

# Welcoming the King!



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# Welcoming the King



Long ago the Lord entered the city of Jerusalem on a donkey's colt and people welcomed him with palm branches. That is why we call the Sunday before Easter "Palm Sunday."

On that day the news spread that the Lord was coming to Jerusalem with His twelve disciples.

People were excited about this. The prophets had said there would be a new king in Israel. Could the Lord be this king?

Before the Lord came to Jerusalem that day, He sent two disciples to find a donkey and the donkey's colt. The disciples were told to bring them to the Lord. If anyone asked them why they were taking the donkey and colt the disciples were to say, "The Lord needs them."

Why did the Lord need the colt? Usually, He walked wherever He went, like most people in those days. But on this day, He wanted to ride the donkey's colt into Jerusalem because kings would ride into the city that way, and the Lord knew it was time to show everyone that He was their king.



The disciples found the donkey and they brought them to him. Then the Lord rode on the colt. When people saw Him, they spread their clothes in front of Him as He rode. They cut down palm branches from the trees to spread on the ground for the Lord to ride on. This was the way that people welcomed kings, showing them honor and respect.

Palms have a special meaning in the Word. They stand for the Lord's wisdom, the kind of wisdom a king needs.

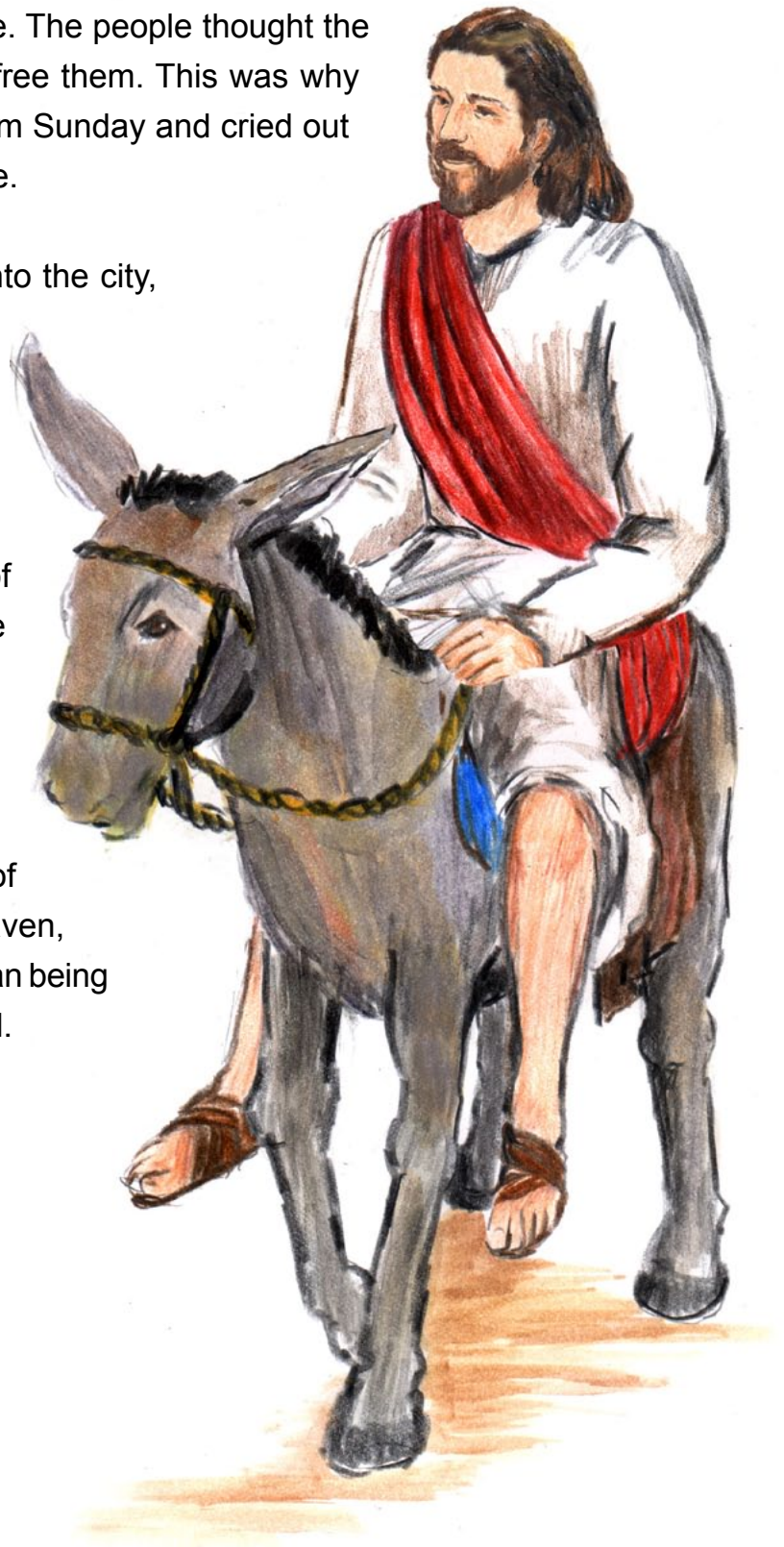
When other people in Jerusalem heard what was happening, they rushed to welcome the Lord. He was riding like a king. They cried out, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Luke 19:38). "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! The King of Israel!" (John 12:13).



The people were glad because they thought the Lord was coming to be their new king on earth. Strong enemies had ruled the land of Israel for a long time. The people thought the Lord would gather an army to free them. This was why the people were excited on Palm Sunday and cried out to the Lord with shouts of praise.

But when the Lord came into the city, He didn't do any of the things they had expected Him to do. He didn't gather an army. He didn't drive out the rulers who were already there. He did not make Himself the king of Israel with a great ceremony. He didn't have to do these things.

The people didn't understand that the Lord was al-  
ready King—the greatest King of all! The Lord is the King of heaven, something far more important than being king over a country in this world.





When we celebrate this day, we think of the Lord as our heavenly King. He has more power than any king on earth. He has the power to conquer evil spirits and protect us from harm. The Lord cares for all of us, more than any earthly king possibly could. And, day by day, He leads us toward His kingdom in Heaven.

Celebrate and rejoice in the Lord our King just as the people rejoiced that first Palm Sunday, saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” (Luke 19:38).



**HOSANNA!**