

A black and white image of a city skyline, including skyscrapers and a bridge, oriented upside down at the top of the page. The rest of the background is a plain, light color.

# MATTHEW

The Upside umog Kingdom

Matthew 21

Jesus is the true King, but not the kind they expected



## **Matthew 21:1-11**

**Jesus wasn't the kind of king they expected**

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## **Jesus wasn't the kind of king they expected**

- Jesus was intentional in the way He chose to enter Jerusalem.
- He was proclaiming two different things to the people.
- He was declaring that He was the promised Messiah, the fulfillment of prophecy (Zechariah 9:9).
- He was also showing them what kind of Messiah He was.



## **Jesus wasn't the kind of king they expected**

- He didn't come in on a war horse.
- He rode on a humble animal associated with peace and civil, not military, processions.
- Jesus' "triumphal" entry was not like the Roman triumphal processions.





## **Jesus wasn't the kind of king they expected**

- The Roman "triumphs" were the highest honor bestowed upon a victorious general.
- The general was draped in a purple and gold tunic, held a laurel branch and an ivory scepter and wore a gold crown on his head.
- He rode in a horse-drawn chariot festooned with laurel, and was followed by magistrates.



## **Jesus wasn't the kind of king they expected**

- He rode on a donkey, and their cheering was more in anticipation and hope of His becoming a military leader.
- Every detail about the Triumphal Entry harken back to the Old Testament to show them how Jesus fulfilled prophecy.
- He was the Messiah they had been waiting for. Nothing was accidental.



## Jesus wasn't the kind of king they expected

- The colt - Royal emissaries could demand the service of an animal.
- Jesus could have been asserting His kingship and authority in this way, or He could have just known the donkey owner would give it.
- Donkeys were used for civil, not military processions.
- Jesus was making a clear distinction between Himself and the kings of the world.

# ASK KERBY



A white sheet of lined paper with a green sticky note pinned to the top left corner. The sticky note features a large blue question mark and the text "ASK KERBY" in blue capital letters. The paper has horizontal lines for writing.

I AM CONFUSED ABOUT THE  
DONKEY AND THE COLT IN  
MATTHEW 21'S TRIUMPHAL  
ENTRY. HOW COULD CHRIST  
RIDE BOTH?

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# One Colt?

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- Skeptics allege there is a contradiction with the gospel of Matthew since it contradicts what Mark, Luke, and John wrote about the Triumphal entry.
- The other gospel writers mention “a colt” which the disciples acquired and Jesus rode upon. Matthew records “a donkey and the colt.”
- This is not a contradiction. The gospel writers did NOT say that ONLY one donkey was acquired or that ONLY one donkey traveled to Jerusalem.
- Actually, we get a full picture when we compare all the accounts.

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# Supplemented Information

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- Matthew mentions how the disciples went to Bethphage, but Mark and Luke mention both Bethphage and Bethany.
- Mark and Luke add that the colt had never been ridden.
- Matthew is the only gospel writer to include Zechariah's prophecy.
- Mark and Luke included the question the owners of the colt asked the disciples, while Matthew excluded that information.

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# Donkey and Colt

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- There is also the accusation that Matthew wrote of two donkeys because he misunderstood Zechariah's prophecy: "Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."
- This is Hebrew poetic parallelism - balancing of thought in successive lines.
- The terms "donkey, colt, and foal" designate the same animal.
- Last question: If there were two animals, how could Jesus ride both of them?

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# Donkey and Colt

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- One solution - Jesus rode both. Bethany is nearly two miles from Jerusalem. He could have ridden the mother until they were close to Jerusalem.
- Second solution - Jesus only rode on the colt. The word “them” actually applies not to the donkey and colt but to the garments.
- Greek scholar A.T. Robertson explains that the second term of “them” is a Greek word (αὐτῶν) that refers to the garments. That is easier to see in the Greek (but also in the ESV) because Matthew uses a different word order than the other gospels (put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them).



## Jesus wasn't the kind of king they expected

- Hosanna - The crowd proclaimed, "Save us now!" Their emphasis would have been on the Messiah-King to liberate Israel .
- But "Hosanna" has a much deeper meaning in Old Testament because it was shouted during three of the Israelite festivals.
- It is also significant that "Hosanna" would have sounded very similar to Jesus' name, Yeshua – "Yahweh saves."



## Jesus wasn't the kind of king they expected

- Lord - Jesus is the King of kings, Lord of lords.
- But He gave that up to become a man (Philippians 2:1–11).
- When Matthew quotes Zechariah 9:9, he omits one phrase, "righteous and having salvation is he."
- In leaving this phrase out he focused on Jesus' humility.



## **Jesus wasn't the kind of king they expected**

- Jesus is Lord and could demand anything from His servants, but instead He only took a colt.
- His Triumphal Entry didn't lead Him from a position of being victor in battle to one of glory and honor.
- It led Him to a battle, where He would sacrifice Himself.



## **Jesus wasn't the kind of king they expected**

- Matthew says the whole city was "stirred up."
- This word was used of God's voice shaking the earth (Hebrews 12:26) and of a great wind shaking a tree (Revelation 6:13).
- One Bible translation says, "The whole city was in a turmoil!"
- Jesus shook things up.



