



## The Arrival of the King

*By Ken Terry on December 21, 2022*

### **READING:** Matthew 21

In Matthew we read about some kingly lessons and kingly deeds. Today we will be discussing the authority ascribed to our King, Jesus. The passage begins with prophecy coming to fruition; *"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'"* (Matthew 21:5 NKJV).

The people are at a heightened sense of euphoria! They understand fully what scripture states about the King coming in on a foal, from a beast of burden. The people are taking off their coats and laying them in the streets (an ancient act of homage) and screaming "Hosanna" (save now). *"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!'"* (Matthew 21:9 NKJV)

This is the scene in Jerusalem on that very faithful day. But it was not long before Jesus was tested by the people. He went into the temple and was appalled by the commercialization of money changers and flimflam artists. Jesus responded to these opportunists, *"And He said to them, 'It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves'"* (Matthew 21:13 NKJV).

Think for a moment about the concept of a "den of thieves." Robbers commit sins and then lie low until the heat from authorities dies down. Like robbers, there are many people who call on the name of the Lord and do all kinds of evil during the course of the week and then go to worship services on Sunday. Worship and prayer are secondary concepts behind phony facades. Let us make certain we do not fall into this falsehood. Let us be like the people of Jesus' day screaming "Hosanna! Hosanna!" Let us make way for the King in our lives and then worship and praise Him! Let His House of Prayer be just that, a House where love, care and spiritual healing take place among God's people.

**PRAYER:** Our Father in the heavens, Jehovah God, we thank You for our time with You in Your Word today. Father, we thank You for our limited understanding and ask that You continue to help us better understand the manner in which we love, serve, worship and praise You. We ask this in Christ Jesus' name, amen.

### **TOMORROW'S READING:** Matthew 22

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