamb taken in on Nisan 10 - Jesus received as a King on Nisan 10
Exodus 12:5-6 Revelation 5:6: There is an unmistakable correlation between the lamb and Jesus. He was obedient and submissive.

Luke 19:37: *As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, Mark 11:8: Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields...(among them was) the whole multitude of the disciples, John 12:17-18: the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him.*

They were treating Jesus as royalty. This is another example of something he couldn't have possibly orchestrated, "forcing" the prophecy to come true by making some 300,000 people to follow him.

Who was saved by the blood of the Passover Lamb?

THIRD CONNECTION: THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE LAMB AS THE SAVIOR OF ALL OF THE FIRSTBORN

Exodus 12:5-6,12: Everyone in the family benefitted, but only the firstborn were on trial. The firstborn played a special role in God's plan. Exodus 13:1-2: In Israel, the firstborn were set apart for God. Genesis 22:16-18: We have two distinct but connected elements - the firstborn in the Passover being saved AND all nations, not just the firstborn. Galatians 3:29 Hebrews 12:22-23: Through the deliverance of the firstborn in the Passover came the deliverance from slavery of all of their families. If you are part of the "church of the firstborn," we should be able to see the connection between how the Passover worked and how Jesus was the Passover lamb. 1 Corinthians 5:7: If we are part of the church of the firstborn, then our Passover is Jesus. He has been sacrificed for us.

Luke 19:37: *...(they) began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Matthew 21:9: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven! Mark 11:9-10: "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!"*



Why were the people shouting "Hosanna!"?

FOURTH CONNECTION: THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND THE SAVING POWER OF THE REDEEMER

Exodus 12:7,13 Leviticus 17:11: The only salvation available as a deliverance from slavery for Israel and as a deliverance from certain death for the first born was the blood of the lamb. This blood was to cover them completely, as symbolized in the striking of it on the two door posts and the lintel. If we are truly seeking Christ as the "firstborn" class, it is necessary to LIVE under the blood. 1 Peter 1:18-19: The firstborn, on trial, were delivered from death. Here the Apostle Peter is telling us that we are delivered with the precious blood of Jesus, the ransom power. Justice required death for Adam. The blood of Jesus as the lamb accomplished the deliverance of this firstborn class. All attention was now to be on the Lamb of God, Jesus. Hebrews 10:19-22 What about the crowd shouting "Hosanna"? What does that mean? When we look at the use of the Hebrew words, in every instance the thought is not only "oh save" but "Save Us Now!"

The crowd was proclaiming that Jesus was the son of David, a prophet and healer, and they were immediately looking for deliverance.

Luke 19:39-44: ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out." ⁴¹As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴²saying, If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.

What was the cost of deliverance?

FIFTH CONNECTION: THE MANNER OF THE SACRIFICE - TOTALLY CONSUMED BY FIRE/TRIAL

Exodus 12:8,10: One of the agonies of crucifixion is dehydration, just like the lamb in the Exodus could not be boiled. Hebrews 5:7-9: Loud cries and tears + Reverent submission + Learned obedience = The source of our eternal salvation. Jesus had to sacrifice himself day by day. Luke 9:23

SIXTH CONNECTION: THE MANNER OF THE SACRIFICE - NO BONES COULD BE BROKEN

Numbers 9:12 John 19:32-33: This is another fulfillment of the Passover, signifying the sacrifice of Jesus. Isaiah 53:3-5

Matthew 21:10-11: ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, Who is this? ¹¹The crowds were saying, This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee. John 12:19: The Pharisees then said to one another, You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!

Jesus, as the Passover Lamb, delivers the firstborn. Through that original deliverance, all of Israel was able to come out of bondage. Through the deliverance of the true church, all of the world will come out of the bondage of sin and death. That is the picture of the Passover.

The Passover Lamb vs. Jesus as the Lamb



Lamb taken in on Nisan 10	Jesus received as a King on Nisan 10
Lamb slain on Nisan 14	Jesus slain on Nisan 14
Lamb slain late afternoon "at even"	Jesus died at 3pm "the 9 th hour"

Why Jesus? Why the Passover?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!