

### Verses 12-13 Palm Branches

- Palm branches were used in the Feast of Booth or otherwise known as the Feast of Tabernacles. The Feast of Booths was one of the three annual feasts that the Jewish men would come to Jerusalem to celebrate. They would live in booths/tents for 7 days to remember the time when they lived in tents on their wilderness journey as God dwelled with them with His presence being manifest in the tabernacle. One item that was used to compose the tents/booths in the Old Testament on the wilderness journey and also in making the booths used to commemorate the Feast of Booths was palm branches (Lev 23:40). Palm branches are also mentioned in Revelation 7:9-10 in Heaven as we are finally dwelling with God in His tabernacle forever (Revelation 21:1-4). As Jesus comes into Jerusalem the palm branches are pointing to God dwelling with the people as the eternal God took on flesh and dwelt (eskenosen-tabernacled) among us (John 1:14).
- There is also another reason that palm branches are being waved as Jesus comes into Jerusalem which has its roots in the intertestamental period (the time between the Old and New Testament).
- The Syrians led by Antiochus Epiphanes captured Jerusalem in 167 B.C. They desecrated the temple as they erected a status of Zeus and sacrificed a swine on the altar of the temple. There was a revolt using guerilla warfare started by a priest named Mattathias and continued by his son Judas Maccabeus to reclaim the temple and restore proper worship and religious freedom from the Syrians. In 164 B.C the temple was reclaimed and rededicated, which is called the Feast of Dedication (John 10:22). Religious freedom was gained, but complete political and military freedom from the oppressors in all the Jewish areas was sought after. After the death of Judas Maccabeus, his brother Simon continued the battle for this independence until in 142 B.C a complete military victory was won from the hand of the Syrians. Simon Maccabeus was considered a hero with high rank and notoriety among the people.
- To celebrate this political and military victory from the enemy, the Jewish people had a parade and celebration for Simon Maccabeus. In this procession, he was greeted with music and waving of palm branches. The palm branches become a sign of military victory from their oppressors.
- In a revolt against the Romans who were oppressing the Jews in the decade of A.D 60, the Jews made their own coins which had palm branches on them. This was to declare their revolt against them and as they were planning to mount an attack on the Romans and conquer them militarily which is what the palm branches represented and symbolized.
- When Jesus comes into Jerusalem, they are waving the palm branches as they think and want Jesus to be the long-awaited King and Messiah who will lead the military revolt against the Romans and gain back their independence. They have seen His power (most recently raising Lazarus from the dead) and they want Him to be their King not because of who He really is and His true message, but due to selfish reasons which include military victory. They may remember Simon Maccabeus and his military victory which was celebrated by palm branches and were expected a repeat occurrence and outcome with Jesus and the Romans. We see in John 6:15 after His miracle of feeding the multitude they tried to take Him to be their King by force.

### Hosanna

- The shout of Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord is from Psalm 118:25-26. These verses would be well known the Jews as this was a part of the Hallel (Psalm 113-118) which was sung by the choir each day at the Feast of Booths/Tabernacles.
- The word Hosanna means “save us now” or “please save,” “save please.” Did they want true salvation or to be saved from the Romans?
- He is the King of Israel and not only Israel, but He is the King of Kings!
- When they saw that Jesus was not who they thought He would be or who they wanted Him to be, their shouts went from Hosanna to crucify! Are we the same way? Do we get angry or upset when God doesn't meet OUR expectations? God forbid!

### **Verses 14-15**

- Jesus finds a young donkey and sat upon it to fulfill **Zechariah 9:9**.
  - **Zechariah 9:9** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout *in triumph*, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is <sup>[a]</sup>just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the <sup>[b]</sup>foal of a donkey.
  - When conquering kings arrived, they were seated and riding on a steed which represented power, war, and conquering. Jesus rides on a donkey to display He comes in peace now and speaks to His humility (**Phil 2:5-8**).
  - When He returns on the Last Day as He will ride on a white horse (**Revelation 19:16**) as a conquering King

### **Verse 16**

- This is editorial note by John as this written after these events took place.
- The disciples did not understand what was happening here, but after Jesus was resurrected, they reflected on this event and remembered the things that were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him as to fulfill the prophecy in **Zechariah 9:9**.

**Verses 17-18** The story and witness of Jesus raising Lazarus was spreading throughout the region and many people were coming to and following Jesus as a result. Not only was Lazarus telling his story and testifying of Jesus, but so were some who had witnessed the miracle as an eyewitness. This was the worst fear of the religious people including the Pharisees. As mentioned earlier in **John 12:10-11**, because of the witness and testimony of Lazarus many were believing in Jesus, so they wanted to kill Lazarus.

### **Verse 19**

- The Pharisees express frustration as their efforts to stop Jesus and hinder people from following Him are not working as effectively as they had planned. Their anger and frustration is noted as they claim the whole world has gone after Him.
- The Greek word used here for world is Kosmos. The word Kosmos is used over 10 times in the gospel according to John and has different meaning as determined by the context. This context does not mean every single person, but rather a large group.

**Going to the temple:** The other gospels record that after His triumphal entry, He goes to the temple. In Ezekiel, the glory of God departed the temple east over the Mount of Olives (**Ezekiel 10,11:23**). Now Jesus who is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature comes from the Mount of Olives to the temple as the glory has returned in Jesus who is the King of Glory!

Jesus has ministered for over three years, but His time to enter Jerusalem in triumphal entry has arrived as His hour is drawing near and His gaze is fixed on the cross. In the incarnation, the eternal God humbled Himself, took on flesh, and entered His creation. His birth was of humble means, as He was born in a manger. We see this humility again as the eternal Logos rides in on a lowly donkey, as He enters Jerusalem. He will die on Passover in just a few short days. The Passover Lamb in the Old Testament was to be inspected for a set number of days to ensure the Lamb was without blemish and worthy to be sacrificed. Jesus the true Passover Lamb, as He rides into Jerusalem is beginning the Passover Lamb inspection. He will be inspected for several days, and Pilate will make the judgment that Jesus is worthy to be slain as He is unblemished, without sin and guilt. Hosanna, "save us now" is the shout as the King enters Jerusalem in His final days with His destination in view being the cross. The people wanted to be saved from the Romans, but that was not His mission. His mission was to save His elect as He, the Passover Lamb, will be slain to redeem them. The next time He arrives, He is not coming on a donkey in humility, but as a conquering King and on His robe and on His thigh, He has a name written "King of Kings, and Lord of Lords."

