

“The Lamb of God”

The Passover Lamb & Palm Sunday

Passover:

Read: Exodus 12:1-14 & 24-27

What was the Passover to commemorate?

Death Angel Passed Over

God bringing them out of Egypt – Deliverance!

(They had been in enslaved 400 years – **Gen. 15:13**)

What day did they select the lamb?

What day did they kill the lamb?

Set the stage for Jesus coming:

Brief History of The Jews and their life in the **Promised Land (Canaan)**

God brought them into the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua

They lived in that land until the **Assyrians** led the 10 tribes of the north into captivity in (**C.722 BC**)

Then in (**C.586 BC**) **Jerusalem fell** into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar and most of the rest of the people were carried off to Babylon

God promised a messiah – one who would deliver the people and be their King

Read: Zechariah 9:9 - Sometime before Ezra and Nehemiah

In the time of **Ezra (C.458 BC)** a some of the Jews were allowed to return to rebuild the temple

In the time of **Nehemiah C.445 BC**) some more returned and began to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem

The **Persians** ruled over Israel **until** about **330 BC**

The **Greeks** ruled over Israel **until** about **63 BC**

The **Romans** ruled over Israel through the **time of Jesus and beyond**

During this time, those who ruled over them, often tried to rid them of their worship of God

During this period, the Jews were hoping their Messiah would come and deliver them

In Jewish tradition they expected the Messiah to come during the Passover

Jewish historian Josephus, even recorded a few instances of a Jew rising to power and trying to lead a revolt against the Romans – All of which were stopped by the Romans

There was a tradition among the Rabbis that they would keep the temple doors open during the time of the Passover – Just in case this would be the year the Messiah would come

The palm branch was a symbol of different things during that time – One of which: **Freedom**

The last time the Jews were free for a short time was during the time of the Maccabees
During that time the Jews had a coin that had a symbol of a palm branch on it

The palm branch also symbolized victory

Show picture of Roman Coin

So the palm branch could mean **freedom** or **victory** among other things

To wave it at a celebration could mean to the Romans that there was going to be a revolt

The word **Hosanna** meant: **Oh Save!** Or **Save Now!**

Before we read the account of Jesus coming down the Mount of Olives and into Jerusalem, let's talk about some of the events:

When (what day) did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey?

When did He celebrate the Passover with his disciples?

When was He crucified?

Read: Luke 19:28-44 (try to visualize the scene in your mind)

John 12:13 tells us that the crowd took **palm branches** and shouted "**Hosanna!**"

Here's the scene: the people are rejoicing and shouting joyfully:

*"Hosanna! – Blessed is the **king** who comes in the name of the Lord!"*

As you visualize this in your mind, what do you see?

Do you notice what Jesus is doing?

Do you see any connection to the Passover? (John 1:29 – "Behold the Lamb of God")

Why do you think Jesus wept?

What is the lesson for us today?

He did come to bring peace, not from the Romans by military victory, but by dying on a cross so we could have peace with God!

We were enemies of God before Jesus saved us!

The Jews had their own idea of how the Messiah would come and how He would act

We often have our own ideas of how God should act and what He should do and how He should come again

But we need to look to Him with our eyes wide open and see what He is doing (not what we think He should be doing) and get on board with that!

Let's make sure we don't grieve Him because we don't recognize what He is doing

Closing Prayer