**Matthew 21:12-17**

**Jesus and the moneychangers**

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## Jesus and the moneychangers

- This passage is often pointed to as one of the few times we see Jesus getting angry.
- Anger is fine if it's righteous anger (Ephesians 4:26).
- Many think of Jesus as meek and mild and "only that Old Testament God got angry." This provides a balance.



## Jesus and the moneychangers

- In Mark 3:5, Jesus got angry at the Pharisees for not having compassion on a man who needed healing.
- Jesus was also angry at hypocrisy (Matthew 7:5), pride (Matthew 23:6–7), greed (John 2:13–22) and focusing on the rules while missing the more important heart of God's law – justice, mercy and love (Matthew 23:23).



## Jesus and the moneychangers

- Jesus got angry and yet He did not sin, exactly what Paul commands us to do (Ephesians 4:26).
- We should call out sin in the Church.
- We should confront evil and call for repentance and keep the Church pure (1 Corinthians 5:12–13).



## Jesus and the moneychangers

- Jesus quoted two verses as He drove out the moneychangers.
- Isaiah 56 is about God's future eschatological temple, which will be for all nations, all people.
- Jeremiah 7 is a warning against those who had used His temple as a kind of magic charm to keep them from any wrath or judgment.



## Jesus and the moneychangers

- After Jesus drove out the moneychangers, He healed the blind and the lame in the temple (verse 14). Typically those with physical disabilities were not allowed in the temple.
- This angered the chief priests and scribes, yet again Jesus quoted Scripture to them, challenging their knowledge by saying, "Have you never read ..." (verse 16).



**Matthew 21:18-22**

**Faith can do the impossible**

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## Faith can do the impossible

- At this time of year, fig trees held only green, early figs which ripen around June, but often fall leaving just green leaves on the tree.
- In the Old Testament, Israel was depicted as a vine that God had taken from Egypt and planted and cared for in His vineyard.
- Even though God did everything He could for the vine, it only produced bad fruit (Isaiah 5:1–5).



## Faith can do the impossible

- But the disciples didn't ask why Jesus cursed the fig tree, they asked how He did it (verse 20), though they saw other miracles.
- Jesus answered that they could do impossible things by faith.
- The image of "moving mountains" was a common Jewish metaphor for something that was impossible.



## **Faith can do the impossible**

- In the book of Acts, His disciples did the impossible through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- They drove out demons, healed the sick, even raised the dead.
- Whatever they asked for in prayer, they received – no matter how impossible – when they asked in faith.



## Faith can do the impossible

- We learned in Matthew 17 about mustard-seed faith.
- God can do the same impossible miracles in our lives today when we follow Him in faith.
- Just as we have the same mission the disciples did (Matthew 28:18–20), we have the same power they had (Acts 4:27–31).

THIS  
PRESENT  
CRISIS

THE SEVEN-STEP PATH TO  
RESTORING A WORLD GONE MAD

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MICHAEL YOUSSEF

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# This Present Crisis

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1. Remember the Truth
2. Restore the Soul
3. Revitalize the Family
4. Reestablish the Classroom
5. Respect our Freedoms
6. Reform our Society
7. Revive the Church

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# Remember the Truth

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- True liberation comes not from being “woke,” but from the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- God has sent us out on a mission to proclaim His truth to the world. He didn’t send us out to be successful. He called us to be faithful and obedient.
- Trust your feelings?
- A post-truth church?

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# Restore the Soul

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- We shouldn't be surprised when the world rejects God's truth. We should expect to be persecuted for it.
- Psalm 23 - He restores my soul

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# Revitalize the Family

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- We cannot lead our children to a place where we have never been. If we want them to live according to biblical principles, then we have to live by those principles ourselves.
- Heritage Foundation of the breakdown of the family (crime rates).
- Psalm 127:3 - Children are a heritage from the Lord

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# Reestablish the Classroom

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- The Founding Fathers wrote the First Amendment to protect the very rights that are being suppressed by public schools across America.
- Free exercise of your child's faith
- Controlling your child's mind (Common Core)
- Assault on home schoolers
- While I defend Christian homeschooling, I also support and applaud teachers and families in the public school system.

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# Respect our Freedoms

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- A sickening virus — then a sickening video
- Double standard
- What religious freedom really means
- Freedom of the press — or freedom to suppress?
- Boldness to speak the truth
- We don't believe in silencing our opponents. We believe in fighting bad ideas with better ideas.

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# Reform our Society

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- The man who poisoned America (Howard Zinn)
- Critical theory (cultural marxism)
- Every person is made in the image of God—African American and European American, police officer and protester, atheist and evangelist.
- America is still a melting pot of races and ethnicities, a nation that still strives to form a more perfect union America has never claimed perfection but has always pursued justice and equality.

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# Revive the Church

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- Needed: Gladiators, not onlookers
- The time is now upon us when we must pray for boldness rather than safety. We must obey God rather than human beings.
- It's not up to us to know the times and schedules of God's eternal plan. Our job is to keep working in His fields, reaping a harvest of souls. May the Lord find us boldly proclaiming His gospel when He returns.

THIS  
PRESENT  
CRISIS

THE SEVEN-STEP PATH TO  
RESTORING A WORLD GONE MAD

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