

## **The Significance of Palm Sunday**

**Matthew 21:8-9 NKJV**

**<sup>8</sup> And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread *them* on the road.**

**<sup>9</sup> Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!”**

### **Summary Statement**

Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and was crucified approximately 5 days later—about 120+ hours—demonstrating divine precision as the Passover Lamb who came not just to be praised, but to be sacrificed. We are using **Gregorian dating**, not the original **Hebrew dates (Nisan 10–14)**. The **10th of Nisan (Palm Sunday)** was not just a date—it was a divine appointment. While Israel was choosing lambs for sacrifice, God was presenting the Lamb who would take away sin forever. Because the Hebrew calendar is **lunar-based**, the **10th of Nisan moves each year** on our modern calendar (March–April range). Yes—**today we use what is best described as a Greco-Roman–derived calendar**, specifically the **Gregorian calendar**.

### **1. What Calendar Do We Use Today?**

The modern world operates on the:

- Gregorian Calendar

This is the **global civil calendar** used for:

- Dates
- Government
- Commerce
- Church scheduling (in most traditions)

The calendar we use has **Roman structure** with later refinements:

#### **Roman Foundation**

- Julius Caesar introduced the **Julian calendar (45 BC)**
- Established:
  - 12 months
  - 365-day year
  - Leap year system

#### **Month names still reflect Rome:**

- January (Janus)
- March (Mars)
- July (Julius Caesar)
- August (Augustus Caesar)

### **What Happened on That Day (Old Testament)?**

On the **10th of Nisan**:

- Each household **chose a lamb**
- The lamb was brought **into the home**
- It began a **4-day period of observation/examination**
- It would be sacrificed on the **14th of Nisan (Passover)**

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Palm Sunday marks the **Triumphal Entry of the Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem**, the beginning of Passion Week—the final, climactic movement toward the cross. “Palm Sunday is not the crowd recognizing Jesus—it is Jesus revealing Himself as King according to God’s eternal plan.” Palm Sunday is not a spontaneous moment of public enthusiasm—it is a deliberate, sovereign act of divine orchestration. Jesus is not caught in the momentum of the crowd. He is directing the moment according to prophetic fulfillment. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

**‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!’”**

**This moment is profoundly theological:**

### **1. The Fulfillment of Prophecy**

**Zechariah 9:9 (NKJV)**

**The Coming King**

**<sup>9</sup> 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.**

**Matthew 21:4–5 (NKJV)**

**<sup>4</sup> All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:**

**<sup>5</sup> “Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”**

This is not coincidence—it is **calculated fulfillment**:

- The **animal** (a colt)
- The **manner** (lowly, not militant)
- The **timing** (Passover week)
- The **public declaration**

Every detail announces: **“This is the One God promised.”**

Jesus is not reacting to events—He is **fulfilling divine prophecy with precision**. **Palm Sunday declares that Christ is the promised Messiah.**

### **2. The Revelation of the King**

Unlike earthly kings who arrive in power and conquest, Jesus enters:

- Not on a war horse, but a **donkey** (symbol of peace)
- Not with armies, but with **disciples and common people**

This reveals:

- His kingdom is **spiritual before it is political**
- His rule is **redemptive before it is reigning**

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Jesus *arranges* the colt (Luke 19:30–31)

Jesus *accepts* public worship (Luke 19:38–40)

Jesus *weeps* over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41)

He is not a passive figure—He is:

- **Intentionally revealing Himself**
- **Openly declaring His kingship**
- **Advancing toward the cross on divine schedule**

### **John 12:23 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

Palm Sunday is not reaction—it is **revelation**.

### **3. The Paradox of Praise and Rejection**

The same crowd that cries “*Hosanna!*” (Save now!) will soon cry “*Crucify Him!*”

#### **The Tension**

They were **right in identity**...but **wrong in expectation**.

#### **They expected:**

- Political deliverance
- National restoration
- Immediate triumph

#### **But Jesus came to bring:**

- Spiritual salvation
- Redemption from sin
- Victory through the cross

Palm Sunday exposes the **fickleness of superficial faith**:

- They wanted a **deliverer from Rome**
- But rejected a **Redeemer from sin**
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#### **Modern-Day Introduction**

Palm Sunday confronts us with a penetrating question:

**Do we want Jesus for who He is—or for what we think He should do?**

#### **In modern culture:**

- Many celebrate Jesus as a **helper**, but not as **Lord**
- Many want **blessing without surrender**
- Many wave “palm branches” on Sunday but resist Him on Monday

Palm Sunday is not just a historical event—it is a **mirror of the human heart today**.

