

PASSION WEEK BEGINS
MARCH 21, 2021

INTRODUCTION:

There are 89 chapters in the gospels: **MATTHEW 28, MARK 16, LUKE 24** and **JOHN 21**. Four chapters deal with the first 30 years of Jesus' life. 85 deal with the last 3-1/2 years, and 29 of the 85 deal with the last week of His life. **MATTHEW 2/5; MARK 3/5; LUKE 1/3; JOHN 1/2**. Obviously, passion week is extremely important to God.

ZECHARIAH 9:9 (NLT)

1. It starts with the fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy – one of the many fulfilled by Jesus during this week.

JOHN 12:12-16 (NKJV)

A. Census records indicates 2-1/2 million are there for Passover. Their minds are filled with history and hearts with anticipation and expectation.

- History. Exodus, angel of death, Passover where blood was applied to the door posts. Deliverance from Egyptian bondage.
- Anticipation and hope. The Messiah will deliver them from their oppression and provide liberation from Roman control.

B. A busy week. Lambs are being scrutinized for blemishes.

C. **DANIEL 9:24-26** is being fulfilled. Jesus enters Jerusalem 173,880 days after the decree was given. This too validates Jesus' messiahship.

D. The Messiah was to come before the destruction of the city (AD 70). When the city and temple were destroyed by fire so were all the birth records and title deeds. If the Messiah was to come from the tribe of Judah and there's no way to validate one's ancestry, how can anyone prove they're from the tribe of Judah? If Jesus wasn't the Messiah, who was?

2. The mixed crowd.

A. The praisers. **MATTHEW 21:8-9** In that shouting crowd were many who owed Him gratitude: lepers, blind, deaf, dumb, maimed, demoniacs, paralytics, Lazarus and others raised from the dead. We can add ourselves to the list.

B. Curiosity seekers. **JOHN 12:9**

C. Sincere seekers. **JOHN 12:20-21**

D. The indignant. **MATTHEW 21:15** Indignant (irate, livid, resentful, scornful).

E. Those who wanted to destroy Him. **MATTHEW 12:14**

3. Hosanna to crucify Him. **LUKE 19:41-48**

A. To the casual observer, people were deeply committed to Him. Upon close examination, their faith was shallow. It didn't take much for them to go from Hosanna to crucify Him.

B. Visitation. Jesus came to bring peace and show mercy. Jesus wept over Jerusalem because He saw its fate: the city leveled, the temple destroyed, calamity, ruins, even the stench of dead bodies.

C. They refused peace on His terms. Without a cross, there is no peace with God. His terms for peace: deny yourself, take up your cross, follow me!

D. **JOHN 1:11-12**

THE TEMPLE – JOHN 2:13-17, MATTHEW 21:10-17

1. Twice cleansed. At the beginning and end of His ministry.

A. His house: purity, prayer, power, and perfected praise.

B. Not a den of thieves, or a house of deceit, personal gain, secularization or entertainment

CONCLUSION:

Where are we in the crowd? **REVELATION 19:11-16** might help. He's coming again, not on a mule as a sacrificial lamb, but on a white horse as a conquering King.