

## UNDERSTANDING THE "ONE STORY" OF SCRIPTURE

Week 9 – Lamb Selection Day

March 24, 2026

Zech. 9:9 - *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

“NOW” was the time! It lined up with Exodus 12! It had to! Throughout Scripture Jesus spoke of not revealing Himself during certain events as it wasn’t “His time.” NOW it was His time! His time re: WHAT? To lay down His life as a sacrifice!

John 10:17-18 – *...I lay down My life that I may take it again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.*

God orchestrated the feasts...the timing of the feasts...and the fulfillment of the feasts. **And so**, Jerusalem was crowded with Jewish people. WHY? In Deut. 16:16 we read that God told all Jewish men in the known world to appear before Him in Jerusalem three times each year: at the Feast of Passover/Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles.

Josephus, a Jewish historian, a citizen of Rome, recorded that 256,500 lambs were needed to feed the 2.5 million Jewish people in Jerusalem for Passover; **256,500** lambs were selected on this day – the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan – when THE Lamb of God entered!

Exodus 12:1-5 - at the first Passover in Egypt, God commanded the Jewish people to take a lamb into each home on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the first month. The lamb was inspected for 4 days; if it met the criteria...no blemishes...it was slain on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month/the first day of Passover. In the years following the first Passover in Egypt, the Israelites selected the lamb for their families on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the first month which was called “**Lamb Selection Day**.” All the lambs selected needed to be scrutinized to ensure that they were without blemish (Dt. 15:21 – could NOT be lame, blind, no serious defects). If the lamb was without blemish, it was slain on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan – the day of Passover! Jesus’ triumphal entry was preparation for Passover week and for Jesus’ death and resurrection!

THE MESSIAH HAD COME. Many Jewish people believed in Him and followed Him. But, the NATION of Israel as a whole did not acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus was rejected by many of the Jewish religious leadership...but not all. Joseph of Arimathea was a disciple of Jesus (Matt. 27:57); Nicodemus appears to have become a believer as he assisted Joseph w/ the burial of Jesus.

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan—on Lamb Selection Day! Jesus rode into His family, to be scrutinized by them for 4 days. AND, they found Him to be **blameless/without blemish**: Herod, Pilate: Matt. 27:24b – *I have found no fault in this Man...neither did Herod.*; the Sanhedrin: Matt. 26:59-60 - *Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death. But they found none;* the thief on the cross: Lk. 23:40-42 - *this Man has done nothing wrong...Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom*; Judas: Matt. 27:4 - *I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.* **And so**, Jesus, **being found blameless**, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, at 9 a.m. in the morning, as the unblemished animal Passover lambs were being brought into the Temple to be slain, our perfect Passover Lamb Jesus was nailed to a wooden cross! At 3 p.m., as the last animal Passover lamb was killed in the Temple, Jesus cried out on the cross, “It is finished” - and He gave up His spirit.

On that Lamb Selection Day – 4 days prior to Passover – Jesus rode into Jerusalem **on the day that the Jewish families were selecting what they hoped would be a spotless lamb – ready for sacrifice in the Temple on Passover!!!!** **GOD HAD ALREADY SELECTED-FROM ETERNITY PAST - THE PERFECT PASSOVER LAMB!!!**

Rev. 13:8 – Jesus is *the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

How did the people respond to Jesus at His arrival on this day? The people met Him with palm branches (Matt. 21:8; Mk 11:8; John 12:12). Palm branches were gathered at the Feast of Tabernacles/Sukkot – “to tabernacle” means to dwell. The Feast of Tabernacles is the last feast that God gave Israel (the 7<sup>th</sup> feast of the Lord) which looks forward to the Millennial Kingdom – the MESSIANIC Kingdom – WHEN GOD WILL DWELL WITH MAN – when the Messiah will reign from the throne of DAVID in Jerusalem (Ex. 25:8; Lev. 23:40). Spreading their garments on the street was an ancient act of homage reserved for high royalty (II Kings 9:13).

Jesus rode into Jerusalem...being hailed as the King of Israel by the masses. But the nation had not received Jesus’ offer of the Kingdom of God with Jesus as their King. Jesus rode into Jerusalem to be scrutinized. As He is the Lamb of God (Jn 1:29), He would be sacrificed!

On this Lamb Selection Day, Jesus linked Himself historically and geographically to a particular event and place in Israel’s past that would resonate with the people.

In II Sam. 7:16 we read that God made a promise to King David about a king from his lineage Who would occupy the throne. This King would be the Messiah. Jews in Jesus’ day were longing for the Messiah. They were desirous of the restoration of the physical, earthly kingdom. That’s why the disciples asked Jesus before He ascended into heaven, Acts 1:6 - *Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?*

Let’s go back to 975 BC – approx. four years before King Solomon took the throne (971 BC)...when KING DAVID was on the throne...when he was rejected by Israel and driven into exile by his own son, Absalom. (Read II Sam. 15 to II Sam. 16:1-2) Absalom plotted and enticed David’s most trusted adviser, Ahithophel, to join him and together they led a rebellion against the King. David had no choice but to leave Jerusalem with his followers. They ascended the Mount of Olives and began their exile across the Jordan River – “beyond the Jordan.” An ally of David’s met them “a little past the top of the mountain” (Mt. of Olives) with saddled donkeys for David’s household to ride to the place of exile.

