

Sermon: God's timing is perfect

Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

Introduction:

If we were sitting in our churches today, I would be encouraging you to take an active part in Holy Week and avoid leap frogging from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. This year is no exception, so can I encourage you to journey through Holy Week?

Our week begins with Jesus entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey. It was a triumph procession, the crowds cried out Hosannah to the son of David. The prospect of a new era dawned and the new King had arrived. This was long awaited, long anticipated and a long time in coming, yet God's timing is perfect.

Very few people realise that the timing of this event was foretold almost 600 years before by the prophet Daniel. Daniel was a hebrew living in exile in Babylon and was visited by the Angel Gabriel in response to a prayer he had made.

Gabriel tells Daniel that 3 periods of time have been set for the people of Israel and they are counted in sets of sevens. The first set of sevens would mark the time when the people would finish their time of exile with an edict that would go out for the city walls and the city would be rebuilt. After this edict had gone forth the prophetic clock would begin counting down to the Messiah who would be revealed in the great city. See below.

Daniel chapter 9 you will notice Gabriel speaks of three sections of time.

1. The first section is referred to as a period of time 7 Sevens (49 years) which will be a time when the city walls and ruined city will be rebuilt. **(See Nehemiah 2:1-8).**
2. The second period of time Gabriel speaks of is referred to as 62 Sevens (434 years) and this marks the end of the city in a war that will destroy Jerusalem and the temple. The Messiah must complete the great scheme of redemption before the collapse of the city. We know the city was destroyed by Emperor Titus in AD 70. Amazingly the prophetic words spoken to Daniel fall within this timeframe.
3. The final Seven is a future time which we will discuss at another time.

Daniel gives the timeframe within which the Messiah would be revealed. Then we have another amazing prophecy by Zechariah almost 500 years before who said these words about the coming Messiah.....

**“Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey”
(Zechariah 9:9).**

These prophecies fulfilled in every detail and within the time frame God sets.

Its important to note a number of points

1. God tells us before the event what is going to happen and when. This makes the Scriptures unique among all other books and other religious writings. No other book contains almost 30% of prophecy, in which 80% have already been fulfilled, bang on.
2. God's timing is perfect in every detail and its important to recognise this.

So remember when we are getting impatient and frustrated waiting,

Jesus was 30 before He began the ministry,

Jesus waited until it was near Passover before Jesus made His entry into Jerusalem

Jesus didn't gallop into Jerusalem but strode in on a donkey

We may want to see things happening now and grow impatient when we don't see things happening as quickly as we would like them to be however, as Christians we must learn patience, to trust God's timing and have faith in Him to ultimately bring His plan to fruition.

When we consider God's timetable it is rarely ours.....

- "For a thousand years in [His] sight are but as yesterday when it is past" (**Psalm 90:4**).

- At the global level, he sets the times for nations to rise and fall (**Acts 17:26**).

- On a personal level, "My times are in [His] hand" (**Psalm 31:15**).

As Christians we must learn to trust God's timing and have faith in His plan not our own. For God has already given us details of His plans and some are still waiting to be fulfilled. At this time Bibles are getting harder

We must continue to trust in God's plan for He has already shared some of His plans with us to give us hope. For our God sees the end from the beginning, He is Sovereign and is in control of times and events for His glory. Remember how Jesus found the donkey and how this was long foretold including the timeframe for His triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

If this is not enough to convince you then consider this final part of what Gabriel spoke to Daniel.....

Verse 24 says

(He will) finish transgressions, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness....

(Daniel 9:24)

And this will be accomplished in the most shocking of ways - **Verse 26** reveals the Messiah will be put to death and will have nothing having completed the great scheme of redemption.

Summary

God is the author and perfecter of life and His timing is perfect. God's great plan of redemption culminates at the end of Holy Week with his death on a cross.

Just because we don't see things happening in the way we like or in the time frame we expect doesn't mean God is not working out His will and purposes. His ways are not ours, and His thoughts are higher than ours.

Nothing can hinder God's plan, God's plan is always well-timed. We must hold on to His promises as He has given us these scriptures so we will not be shaken

We must stand firm in our faith when the world around us shakes as this displays our faith and trust in God

Always and in all circumstances rejoice in the Lord for He is working His purposes out

God has a plan, His timing is perfect and He is still working His purposes out. **Amen**