

## **Jesus Enters Jerusalem**

Matthew 21:1-17

by Don Falkos

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As they approached Jerusalem, Jesus told two of his disciples, "Go to the next village. As soon as you enter it, you'll find a donkey with her colt beside her. Untie them and bring them to me."

The two went off, brought the donkey and the colt, and threw their cloaks over the animals' backs for Jesus to sit on. As he rode along, people spread their cloaks on the road in front of him. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The whole crowd shouted, "Please save us, Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! God in heaven, please save us!"

Jesus entered Jerusalem just as the prophet Zechariah had said. "Look, people of Israel, your king is coming to you. He is humble, riding on a donkey, yes, on a lowly donkey's colt."

The whole city was gripped with excitement.

Jesus went into the Temple and threw out all the people who were buying and selling things. He knocked over the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those selling doves. In so doing, Jesus brought the perpetual sacrificial system of the Temple to a grinding halt. He said, "The scriptures say, 'My house will be called a house of prayer, but you have turned it into a hive of revolutionaries.' "

Breaking tradition, the blind and the lame came into the Temple; Jesus healed them. Children were shouting, "Please save us, Son of David!"

The chief priests asked Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?"

He replied, "Yes, I hear them. Why are you surprised? It's just as the Psalmist said, 'You evoke praise from children.' "

Then Jesus went out to Bethany, where he stayed the night.