

## **JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM**

based on events early in the week of Christ's Passion  
a dramatic reading with three voices

A THE VISION OF THE PROPHETS REGARDING JERUSALEM

ABC Hear the uproar from the city!  
Hear the noise from the temple!

A The LORD declares,  
ABC "Shout and be glad, O Daughter of Zion  
C For I am coming, and I will live among you  
A Many nations will be joined with the LORD on that day  
and will become my people.  
ABC Be still before the LORD, all peoples  
B because the LORD has roused himself from his holy dwelling"

A On that day  
B ten men from all languages and nations  
will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say  
C "Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you"

A On that day  
C a fountain of living water  
will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
to cleanse them from sin and impurity  
to remove the sin of this land in a single day  
B And God will pour out a spirit of grace and supplication

A On that day  
B HOLY TO THE LORD  
will be inscribed on the bells of the horses  
C Every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the LORD Almighty

A On that day  
B there will no longer be merchants in the house of the LORD Almighty

A On that day  
C all foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him  
to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him  
B all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it  
and who hold fast to my covenant

A these I will bring to my holy mountain  
to Jerusalem and give them joy in my house of prayer  
C Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar  
A for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations  
B A house of prayer for all nations.  
ABC On that day  
all peoples will come and bow down before the LORD

A JESUS SETS HIS FACE TOWARDS JERUSALEM

B As the days drew near for him to be taken up  
Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem  
C And he sent messengers on ahead  
who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him  
but the people there did not welcome him  
because his face was set toward Jerusalem  
When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked  
B "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?"  
C But Jesus turned and rebuked them  
and they went to another village LUKE 9.51-56

B As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said  
C "If you had only known on this day what would bring you peace  
but now it is hidden from your eyes  
A Reform your ways and your actions, and you will remain to live in this place  
Do not trust in deceptive words and say  
BC "This is the temple of the LORD  
the temple of the LORD  
the temple of the LORD!"

A If you really change your ways and your actions  
and deal with each other justly  
in your hearts not thinking evil of each other  
B if you do not oppress the alien, the fatherless or the widow  
and do not shed innocent blood in this place  
A and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm  
C then you will live in this place  
in the land given your forefathers for ever and ever  
A But it is plain  
you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless

A THE ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

ABC Hear the uproar from the city!  
Hear the noise from the temple!

B When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover  
the ancient festival  
that celebrated the people's liberation from imperial slavery  
Jesus and his followers went up to Jerusalem

A As they came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives  
Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them

C "Go to the village ahead of you  
and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there  
which no one has ever ridden  
Untie it and bring it here"

B They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it  
and he sat on it  
Many people spread their cloaks on the road  
while others spread branches they had cut in the fields

C When he came near the place  
where the road goes down the Mount of Olives  
the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices  
for all the miracles they had seen  
including the raising of Lazarus

ABC "Hosanna!"

C "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

B "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"

ABC "Hosanna in the highest!"

B This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Zechariah

A "Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!  
Watch, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation  
gentle and riding on a colt

C He will proclaim peace to the nations  
His rule will extend from sea to sea  
and from the River to the ends of the earth"

B Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus

AC "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

B Jesus replied

- C "I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out"
- B Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple  
He looked around at everything
- A In the court of the Gentiles  
Jesus found men selling cattle, sheep and doves  
and others sitting at tables exchanging money
- C For I endure scorn for your sake, and shame covers my face  
I am a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons
- B But it was already late, and so he went out to Bethany with the Twelve
- C Zeal for your house consumes me  
and the insults of those who insult you fall on me  
Those who sit at the gate mock me  
and I am the song of drunkards.
- A THE PROPHET DISRUPTS THE TEMPLE
- ABC Hear the uproar from the city!  
Hear the noise from the temple!
- A When Jesus returned to Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked  
BC "Who is this?"  
A The crowds answered  
BC "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee"
- B May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me  
O Lord, the LORD Almighty  
May those who seek you not be put to shame because of me  
O God of Israel
- A Jesus returned to the temple courts, where he had found the merchants  
Then he made a whip out of cords  
and drove out from the temple area  
all who were buying and selling there  
as well as the sheep and cattle
- C He scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables  
To those who sold doves he said

B "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!  
It is written, 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'  
but you are making it a 'den of robbers'  
a cave for thugs  
a place of refuge to which you return  
from your thievery and your violence"

C And his disciples remembered that it is written  
"Zeal for your house will consume me"

A And he would not allow anyone  
to carry merchandise through the temple courts

B Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck  
I sink in the miry depths, where there is no foothold  
I am worn out calling for help  
my throat is parched  
My eyes fail, looking for my God

A JESUS TEACHING AND HEALING IN THE TEMPLE

C While he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast  
Jesus was teaching every day at the temple  
The blind and the lame came to him, and he healed them  
Many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing  
and believed in his name

A But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law  
saw the wonderful things he did  
and the children shouting in the temple area

BC "Hosanna to the Son of David," [echo effect]

A they were indignant

C "Do you hear what these children are saying?"

A Jesus replied

B "Yes, have you never read  
'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise'?  
The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified  
I tell you the truth  
unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies  
it remains only a single seed

C But if it dies, it produces many seeds  
Those who love their life will lose it  
while those who hate their life in this world  
will keep it for eternal life  
Whoever serves me must follow me

B Now my heart is troubled"  
A Do not hide your face from your servant  
You know how I am scorned, disgraced and shamed  
all my enemies are before you  
B "But what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'?  
No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour  
Father, glorify your name!"

A I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving  
C The poor will see and be glad  
Those who seek God, may their hearts live!

A The LORD hears the needy and does not despise his captive people  
Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and all that move in them  
for God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah  
C "Now is the time for judgment on this world  
now the prince of this world will be driven out  
B But when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself"

A The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this  
and began looking for a way to kill him  
for they feared him  
because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching  
and hung on his every word  
C And when evening came  
he left them and went out of the city to Bethany  
B where he spent the night

Presentation time: 11 minutes

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