

God Is Government

Isaiah 33:22

*“For the LORD is our judge, the
LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD
is our king; he will save us.”*



THE SOVEREIGNTY OF MANKIND

PART EIGHTH

We find that this Part falls into the sequence of Parts are not our design but by how God has laid on our hearts to portion this subject of Sovereignty. What we see is Part Eight is a new beginning. We find that this Part comes from Zechariah prophecy in Chapter 9 – The Second Coming of Christ. We will focus this discussion on the Triumphal Entry of Christ’s arrival in His Second Coming.



In Zechariah 9:9, we read an interesting prophecy:

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”

The Triumphal Entry is Jesus Christ’s famous fulfillment of this verse, and we will find it described in all four Gospels. The disciples go and get Jesus a donkey, and He rides into Jerusalem, the people spread their clothes out before Him, praising God loudly:

“35 And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon. 36 And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way. 37 And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; 38 Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.”

- Luke 19:35-38

This was the time of Passover, when multitudes of Jews from all over the land converged on Jerusalem. It was mandatory for all able-bodied adult male Jews to attend three of the seven yearly feasts: Unleavened Bread, Shavuot (Pentecost), and the Feast of Booths. They would camp all around the city, forming large crowds outside the city wall. This was the Passover season, and as Jesus made his way toward Jerusalem,

the excited crowds flocked around Him. They had heard about Lazarus being raised from the dead, and they were celebrating Jesus.

In verse 38 they are singing, “Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord!” There are many times in Scripture that those of us who are Gentiles would miss something significant if it were not for the Pharisees. The teachers of the Law constantly come to our rescue by making a big deal about things that seem small to us. Here, the multitudes are praising Jesus, and we discover that they are singing from Psalm 118:26.

Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.

The Pharisees hear this from the multitude of people, and they think Jesus should hush them.

And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.

- Luke 19:39

Why do the Pharisees want Jesus to rebuke His followers? For celebrating His arrival? No, it is because they were declaring that He is the Mashiah Nagid, the Messiah. He is presenting himself as the King according to Zechariah 9:9.

The Pharisees presume that the people in the crowd are just getting carried away. They were thinking, “Surely, the rabbi doesn’t want these people to blaspheme and call Him the Messiah.” Jesus gives them a fantastic response that is not terribly tactful. He affirms the crowd’s enthusiastic excitement:

And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

- Luke 19:40

Psalms 118 is a messianic passage, and we should look at more of it in its context. This is a rich passage, and I encourage you to read it a couple of times.

“21 I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. 22 The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. 23 This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. 24 This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. 25 Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD. 27 God is the LORD, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar. 28 Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee. 29 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.”

- Psalms 118:21-29

We see a variety of valuable things here. We know that Jesus is the “stone which the builders refused” because He quotes this verse in Matthew 21:42. Jesus recognized that He would be rejected, but that He would also become the head cornerstone.

The next verse is familiar to us as a Sunday School song “This is the day that the LORD has made....” What day are we supposed to rejoice on? Certainly, we can rejoice every day we are alive, but in its context this verse is speaking about the day the Messiah arrived, the day that Jesus’ rode into town on a donkey. That is a day to rejoice, the day the Mesiah presented Himself. The LORD had foretold the very day that Jesus would do this through Gabriel’s prophecy to Daniel, in Daniel 9:24-26. The Pharisees should dhave known Jesus was the Messiah based on the 70 Week prophecy of Daniel 9.

God is sovereign. Jesus presented Himself as the King in fulfillment of prophecies that were centuries old. The people responded properly, but the Pharisees missed it.

Here is a question. Could not God have made the Pharisees understand and respond in accord? Maybe, but we find that they were free to embrace Him or to reject Him.

The day after His triumphal entry in Matthew 21, Jesus begins teaching in the Temple. He tells a parable about a vineyard owner whose tenants refuse to give him a portion of the vineyard fruits. The wicked tenants beat of kill every messenger he sends to them. Finally, the owner sends his own son, thinking they will respect him, but the wicked tenants conspire together to murder him. They drag the son out of the

vineyard and slay him. Jesus tells this parable, then reminds the people that the rejected stone would become the corner stone.

