



SERIES: John Believe
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Saturday, March 4, 2023
Scripture: John 12:12-16
TITLE: Prediction Fulfilled

There are 353 prophecies in the Bible about the Messiah. The Messiah is the promised savior of the world. This matters because we have seen many false messiahs even in recent history. But if there's one sure way to test their honesty it is to look at their predictions and fulfillment.

In John 12, we find the fulfillment of a messianic prophecy that was 500 years old. What was the prophecy? Did Jesus fulfill it? Let's go back to the Bible to find the answers. John writes in John 12:12-16:

The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.

After the dinner in Bethany, Jesus and some of the crowd take off for Jerusalem. Remember that some of the people believed in Jesus after they saw Him and Lazarus. The crowd grows as they approach Jerusalem. The people begin to wave palm branches which weren't traditionally tied to Passover. Instead they become symbolic of victory. Perhaps they thought Jesus meant victory in government turnover.

Being swept up in the moment, the crowd begins to yell "Hosanna!" Hosanna is a word that means, "help, I pray" It's a plea for salvation. They cry "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." This is quoting Psalm 118:26 displaying their hope that Jesus was the Messiah.

And then we find an unusual event. It says that

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

In the synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, it says that Jesus sent two disciples out to find a donkey and a colt that Jesus knew about. They do and bring them back. Here John

simplifies the story. And notice that it says, “just as it is written.” 500 years before this moment, Zechariah predicted the Messiah would ride into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. You find this in Zechariah 9:9.

At first, this event doesn't ring any bells for the disciples but eventually it does. Jesus was the fulfillment of the prophecies. The Messiah was not a warrior king but a servant king. He did not enter Jerusalem on a war horse but a colt. He did not come in waving and enjoying the recognition. Instead, according to Luke 19, he wept over Jerusalem. The people who shouted “Hosanna” would soon cry “crucify him.”

Jesus is the promised Messiah. 353 prophecies fulfilled without error. He is the one we have waited for. He is the one we can trust. The question is will we? Will I? Will you?