

Time Audit Chronicles: The Triumphal Entry

(Mark 11:1-11)

Prologue: The King Who Comes in Humility

The Presswood family was gathered in the cozy living room, reflecting on the events of the day. Ariel had just finished reading Mark 11:1-11, the story of Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, and was full of questions about the significance of this moment. Alice, with Mr. Fluffernutter in hand, was playfully reenacting the scene, having her stuffed animals wave palm branches and shout "Hosanna!"

"Daddy," Ariel asked, "Why did Jesus enter Jerusalem like that—on a donkey, with people cheering for Him as a king? Wasn't He the King of kings, the Son of God? Why did He come in such a humble way?"

Ryan smiled, knowing that this would be a great teaching moment. "That's an excellent question, Ariel. Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey was a deliberate act, and it fulfilled an ancient prophecy. While He was indeed the King of kings, He chose to enter the city in humility, showing that His kingdom was not about earthly power or glory, but about peace, love, and reconciliation. Jesus was revealing that His kingship was not what people expected. It wasn't about military might or political revolution—it was about bringing God's kingdom through service, humility, and sacrifice."

Ariel nodded slowly, trying to wrap her mind around this. "So, Jesus was showing that He was the King, but His kingdom was different from what everyone expected?"

"That's exactly right," Ryan said. "Let's use the Time Audit Machine to go back to the moment when Jesus enters Jerusalem. We can see how He fulfills prophecy and how He comes as a humble King."

The Journey Begins: The Mount of Olives and the Two Disciples

The Time Audit Machine hummed, and with a flash of light, the family found themselves standing on the road leading from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem. The sun was high, and the air was filled with the sounds of a large crowd gathering for the upcoming Passover festival. People were lined up along the road, and there was a sense of excitement in the air.

"This is the road," Ryan said, pointing ahead. "This is where Jesus told His disciples to go to find the donkey for His entry into the city."

Ariel looked around, noticing the crowd's energy. "The city of Jerusalem must have been packed with people—everyone was coming to celebrate Passover."

"Yes," Ryan said. "And it was on this very road that Jesus would reveal to the people that He was the Messiah—the promised King—though in a way they didn't expect."

Jesus' Instructions: The Donkey and the Colt *(Mark 11:1-3)*

Jesus sent two of His disciples ahead into a nearby village to fetch a donkey and her colt, telling them:

“Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat; loose him, and bring him. And if any man say unto you, Why do ye this? say ye that the Lord hath need of him; and straightway he will send him hither.” (Mark 11:2-3)

Ariel looked at her father. “Why did Jesus ask for a colt, a young donkey? Why not a horse, or something grander?”

Ryan smiled. “Great question! In the ancient world, kings usually rode horses when they were going to war, but they rode donkeys when they came in peace. By choosing a donkey, Jesus was signaling that His kingdom was one of peace, not of military conquest. It was a sign of humility—Jesus was the King, but His kingship was not about power and violence. It was about bringing peace between God and humanity.”

The Fulfillment of Prophecy: Jesus as the Humble King *(Mark 11:4-7)*

When the disciples returned with the donkey and colt, they placed their cloaks on the animals, and Jesus sat on them. The crowd began to gather around Him, recognizing Him as the Messiah, the promised King. Mark's gospel tells us:

“And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him; and He sat upon him.” (Mark 11:7)

Ariel watched closely. “Jesus didn't just ride in on any animal—He rode on a colt, just like the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 said.”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “This was a direct fulfillment of the prophecy from Zechariah, which said: ‘Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass’ (Zechariah 9:9). By fulfilling this prophecy, Jesus was showing the people that He was the promised Messiah—the King who had come to bring salvation. But He was also coming in a way they didn't expect—a humble King, coming in peace, not to conquer through force, but to save through sacrifice.”

Ariel looked thoughtful. “So, the crowds were cheering because they saw that Jesus was the fulfillment of the prophecy, but they didn't understand that He was coming to bring peace, not to overthrow the Romans.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Many of the people were hoping for a political leader, a king who would free them from Roman rule. They didn't realize that Jesus had come to free them from something far more significant: their sin.”

The Crowds' Response: "Hosanna! Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord" (Mark 11:8-10)

As Jesus rode into the city, the crowds spread their cloaks on the road and began to shout:

"Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord: Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest." (Mark 11:9-10)

Ariel was struck by the crowd's words. "They were shouting 'Hosanna!' and calling Him the King who would come in the name of the Lord. It sounds like they were welcoming a king, but in a way, they were missing the deeper purpose of His coming."

"Yes," Ryan said. "The word 'Hosanna' means 'Save now,' and the people were praising Jesus because they believed He was the one who would restore Israel's glory. They saw Him as a political Savior, someone who would overthrow the Romans. But Jesus' mission was far greater—He was coming to bring salvation, not just to Israel, but to the world. And He was coming to bring peace, not through war, but through His sacrificial death on the cross."

The Significance of the Triumphal Entry: A King of Peace (Mark 11:11)

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, He went to the temple, looked around, and then, because it was late, He returned to Bethany with the twelve disciples. Mark's gospel says:

"And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when He had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, He went out unto Bethany with the twelve." (Mark 11:11)

Ariel reflected on the scene. "Jesus entered as a King, but there was no big celebration, no military parade. He didn't take the throne—He went to the temple and then left. It's almost like He was quietly asserting His authority, not in the way the people expected."

"That's right," Ryan said. "Jesus came as the King of peace, but His kingdom was not going to be established in the way people thought. His true mission wasn't to sit on an earthly throne—it was to make peace between God and mankind through His death on the cross. The crowds didn't understand that yet. But Jesus' humble entry into Jerusalem was a powerful declaration that the true King had come, and His kingdom would be built through love and sacrifice, not through force and conquest."

Reflection: The Humility of Jesus, the King

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, and the family sat in quiet reflection. Ariel flipped through her notes, while Alice was still pretending to be part of the crowd, waving palm branches and cheering for King Jesus.

“Jesus entered Jerusalem as the King of peace,” Ariel said thoughtfully. “But He did it in such a humble way. He didn’t seek power or military glory—He sought to bring salvation to the world through His sacrifice.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus showed us that true greatness and power in God’s kingdom come through humility and selflessness, not through dominance and force. He could have entered as a king on a grand horse, but He chose the humble donkey to show us the kind of king He is—the King who serves, loves, and sacrifices for His people.”

Ariel smiled. “Jesus’ kingdom isn’t about ruling with power—it’s about bringing peace and salvation to everyone.”

Alice looked up from her play. “Jesus is the King who came to save us all!”

“Yes, Alice,” Ryan said, smiling. “He is indeed the King who saves, and He came to bring peace to our hearts, not through power, but through love.”

Takeaway: The King Who Comes in Humility

In Mark 11:1-11, Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem fulfills prophecy and reveals His true nature as the King of peace. While the crowds welcomed Him with praise, thinking He would overthrow their enemies, Jesus came to bring a far greater victory—victory over sin and death. By choosing to enter on a donkey, He showed that His kingship was one of humility, not earthly power. Jesus came to offer peace, not through military conquest, but through His sacrificial death on the cross. His kingdom is not of this world—it is a kingdom of love, grace, and eternal life for all who follow Him.