

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
March 31, 2021
Palm Sunday

What is the importance of devoting yourself to prayer and bible study? Ask the Prophet Daniel. Scanning through his prophetic writing please look through chapter 9 to find that he was studying the writings of the Prophet Jeremiah. He was able to reason out a lot of what he studied but spent much time in prayer to learn more. His heart was driven toward the salvation of his people and his sin was at the front of his agony. Beginning in 605 BC Daniel was given a series of visions displaying the history of the world relating to Israel and in our study tonight we find he was able to determine the timing to Palm Sunday. Daniel was one of the many Jews taken captive and spent most of his life in Babylon, the kingdom that destroyed Jerusalem and removed most of the population into exile and slavery. Daniel was an old man by now and was studying the writings of Jeremiah 29:10-13. He did not have chapter and verse divisions as we do and study was difficult on animal skins and parchments. Babylon was now under the control of the Medo-Persians as Daniel predicted earlier through the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. After reading Jeremiah he calculated Israel's time for restoration was near. He received this vision about 67 years after Nebuchadnezzar had first deported he and his fellow exiles. Daniel 9:20-25. These weeks are 7s of years each being a biblical prophetic year of 360 days. (In a future study we'll see how the earth may have actually had 360 days in an actual year) The math in these verses tallies up to 483 years plus 7 years equaling 490 years. The 70 / 7's" (490 yrs.) also divide into 3 groups... $7 / 7's = 49$ years. $62 / 7's = 434$ years and $1 / 7 = 7$ years. The 49 years run up to the time it took to rebuild Jerusalem. The 483 yrs run up to the time from the decree to rebuild till the Messiah. This decree is described in Neh 2:1-8. Amazing to think about Daniel reading and studying the same passages we are! The "command" was given to Nehemiah by king Artaxerxes on March 14th 445BC. Using the Julian calendar of 360 day years, 483 years after this decree comes to April 6th, 32 AD! The exact day of THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY! We are warned by Jesus not to predict the dates of His second coming though many have tried and failed. Matthew 24:36, 25:13. Thanks to angelic assistance this date was able to be determined. Compare this to Luke 19:41-44 for Jesus' own prophecy for Palm Sunday. From this time on Jesus publicly proclaimed Himself as the Messiah. Days later, as prophesied, Jesus was "cut off" or crucified for our transgressions. More on this next week. So far history accounts for 69 weeks ($7 + 62 = 69$) After His death and resurrection we entered into what we call The Church Age which accounts for a long break in the prophetic timeline. The final Week of Years will soon commence when Christ will return for His bride, the church. As was started earlier this original Palm Sunday took place on April 6th 32 AD as near as we know. Read more in John 12:12-16. In verses 12-13, by waving palm branches (a Jewish national symbol) the people hail Jesus as the Davidic king and proclaim the praise of Psalm 118:25-26, believing that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Most of the crowd probably understood the title King of Israel in a political and military sense, still hoping that Jesus would use his amazing powers to resist Roman rule and lead the nation to independence. In John 12:14-15 we must first confer with Zachariah 9:9. A king coming on a donkey's colt was a sign of peace. If a coming king were on a horse or chariot it would be a sign of declared war or some other

aggression. Jesus will one day come on a horse. Revelation 19:11. This Palm Sunday arrival of Yeshua was the last prophetic sign to the Jews that their Messiah has come. Their King came in Peace. Isaiah 9:6. Notice John 12:16 Those closest to Him didn't get it. This should encourage you! Only later did they reason through and understand the full content of prophecy concerning Christ. After the Holy Spirit was poured out their eyes were opened. Imagine the joy and wonder as they studied Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22. If you have time, give those passages a look and imagine being a Jewish disciple of Christ and finally seeing the amazing perfection of scripture. Perhaps these passages made sense for the first time. Understand if you will the glory of this day and the great meaning within it to the many persecuted and pressured people of the Nation of God and if the Lord provides be ready to share the gospel with those still lost in darkness.