

THE EXCITED CROWD

TWO THINGS WE WILL LEARN...

1. Crowds are notorious for leading people astray. Watch out!

"The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there." - Acts 19:32

2. If we truly love Jesus, we know what we believe and we stand with Him no matter what the crowd does.

THE SETTING

"The next day..." — This is the day after the anointing by Mary.

The fulfillment of the "69 sevens" of Daniel 9 —

- 483 years since the decree by Cyrus (445 BC)

The crowd was huge ("great crowd"). Scholars estimate the crowd at perhaps up to 1 million people. According to the Gospels, there were actually two crowds that converged.

"The crowds that went ahead of Him and those that followed shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!'" . . . - Matthew 21:9

"The Feast" — it is the seven-day holiday called Unleavened Bread with the major day being Passover.

Jesus is now changing His strategy. He had withdrawn from Jerusalem and been hidden in the desert. Now, He initiates the confrontation so that Scriptures will be fulfilled.

THE SHOUTING

Everything seems connected to Psalm 118, which is a Psalm to a victorious king and a Psalm of praise.

Psalm 118 items of interest:

- It is the middle chapter of the Bible.
- 594 chapters before and after it. A total of 1188.
- Middle verse of the Bible is Psalm 118:8.

Palm branches are a sign of strength and celebration.

"The LORD is God, and He has made His light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar." - Psalm 118:27

"Hosanna" — means "save us now!"

"O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success." - Psalm 118:25

They were not speaking of spiritual, but of political salvation.

"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" — This is a direct quote from Psalm 118 and also shows that the people believed that Jesus was from God and going to the Temple.

"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you." - Psalm 118:26

"Blessed is the King of Israel" — Not a quote, but a summary of the entire Psalm.

*"Then Nathanael declared, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the **King of Israel**.'" - John 1:49*

*"Let this Christ, this **King of Israel**, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with Him also heaped insults on Him."* - Mark 15:32

THE SIGN

The young donkey was a fulfillment of Scripture.

*"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and **riding on a donkey**, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."* - Zechariah 9:9

Riding a donkey is a symbol of humility.

Someday, Jesus will ride a horse as a conqueror.

"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice He judges and makes war." - Revelation 18:11

The crowd missed the point of this event, as have generations of Christians since. *(Look at the prophecy!)*

The disciples only understood the significance of this event after Jesus was resurrected.

"After He was raised from the dead, His disciples recalled what He had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken." - John 2:22

THE RESPONSE

1. One crowd had come with Jesus. They seem to be genuine followers and tell others.
2. The second crowd was probably larger and was filled with "thrill-seekers" and people with many agendas.
3. The third crowd consisted of religious leaders who could not accept the Messiah because He didn't fulfill "their agenda."

YOUR THOUGHTS?

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