It was purposed from the very beginning, from before Genesis 3 that Jesus would be sacrificed for the sins of the world. Yet, the men who conspired against Him had a choice. The vineyard owner wanted the tenants to respect his son, but they chose not to. Like the wicked tenants, the religious leaders of the Jews will be held accountable for their decision to reject the King of Glory. Jesus asks the people how the vineyard owner will deal with the treacherous tenants, and they have a good idea.

“40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? 41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. 42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? 43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. 44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.”

- Matthew 21:40-44

Within a few days, Jesus would be crucified, and He knew it. His sacrifice was always part of God's plan, and we see it all over. In Daniel 9:26, Gabriel prophesies, *“And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.”* In Matthew 21, Jesus tells a parable in which the Son is slaughtered. Jesus refers to Himself as the stone which the builders rejected, quoting Psalm 118. Here in Psalm 118, w3 also find the order to “bind the sacrifice with cords.”

Jesus presented Himself as the Messiah according to prophecy, only to turn around and present Himself as the Passover Lamb, also according to prophecy. Yet, the men who slaughtered Him did so of their own accord.

Remember the Israelites in the desert? They had watched God protect them while He sent 10 plagues on the Egyptians. They had been led away from Egypt following a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. They had watched God part the Red Sea for them. God had provided them water from a rock and manna faithfully every day. They had every reason in the world to trust God and put their faith completely in Him.

Yet, they didn't. They complained constantly. They constantly doubted God's power and willingness to provide for them and care for them. Ultimately, they refused to believe that God could give them the Promised Land. They were fearful and unbelieving, and so God, made them wander for forty years until they all had died. He brought their children into the land because their children were willing to trust Him.

God has His purposes, but we human beings were given sovereignty over our minds and thoughts and decisions.

So, we see Jesus stop to weep as He approaches Jerusalem during the Triumphal Entry. IN a minute He will go in to cleanse the Temple, overturning tables and chasing people out. We think of His anger as He rebukes the money changers and salesman. We do not realize that He has just come into the Temple after pausing to gaze on Jerusalem, grieving in His soul over their hard hearts and the destruction that lay before them:

“41 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, 42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. 43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, 44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.”

- Luke 19:41-44

What else could God have done, except maybe put neon signs in the Heavens? He told them in advance. He had Gabriel lay out in their Scriptures the exact day that He would present Himself, and the Jews blew it. Jesus expected them to recognize the time of their visitation. He expected them to know Daniel 9:24-26 and to recognize Him when He came.

In Matthew 16, the Pharisees and Sadducees come to Jesus, asking Him to show them a sign from heaven. In response, Jesus refers to certain rules of thumb for predicting the weather. We know these as a sailor's proverb, "Red sky in morning, sailor take warning. Red sky at night, sailor's delight." If the sky is red in the morning, bad weather is likely on the way. Jesus reproaches them because they can forecast the weather based on what the clouds are doing, but they are short-sighted prophetically. "O ye Hypocrites," Jesus says to them in Matthew 16:3, "*O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?*"

In other words, they should have been able to recognize the times they were in. They should have been able to know that He was the Messiah according to the Scriptures.

Some of the Jews did recognize Him, But enough failed to embrace Jesus as the Messiah that it spelled disaster for the entire city. Because they did not appreciate the true identity of Jesus Christ, some decades later the Jews sought to throw off the rule of Rome, just as they had thrown off the yoke of Greece during the time of the Maccabees. If they had recognized Christ, they would not have rebelled against Rome. They would have realized that God had something else going on. In the end, it was a catastrophe. In A.D. 70 the 5th, 10th, 12th, and 15th Roman legions under Titus Vespasian besieged Jerusalem, murdered multitudes and burned the Temple. According to Josephus, 1,100,000 people were killed during the siege, and 97,000 more were forced into slavery.

Palm Sunday should have been a joyous day. Jesus was riding into Jerusalem on a donkey as the King and He was on His way to conquer the sin problem once and for all. He was the Deliverer, and He had come just as the prophets foretold. Yet, He wept over Jerusalem because He foresaw its future.

Jesus knew He was not coming to reign on David's Throne. Not yet. He knew He was coming to save the entire world, but He also knew it would be a long, long time before His own people as a whole recognized Him, and He grieved over their destruction. He knew that full understanding was hidden from their eyes.

Which leads us to the other side of this puzzling coin in the next Part.