

## **Palm Sunday** March 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### ***Ephesians 1:7-10***

*“... according to His purpose, which He set forth in  
Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, ...”*

#### **God has a purpose for everything He creates!**

*Proverbs 16:4 “The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.”*

Purpose: something to be reached or accomplished; the end or aim in view.

*Job 42:2 “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.”*

*Isaiah 46:10 “declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying,  
My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,”*

*Psalms 138:8 “The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do  
not forsake the work of Your hands.”*

#### **God had a plan before He created all things!**

*2 Kings 19:25 “Have you not heard that I determined it long ago? I planned from days of old what now I  
bring to pass, ...”*

❖ His plan included our election, our redemption, our adoption, and His blessings upon us.

*Isaiah 14:24 “The Lord of hosts has sworn: ‘As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have  
purposed, so shall it stand,’”*

*Jeremiah 1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated  
you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”*

*Galatians 1:15 “But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by His  
grace,”*

#### **God’s plan of redemption was set forth in Christ!**

*1 Peter 1:20-21 “He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last  
times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave  
Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”*

❖ Jesus precisely fulfilled over 50 prophecies given hundreds of years before He came.

*Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and  
bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”*

*Isaiah 9:6 “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His  
shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.”*

*Isaiah 53:5 “But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him  
was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed.”*

#### **God has a timing for all that He accomplishes!**

*Ecclesiastes 3:11 “He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man's heart,  
yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.”*

❖ The Father has times and seasons fixed by His own authority.

*Acts 1:7 “He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His  
own authority.’”*

*Galatians 4:4 “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born  
under the law,”*

*Romans 5:6 “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”*

## The Celebration of Palm Sunday

❖ Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, according to God's timing, fulfilling the purpose and plan of God!

📖 Zechariah 9:9

- f* Zechariah's prophecy spoke of the Lord defeating the enemies of His people (Zech.9:8), setting the prisoners free (Zech.9:11), protecting them from harm (Zech.9:15), and causing their families to flourish. (Zech.9:17)
- f* Zechariah prophesied that *on that day* (Zech.9:16), Israel's King would come into Jerusalem riding on a donkey and the people would shout aloud as the Lord their God would save them and display His goodness and power. (Zech.9:16-17)

📖 John 12:9-19

- f* Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah!
- f* The people, though they did not realize it, were also fulfilling the prophecy by shouting and declaring Jesus to be the King of Israel.
- f* The disciples also did not realize that prophecy was being fulfilled until after the resurrection.

📖 Luke 24:44-53

- f* The disciples learned, as Jesus gave them understanding, that Almighty God has a purpose, a plan and a time for all that He does, and that no heathen nation, nor ungodly leader, nor corrupt government will ever thwart or delay God's eternal and unchanging design.
- f* And so, the disciples returned to Jerusalem with great joy, worshipping God in the temple continually!

### Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

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