

Discussion Questions Set #1

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” (Zechariah 9:9)

“The LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two” (Zechariah 14:3-4)

“After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.” (Luke 19:28 - 30)

1. Discuss what expectations the two Messianic prophecies above might have developed in regards to the identity and function of the Messiah for the people of Israel.
2. How well does Jesus meet these expectations? Does He meet them in unexpected ways?
3. In the ancient world, a leader rode on a horse if he was coming in war and upon a donkey if he came in peace. Why is it important that rather than coming like a wrecking ball intent on military domination, Jesus came in peace?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.” (Luke 19:41-42)

Interestingly, Jesus took a specific route to Jerusalem. We are told that the Triumphal Entry took place as Jesus approached Jerusalem via “**Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives**”. Both of these villages lie on a road leading to Jerusalem and a very specific entrance into the city – the Sheep Gate, through which all temple sacrifices entered into the city. He also entered Jerusalem four days prior to Passover on a day when sacrificial lambs were selected. It is not too far a stretch to imagine Jesus – the Good Shepherd and our Passover lamb – entering Jerusalem through the Sheep Gate as specially selected lambs for the Passover sacrifice were herded through alongside Him.

1. Why might it be significant that Jesus entered Jerusalem on “lamb selection” day through the Sheep Gate? What does this suggest to us about His mission and the dwell/depart dynamic discussed last week? What might it suggest about how Jesus saw Himself?
2. Why do you think those celebrating the arrival of Jesus to Jerusalem might have missed on the significance of the date and location of His entrance into the city? Why do you think they might have missed the heavy symbolism involved?
3. How might pre-conceived expectations alter our ability to “see” spiritual realities? How might this function in our world today?
4. Why might it be significant to recognize that Jesus entered Jerusalem weeping rather than ranting and raving against Roman injustice?

Discussion Questions Set #3

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb” ... Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb ...” (Revelation 7: 9-10,13-14)

1. Compare this crowd of palm waving people from Revelation to the crowds who welcomed Jesus on Palm Sunday. How are they similar? How are they different?