Let the Parade Begin

- I. What is the Historical Background?
- A. Alexander the Great dies.
 - 1. His generals kill off his heirs.
 - 2. His 5 generals divide the empire.
- B. Wars between Syria & Egypt.
 - 1. First war between Antiochus III & Ptolemy V: Syria wins, but leaves Egypt autonomous. Syria takes Palestine as a vassal state. This keeps Rome happy.
 - 2. Second war between Antiochus IV & Ptolemy VI is averted by Roman intervention.
- C. On the way home angry Antiochus is told about a Jewish conflict in Jerusalem.
 - 1. Conservative Pharisees vs. liberal, pro Greek, Hellenizers.
 - 2. Crucified pro Egyptian Jews & the rebellious traditionalists.
 - 3. ILL: The abomination of desolation Dan 11:31; 12:11 His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the <u>abomination that causes desolation</u> . . . From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the <u>abomination that causes desolation</u> is set up, there will be 1,290 days.
 - 4. Lord Jesus mentions this in reference to the Destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. (Matt 24:15 & Mk 13:14)
- D. Maccabeans cleanse the temple.
 - 1. In 164 BC the Maccabeans take back the temple, cleansed it & rededicated it.
 - 2. Joyous people flock to Jerusalem with palm branches to clean the city & the temple. (I Maccabees 13:51)
 - 3. Hanukkah, the Jewish Feast of Lights, is observed to this day!

Matthew 21:1-14

- II. The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
- A. v1-11 Lord Jesus presents Himself as the Messiah.
 - 1. v7 Riding on the donkey colt.
 - a. Fulfillment of Zech 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout Daughter of Jerusalem! See, <u>your king</u> comes to you, <u>righteous and having</u> <u>salvation</u>, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foul of a donkey.
 - * The subject here is the king. In this context he is the Messiah King!
 - * Righteous & having salvation is omitted in Matthew but is what the Messiah would provide for us!
 - b. It was miraculous. Can you imagine riding on an unbroken colt!
 - c. v7 Gentle = Humble ($\pi\rho\alpha\ddot{v}\varsigma$). Not proud riding a war house, but humbly riding a donkey. Jesus is a king of peace, not war.
 - 2. v8 The crowd received Lord Jesus as a king by spreading their cloaks before Him.
 - a. This happened when Jehu was proclaimed king (II Kgs 9:13).
 - b. This happened when Simon Maccabaeus entered triumphantly into Jerusalem. (I Maccabees 13:51)
 - 3. v9 The crowd received Lord Jesus as a king by shouting Hosanna "Save us now!"
 - a. This is a cry for help addressed to a king or god. (Ps 118:25)
 - b. Here, the cry is addressed to the Son of David a king!
 - c. He is in the highest a cry addressed to God in heaven.

- B. v12-14 Lord Jesus presents Himself as the authorized cleanser of the Temple.
 - 1. Scripture predicted the Lord would come to His temple. Mal 3:1 Suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to His temple, the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come, says the Lord Almighty.
 - 2. v8 Remember, the Maccabean Jews joyfully brought palm branches to help clean the city & the temple. (I Maccabees 13:51)
 - 3. v13 Lord Jesus' reason for cleansing the temple was to fulfill scripture.
 - a. Is 56:7 Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.
 - b. Jer 7:11 Has this house, which bears my name, become a <u>den of robbers</u> to you? But I have been watching! declares the Lord.

III. Let's Join the Parade!

- A. v10-11 When the people who were not in the parade asked, "Who is this guy?", the people in the parade told them!
 - 1. Mk 16:15 says, Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.
 - 2. Obedience to the Lord leads to righteousness. (Rom 6:16) That's what you want to have!
 - 3. Jam 2:24 You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. So Do what the word of God says!
- B. v12-13 Just as Lord Jesus cleansed the temple, He can cleanse you!
 - 1. The Psalmist asked the Lord, Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Ps 51:2.
 - 2. Through the cross, Lord Jesus has done that for you! Heb 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, <u>cleanse our consciences</u> from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!
 - 3. So, you are now free! Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, <u>having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience</u> . . . Heb 10:22.

Let's join the parade!

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