David’s escape from Jerusalem into the wilderness most likely took him to Jericho. The ancient road from Jerusalem to Jericho is a narrow, treacherous path along a deep gorge in the Judean wilderness named Wadi Kelt which is known as “The Valley of the Shadow.”

Here we see in this account of the rejection of King David by his son, that Israel was torn by civil war. Eventually, however, the rebels were defeated, and Absalom was killed in battle. God kept His promise to David. David returned to reign on his throne in Jerusalem. Solomon followed as King. When the Kingdom of Judah was carried into exile, there was no heir of King David. There was no throne in Israel. The Jewish people cried out for the Messianic age – for the Messiah! This is the setting for Jesus’ triumphal entry!

Fast forward to a spring day in 29 AD (some say 30 AD). The people continued to yearn for the Messiah. It was 1,000 years since Solomon had been crowned King. It was nearly Passover, which speaks to God's deliverance. And for Jesus, the time had come!

It was the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan – “Lamb Selection Day” in Israel. Jesus not only chose the day to enter Jerusalem, He also chose the route to Jerusalem: King David's path of retreat up the Mt. of Olives and over the Jordan River – “beyond the Jordan” – BUT IN REVERSE! Jesus and his followers including the disciples, began their journey to Jerusalem from “beyond the Jordan” – east of the Jordan River! Jesus had been ministering in Galilee. In Matt. 19:1 we're told that when Jesus departed from Galilee, He traveled with His disciples to the region beyond the Jordan. Look at the map at the end of your handout. CONSIDER – Jesus could've traveled due south from Galilee to Jerusalem – a straight line. BUT He took a “left” and crossed the Jordan River to get “beyond the Jordan” – only to recross the Jordan River on His way to Jerusalem. Jesus orchestrated His route to communicate that – THE MESSIAH HAD COME – the One Promised from the lineage of King David!

On His way to Jerusalem, Jesus passed through Jericho. In Mark 10:46 we read that a gathering throng joined Jesus near Jericho (as they began the 3,750-foot ascent to Jerusalem – along a steep escarpment). He was coming! Word got out. There were cries of, “Jesus, SON OF DAVID (Mark 10:47) – a title for the Messiah!

Luke 19:11 - tells us that when they were nearing Jerusalem, the people thought that the Kingdom of God would appear immediately. Jesus shared a parable with a kingdom theme re: a nobleman (Luke 19:12ff). who went into a “far country” to receive a Kingdom and tells them that this nobleman would RETURN...having received the Kingdom.

Matt. 21:1-2 - *Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, (SE slope) at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me.* Jesus sent two of His disciples ahead to unloose TWO donkeys - a donkey and its colt - for His final entrance. Jesus didn't need the donkeys for transportation. The two donkeys were a prop! David had received two donkeys (II. Sam. 16:1-2) at the Mount of Olives as he was going into exile – on the SE slope of the Mt. of Olives! Jesus' followers were exuberant – lining the roadway with their cloaks and palm branches – making a smooth path so unlike the one the barefoot David walked as he fled Jerusalem. “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Blessed is the King of Israel! Hosanna in the highest.” “Hosanna” – Save now.

The Pharisees called out to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples” (Luke 19:39). Jesus refused and told the Pharisees that if His followers were silenced, the stones would cry out (Luke 19:40). What day did Jesus ride into Jerusalem? 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan... Jesus had started His final trek to Jerusalem east of the Jordan River...from “beyond the Jordan” ...He most likely crossed the Jordan River on that day – the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan. In Joshua 4:19 we read that Joshua and the children of Israel crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land -- on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan! In crossing the Jordan on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, Joshua was instructed by God to set up memorial stones – stones of remembrance!! WHY? Joshua 4:6-7 – these stones are to be ...*a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?'* <sup>7</sup> *Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of*

*the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.”*

The ark of the covenant with the mercy seat on top where blood was sprinkled from sacrifices on the Day of Atonement points to Jesus and His sacrifice for us. The Ark crossed the Jordan with Joshua and the people approx. 1445 BC on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan!

Another link to David’s story: Ahithophel, David’s most trusted counselor, turned traitor and advised Absalom on how best to find David to capture and kill the king. Judas told Jesus’ enemies where Jesus could be found. Judas hanged himself (Matt. 27:5).

*II Sam. 17:23 - Now when Ahithophel saw that his advice was not followed, he saddled a donkey and arose and went home to his house, to his city. Then he put his household in order, and hanged himself.*

Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem is forever triumphant from God’s perspective! Yes, Peter denied Him. The disciples fled. John alone was at the foot of the cross. In His death, Jesus had succeeded beyond anyone’s imagination. Jesus has conquered sin and death. For the believer, Jesus’ death means victory! Through His death and resurrection He gives us, those who receive Him, His gift of forgiveness - LIFE – ETERNAL LIFE with God!

Yes, it is such a strange way, as the world understands it, to save the world. It’s GOD’S WAY... ...and it cost God EVERYTHING! Let’s worship and exalt the suffering Servant Who is now seated at the right hand of God as our Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14-16; Heb. 7). Jesus will return as King of Kings/Lord of Lords – all for the glory of God!

As we are in this season of Resurrection, let’s pray that we don’t miss God’s glory!.

### QUESTIONS

What IMPACTED you??

What did you learn?

What are you going to do with this Biblical narrative?

How might this change your walk with the Lord?

### SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 9 with the Bible references.

Journal re: how this might’ve changed your walk with the Lord.

Share this account with others.

# MAP OF ISRAEL IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