### **1. Jesus for What I Want Him to Do**

This approach says:

- “Fix my situation”
- “Bless my plans”

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- “Remove my discomfort”

It is **consumer-driven faith**.

### **John 6:26 (NKJV)**

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

This is the Palm Sunday crowd:

- Celebrating when expectations are met
- Disappearing when the cost becomes clear

## **2. Jesus for Who He Is**

This approach says:

- “You are Lord”
- “Your will, not mine”
- “I follow—even when I don’t understand”

It is **Lordship-driven faith**.

### **Luke 5:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!”

This is true discipleship:

- Rooted in **reverence**
- Marked by **repentance**
- Sustained by **obedience**

## **The Heart of the Issue**

The difference is not small—it is eternal:

- One treats Jesus as **useful**
- The other submits to Him as **sovereign**
- One crowns Him temporarily
- The other follows Him permanently

## **The Impact of Palm Sunday on the Lives of Christians**

### **1. It Calls Us to Recognize Jesus as King**

#### **John 12:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> Took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: “Hosanna!

‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’

**The King of Israel!”**

**Impact:**

- Christianity is not merely belief—it is **submission to a King**
- Our lives must reflect **obedience, not admiration alone**

#### **Modern Example:**

A believer stops treating faith as optional and begins ordering:

- Their time
  - Their finances
  - Their decisions
- under the authority of Christ.

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### **2. It Exposes Superficial Faith**

The crowd praised loudly—but many lacked true commitment.

#### **Luke 6:46 (NKJV)**

<sup>46</sup>“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

#### **Impact:**

- Palm Sunday challenges **emotional Christianity without transformation**
- It forces self-examination:
  - Do I follow Christ when it is costly?

#### **Modern Example:**

A person who once followed Christ casually begins to pursue:

- Repentance
- Holiness
- Biblical obedience

### **3. It Reveals the Nature of Christ’s Kingdom**

Jesus did not come first to conquer Rome—but to conquer **sin and death**.

#### **John 18:36 (NKJV)**

<sup>36</sup>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.”

#### **Impact:**

- Christians recalibrate expectations:
  - Not “comfort now,” but **glory through suffering**
- We understand that victory often comes through:
  - Sacrifice
  - Humility
  - Faithfulness

#### **Modern Example:**

A believer facing hardship does not abandon faith but **leans deeper into Christ**, knowing His kingdom transcends circumstances.

### **4. It Prepares Us for the Cross**

Palm Sunday cannot be separated from Good Friday.

#### **Philippians 2:8–9 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name.

#### **Impact:**

- We understand that **true victory comes through surrender**
- We follow a Savior who:
  - Entered in humility
  - Conquered through sacrifice

### **5. It Invites Personal Response**

Palm Sunday forces a decision: Will you crown Him—or crucify Him in your life? There is no neutral ground.

## **The Significance of Palm Sunday**

### **Invitation to Repent and Receive Christ**

Palm Sunday is not merely about what the crowd did—it is about what **you will do with Jesus Christ**. The same King who entered Jerusalem now stands before your heart.

#### **Romans 10:9 (NKJV)**

**<sup>9</sup> That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**

### **A Call to Respond:**

- Have you truly acknowledged Jesus as **Lord**, not just Savior?
- Have you repented of sin and surrendered your life to Him?
- Are you following Him—or just admiring Him from a distance?

### **Closing Exhortation**

Palm Sunday is not the end of the story—it is the **beginning of the greatest act of redemption in history**. Do not be like the crowd that praised Him temporarily. Be among those who **follow Him faithfully**. **Hosanna—“Save now!”—is still the cry today. And the King still saves.**

### **Invitation Prayer:**

“Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned and lived according to my own will. Today, I recognize You as King. I turn from my sin and place my faith in You alone. Be my Lord, my Savior, and my King. Rule over my life from this day forward.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.”