

It Was Time!
Luke 19:28-44
Daniel 9:20-26
Archibald Wallace

There's something about a parade; folks are attracted to them, folks like to march in them. hey come in all forms, an Army Division of 15,000 troops passing in review, a tickertape down Broadway for Astronauts or the Golfer Bobby Jones, Santa in December, a Governor's Inauguration, a baseball team winning a World Series. Parades are fun and they stir us; our feet get to moving with the music and we just can't be still.

In today's Scripture Jesus takes part in a parade—his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We call it Palm Sunday because in Matthew 21:8, Matthew notes that the crowds who came to see Jesus come to Jerusalem, cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. A green carpet for a King, instead of the red carpet for a movie star! These folks were excited. Jesus, the miracle worker, Jesus, the greatest preacher, Jesus, the one who had just brought Lazarus back to life from 4 days in the grave, this Jesus, that Jesus, was coming. He had to be a king, but where was his white horse? He was a king, but where was his army, he was a king—maybe even the one who was supposed to come—but like this?

In the midst of all of this, there is a special scene during the parade Luke has captured; the Pharisees were watching the parade, and they were scared to death. Their whole ordered world was turning upside down. The people loved Jesus and were flocking to him, away from them, and the commotion and the claims the people were making were bound to stir up the Romans; the Pharisees could see their power, their place, their rule, being taken and they were scared, and they were missing the truth of what was passing by..... The King of Kings was there in front of them

and they didn't get it.

Jesus wept.

How sad it was and is, that everything God had promised and said, was happening right in front of them, and they didn't get it. They were too focused on themselves and their power and their stuff. Sound like today? Sound like anyone we know?

It was time! Even if the crowds were quiet, even if he shushed everyone to silence, Jesus said, the stones would sing out. It was time! God had promised Yeshua—he who saves, was coming, and here he was and is. And all the leaders of the very country set aside by God to prepare the world for the day, could do was——SHHH! They didn't get it. They were too focused on anything, everything, but God.

If today is nothing else for you, promise you won't be like them!

Wake up!

Daniel had told them about the day that was coming—500 years before it happened. But they weren't listening!

Daniel had told who and when and where and what was coming, and they missed it.

I preached a whole sermon here one time about missing these signs. They did! And, we still do.

Gabriel, God's special messenger, came to Daniel 20 generations years before any of these events happened and told the world—Messiah's coming—the Anointed One is coming, and he's coming

to do some things, and soon, after he has gone, Jerusalem, itself, will be destroyed. Wow! First the when:

1. The When

A prophecy was given Daniel telling him when the Messiah was coming. It read like this:

From the time the decree is issued to rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One comes shall be seven sevens and 62 sevens.

It's in code, but it is understandable.

The book of Nehemiah is the story of Artaxerxes, King of Babylon, allowing the Hebrews to go home from exile and rebuild Jerusalem. His decree saying it's OK to go was issued in 458 BC. The 69 weeks meant a 7 years each or 483 years. Do the math! Something big is going to happen in 27 AD.

Remember Jesus was actually born in 6 BC, so at about age 33, the event would happen. Anything you can think of happen when Jesus was 33?

Next there is the promise of one more week, the 70th week of year, meaning within 42 years of Jesus' death in 27 AD, the end of the prophecy would happen, and it did, Titus, the Roman Emperor destroyed Jerusalem and killed all of its people. The year -- 70AD.

The prediction is there, given by God, through Daniel, down to the exact year. It was time!

2. The What

Daniel also told us what this coming meant. In six provisions in verse 24, Daniel tells us exactly what this coming meant would happen. Messiah, the Anointed One, was coming :

- 1 To finish transgression—of the law; a new standard was coming. Keeping the law would no longer be how our righteousness would be calculated by God.
- 2 To put an end to sin-by giving us one who would take it from us.
- 3 To atone for wickedness—by coming to us and making us one with God.
- 4 To bring us everlasting righteousness—by bringing us life forever under a new standard, believing and relying upon what we believe.
- 5 To seal up vision and prophecy – a seal was an authentication that what was written was genuine. God was saying the promises He had made were being kept in this one who is coming. Never again will would God have to promise or send prophets; his Son had come and we could once again be one with God again.
- 6 To anoint the most high –Jesus was anointed by God at his Baptism, at the Transfiguration and by Mary just days before his death.

3. The Where

Daniel told them the place where this would happen was to be in Jerusalem,

God's Holy City. But Daniel added a sad note, a note that Jerusalem itself would be destroyed soon after Messiah came and left. The prophecy was that Jerusalem would be destroyed: 70 sevens, 490 years, 70 AD.

It was time!

And, so many didn't get it then.

We read this and say, we would never miss it, but we do.

My question this Palm Sunday to each of us is this, Are you aware that again today Jesus is passing by, parading right here in front of you, saying I have come to save?

Can you hear Jesus saying he is the One sent, that he is the Way?

Did you listen when God said we could be one with Him forever under a system that doesn't depend on our behavior, but on our belief in God and our reliance on God?

Do you know that today, right now, Jesus is at the top of the mountain, ready to parade before us again, saying, won't you listen this time?

It was time then for Jesus to come and it is time now for us.

Are you ready for a parade or are you still looking for the candy and the bunnies?

Luke 19:28-44

28 After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

29 As he approached Bethpage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

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

31 If any one asks you, "Why are you untying it? Say, The Lord needs it."

32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them.

33 As they were untying the colt, its owner asked them, "why are you untying the colt?"

34 They replied, "The Lord needs it."

35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.

36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

37 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.

38 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest."

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples."

40 Jesus replied, "I tell you, if they had kept quiet, even the stones would cry out."

41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept....

42 and said, "if you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace---but now it is hidden from your eyes."

Skip (the destruction of Jerusalem)

44 ...They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you.

Daniel 9:20-26a

20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord for his holy hill (Jerusalem),

21 While I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight, about the time of the evening sacrifice.

22 He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding.

23 As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision.

24 Seventy sevens are decreed for your people and your holy city
to finish transgression,
to put an end to sin.
To atone for wickedness,
To bring in everlasting righteousness,
To seal up vision and prophecy, and
To anoint the Most High (Messiah) -----can also be translated Most Holy Place

25 Know and understand this:
From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven sevens and sixty two sevens. It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

26 After the sixty two sevens, the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood. War will continue until the end and desolations have been decreed.

27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one seven. In the middle of the seven, he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple, he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out upon him.