

New Testament Lesson # 20
May 20-26
Matthew 21-38; Mark 11; Luke 19-20; John 12
“Behold, Thy King Cometh”
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(See my previous Lesson # 15 for other information about the Triumphal Entry).

I. The homage paid to Jesus at His Triumphal Entry witnessed of what would occur in His Millennial reign:

A. The palm fronds were used in the shelters of the Feast of Tabernacles, represented God’s Shelter, and thus prophesied He would be our Great Shelter in the Millennium.

B. The “Hosanna Shout” taught of our Joy in His Salvation at that momentous time!

C. The title “Son of David” pertained to prophecies that He would be descended from David, be a King of Wisdom and a Just Judge, like Solomon. And once He fully ascended the throne, His reign would never cease. Which will happen in the Millennium.

D. However, all those prophecies would be fulfilled later. The prophecies of His First Coming would be those that would be fulfilled now.

II. Just as Jesus had now openly identified Himself as King of Israel, so **He openly identifies Himself as the Judge of Israel** and He begins immediately to manifest that judgment.

A. Jesus went directly to the temple. Solomon’s Temple had a Throne of Judgment symbolizing the need to be found worthy before entering. Jesus will eventually make final determination from His Heavenly Throne as to who is worthy to enter His presence there.

B. But at this time He **judged those who ministered in the Temple**, which was representative of Him and of His Kingdom.

III. Thus His Cleansing of the Temple was far more than casting out a few corrupt money changers.

A. Rather, it showed He had **come to cast out all the unworthy who served there.**

B. This temple had been built by Herod, not out of love for God, but for political advantage.

C. And, from the time of the Maccabees, the High Priest did not come from the eldest son of Aaron, as the Lord commanded. Rather the High Priest had begun to be appointed by the Maccabees of their own family, who were not Levites.

D. **And now it was Rome who chose who would be High Priest, not according to Mosaic Law, and most likely through bribery as had become the custom.**

E. **And that corrupt High Priesthood had repeatedly rejected their God.**

(Note: Those who fled to Qumran and left the Dead Sea Scrolls did so, as they wrote, because of this “Corrupt Priesthood”).

IV. Going **into Solomon’s Porch where the Throne of Judgment stood**, Jesus passed judgment, and “cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers... And said unto them... My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it **a den of thieves**” (Matthew 21:12-13). (Emphasis added).

A. Archaeological excavations have shown that the High Priest and others of the religious leaders lived in the most lavish accommodations. So **it was far more than a few corrupt money changers who made up this “den of thieves.”**

B. But their sins exceeded that. The **ultimate thievery was that those of the Jewish priesthood sought to steal God’s Kingdom from its true leader --- the Son of God!**

1. In fact, when Samuel the prophet made David face-up to his sins of stealing Bathsheba from her rightful husband, (2 Samuel 12), he was also making a prophecy of those who **would** seek to rip the subjects of Jehovah’s Kingdom from the Lord Himself.

2. The Joseph Smith Translation (Luke 16:16-23) makes this point. Jesus warns them of “perverting the right way; and the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence of you,” and finally says, **“Ye seek to take the kingdom by force. Woe unto you, ye adulterers!”** (v. 21).

V. But though soon to be crucified by them, the Lord was not helpless. And He did not let them get away with their thievery.

A. When Jesus cursed the fig tree the next day, He did so purposely. He was bearing witness that **this corrupt priesthood and those who still followed them were found fruitless, now judged, and would become mostly barren thereafter.** (A fig tree was symbolic of Israel).

B. When He promised His apostles that if they had sufficient faith they could remove a mountain (Matthew 21:20-22), this was **actually in the process of being fulfilled.**

C. God’s Kingdom and its temple together were considered as a “Mountain.” And **the rulership of God’s Kingdom was being taken from those ruling in Judea now, and given to Jesus’ apostles.**

VI. His further teachings verify these same truths.

A. He showed how ancient warnings concerning Israel applied to this time. The Lord had sent prophets to Israel through the centuries, only to be slain by apostate leaders. Now those of that day would slay God’s Very Son and cause Israel’s destruction (Compare Matthew 21: 33-41 and Isaiah 5:1-7).

