

"Palm Sunday"

Last Chance for Jerusalem"

I. God gave the date the Messiah would appear to Jerusalem.

Daniel 9:25 "So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; ..."

A. **Background:** The decree would be given by a Persian King, Artaxerxes Longimanus, issued on March 5, 444 b.c. On that occasion Artaxerxes granted the Jews permission to rebuild Jerusalem's city walls (**Nehemiah. 2:3-8**). This decree is the one referred to in Daniel 9:25.

B. Date of the messiah's appearance at His temple:

1. From the issuing of the decree of Artaxerxes in March 5, 444 b.c. to the coming of the Messiah to His temple would be to March 30, a.d. 33. This is the Day we refer to as Palm Sunday. (173,880 days)

C. **Application:** The Lord has said that for His second coming there will be no dates, "for no one knows the day nor the hour". What can we expect?

1. Keep your eyes on the signs of the end times. (**Matt 24:6-14**)
2. Distract-proof yourself through prayer (**Luke 21:36**)

II. God gave the sign by which Israel would recognize their Messiah.

A. He would be mounted on a donkey's colt.

Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

1. Not even the disciples understood at first - **Jn 12:16**
2. God prefers to show that He is just, that He is merciful, that

He values the humble.

3. During that last week of Jesus' days He found one person who sought His mercy and salvation... the thief on the cross.

B. Application:

1. God's messenger must be just, merciful, and humble.
2. When we need counsel and direction, it often sends us to someone who is just, merciful, and humble. Heed these people's help and their words.

III. God gave the place where the Messiah would come to.

A. Jesus would come to His temple.

Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the **Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple**; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the Lord of hosts."

1. The messenger is John the Baptist.
2. The Lord whom they seek is Jesus Messiah. - **Mark 11:11**
3. Jesus was the messenger of the new covenant.

B. Jesus' second coming will have three characteristics:

1. He will come like a thief in the night.
2. He will come in the air. - **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**
3. Every Eye will see Him. **Matthew 24:27**

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