

In Preparation For...

Script -

ATPI? - We should be preparing for Easter and the 2nd coming so we are ready and they mean something to us more than just a religious holiday on the calendar.

- A. Preparation is NOT ONLY a part of our daily lives but it permeates many stories and themes of the Bible also.
 - 1. Preparing for Easter services - celebrating the resurrection of Christ - remembering an event that is critical in the Christian faith.
 - a. Mt. Rubidoux Easter sunrise service.
 - b. The Catholic faith with Lent.
 - 2. In ancient history when Moses guided the children of Israel out of Egypt they were told to prepare themselves to meet God at Mt. Sinai. Although they had each lived through the ten plagues of Egypt and were aware of His awesome power they were not called into His presence until told to do so by Moses (Ex. 19:10-15).
 - 3. Looking forward we are told to prepare for the 2nd coming of Christ by storing up extra oil (i.e. the 10 virgins in Mt. 25).

- B. The triumphal entry - Took place about one week before his death and resurrection and is recorded in all 4 of the gospels (Mt. 21:1-9; Mk. 11:1-11; Lk. 19:28-44; Jn. 12:12-19).
 - 1. The event that proceeded his death and resurrection was prophesied 550 years before it took place (Zech. 9:9).
 - 2. The people that joined in the triumphal entry were planning to place Him on David's throne. They thought their dreams were finally going to be realized with him being seated in power they could rise to a prominent status and cast off the foreign rulers in their land. It was the false narrative that the leaders had promoted and people longed for. They were preparing for an event that would never take place.
 - 3. The disciples joined their voices with the loud hosannas as the crowd seemed to swell with every step of the way. Little did they know that they were heading for His true coronation of the cross and the disappointment that would overwhelm and shatter their faith and destroy their hopes and dreams.
 - 4. The religious leaders were annoyed and angered by all the noise and commotion that this exuberant crowd carried with it.
 - 5. Did Jesus know where this triumphal procession would take Him?
 - a. Yes, because that was prophesied also (Isa. 53).
 - b. Yes, because he paused during the procession and wept over the city (Lk. 19:41-44).
 - c. It is significant what Jesus did right after the triumphal entry when he cleansed the temple. This act re-enforced what his ministry was all about and why he came; to seek and save the lost (Mt. 21:12-16; Mk. 11:15-19; Lk. 19:45-48).

- C. Summary: Yes, advance planning was being made. But all were not planning for the same event to take place.

1. There were many who were planning for an event that would not happen. Christ installed on David's throne.
2. There were some that plotted his demise and they would live to see their plans come to fruition. Christ crucified.
3. Many would be disappointed. Almost all would be troubled in the events that transpired.
4. There was One who was not surprised by the events that transpired. He knew in advance what would happen and how the triumphal entry would lead to his demise. But that is what He came to do. It is what he was born for. Isa. 53:11 says He would see the travail of his soul and be satisfied.

D. Appeal

1. Are you planning ahead for the event about to transpire? Some will celebrate Easter only as a religious holiday. A holy day on the calendar, to be remembered and even celebrated. They might even gather together with their extended families, because it is the right thing to do once or twice a year.
2. What does he want from you this Easter? He wants it to mean something in your life. He is the one that has the power over sin and death. He can resurrect the dead back to life. He can give you the power you need to overcome sin in your life so you will be a new creation. Alive in Him.
3. Are you planning ahead for another event that has been predicted? When he will return will all the angels in glory to claim His own? The bible describes the responses that will happen when that event transpires. Some will say this is our God and we have waited for him (Isa. 25:9). Others will cry to the rocks and the mountains to fall on them and hide them from the face of him that sits on the throne and from the wrath of the lamb (Rev. 6:16). Will you be one of the ones that say the harvest is past, the summer is ended and we are not saved?