B. While He was the chief corner stone and now rejected (Psalm 118:22), He would establish a new Kingdom and they would be rejected (Matthew 21:42-4).

C. They had been invited to the Wedding Feast with their Bridegroom, which Israel had so long anticipated. But they had refused to come in, and lepers (former but repentant sinners) and strangers (the Gentiles) would eat in their place and receive their inheritance (2 Kings 7: Matthew 22:1-10).

VII. When someone posed the conundrum (whose would be the wife of seven brothers who married the widow of the first dead brother), they proved **their ignorance of its foundational law -- whose purpose was to witness of Him!**

A. The Mosaic Law commanded that kinsmen marry the wives of deceased Israelite men in order to raise up seed to the deceased.

B. **But this law taught of Jesus Christ --- mankind’s Kinsman/Redeemer.** Because Adam and thus all his seed had become subject to both physical and spiritual death, **Christ would be the Kinsman/Redeemer who would raise up Adam and Adam’s seed!** (He would be the rightful bridegroom of all faithful saints of all seven periods of earth’s time).

C. However, **those of that generation who were rejecting Him, would deny themselves of the sealing powers being given to Peter and thus in the resurrection could neither marry nor be given in marriage, but remain barren in heaven** (Le Grande Richard, *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, pp. 204-6).

VIII. Thus the Messiah who had entered so meekly was required by the stonehearted to make judgments and to make two cursings. **Both cursings were reversals of the covenants made with Abraham:**

- A. The Covenant of the Inheritance of Land and
- B. The Covenant of Multiplicity of Seed.

C. That is, **when He cast out the rebellious from the temple, He was showing that the unbelieving would soon be cast out of their Promised Land (Judea), but more particularly out of their true inheritance --- Eternal Life with Him.**

D. And when He cursed the fig tree, and answered the questions as He did, regarding the seven brothers: **He manifest the loss pertaining to multiplicity of seed.**

E. Those of that generation who were denying Him and His Priesthood Power would, by their own acts, not have Eternal Seed, nor even marriage in the resurrection.

F. Tragically, because they rejected Him, who was the source of these blessings, not **only would they be spiritually barren in this life, but barrenness would become their Eternal Lot.**

IX. Throughout the scriptures, the Lord had prophesied these very things would happen. Through Paul, He later verifies **that blindness was meant to come upon Israel, so that the Gospel would go to the Gentiles.** But in time, Gospel blessing would return to Israel.

“But I would not...that ye should be ignorant of this mystery.... That blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved... there shall come out of Sion [Zion] the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob [Israel].” (Romans 11:25-6).

A. So, we should remember that it was **because it was being led by a corrupt priesthood, and not its rightful leadership that this mostly happened.**

B. In the Latter-days, the Full Gospel is offered again: first to the descendants of Joseph, who have been given the birthright [Joseph Smith, the Deliverer, has restored its truths].

C. Eventually, it will be offered again to the descendants of Judah, as is being done to some extent now. And many have been accepting Christ, and the Fullness of the Gospel.

D. Finally, it will be offered again by Jesus Himself. Because they were offered it first, Judah as a people will be last in receiving their witness that Jesus Christ is their Loving Messiah. This will happen when He Returns, in the manner that they expected Him to appear First.

X. Joseph of Egypt, in forgiving his brothers who had sought to slay him, **was a beautiful witness of what will happen when Jesus Christ returns to meet His brethren.**

A. He will stretch out His arms and say, “be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither; for God did send me before you to preserve life.” (Genesis 45:5).

The Lord loveth all His children, and longeth for them. And He will receive all who will come unto Him.