

## **Introduction**

- 1 As we approach many sporting tournaments, like World Cups of 20/20 cricket, Soccer; beginning of the various football codes – AFL, NRL, Super 14 Rugby, Tri-Nations, do you know of anyone who has ever been able to prophesy in advance the winners of these?
- 2 Yet the amazing thing about the Bible is the number of prophecies about the birth, life, death & resurrection of the Lord Jesus have all been fulfilled, except for those about His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.
- 3 In 21:1-22 known as Palm Sunday, several prophecies from the prophets, Psalms are quoted.
- 4 Each should look at the depth of personal commitment to Jesus as ruler, to prayer, obeying Him
- 5 Best human eg of commitment - vows made at a Christian marriage ceremony – **read these out**

## **I 21:1-11 Our Commitment to Jesus as He arrives as Promised King in Jerusalem**

### **A Background**

- 1 As have seen in the previous 11 sermons from Matthew, he planned/wrote his gospel well
- 2 From very 1<sup>st</sup> verse, Lord Jesus is described as the Son of David, destined to become king
- 3 Following description of His birth, baptism, temptation, have 5 main teaching sessions
- 4 In 20:17-19 Lord told His disciples for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time about His coming, death, resurrection
- 5 Main reason He came – **20:28 Didn't come to be served, but to serve, give His life as a ransom for many** – Came to pay the price everyone deserves for rebelling against God
- 6 Isn't it amazing to know our Creator God sent His Son to serve and die for people like us.

### **B 21:1-8 Preparations for His final visit to Jerusalem after 2 years, fulfils Zechariah 9:9**

- 1 Throughout His ministry, the Lord was always in control of all that happened to Him
- 2 He had completed all He planned to do prior to this final week before His death on cross - Healed sick, blind, raised dead, taught disciples, shown power over nature, forgave sins ...
- 3 He was now ready to return to Jerusalem to complete what God had sent Him to do
- 4 He did this very publically to show He was the One about whom the prophets had written
- 5 21:4 Zech 9:9 said King would enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey like King David+ sons
- 6 After 2 disciples collected donkey, colt, disciples placed their cloaks on the donkeys and
- 7 Jesus rode on colt, crowd became excited, joined in, spread their cloaks, branches on road
- 8 They showed Jesus great respect, receiving Him as someone special at beginning of week
- 9 Could Jesus be the One promised in Prophets, Psalms -had been **waiting so long** for Him?

### **C 21:9-11 Many in Jerusalem did not know who Jesus was (Psalm 118:26)**

- 1 Was exciting time, all began to sing Hosanna to David's son - asking God to save them
- 2 This had an impact on the whole city as people were attracted by the singing, came to see
- 3 Lord had not been in Jerusalem for 2 years, so many didn't know who He was? - Asked
- 4 Perhaps some remembered his great miracles of healing, teaching about God's kingdom...
- 5 Yet the only answer they had about who Jesus was “Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth”

### **D How deep is your/my personal trust, commitment to Jesus is challenge each must face**

- 1 Was easy for many people to become involved in laying down their cloaks, singing praise
- 2 Popularity was short-lived –within 5 days same people turned against Him “Crucify him...
- 3 Who is Jesus in your/my life? just a prophet **or** God's Son who rules God's kingdom
- 4 Many come to church on Sundays, believe Jesus is God, but only keep Him at a distance
- 6 Unfortunately that is not enough if we want to go to heaven to be with God forever.
- 7 Each has to make a personal commitment to ask Jesus into our hearts/lives as ruler & king
- 8 If you take that step must commit ourselves to Jesus to rule your life, direct your decisions  
**Eg** Help you overcome sin- lies, anger, jealousy, deception, immoral books/movies
- 9 Are we prepared to serve Him, witness even if mocked, persecuted – I've failed, you??

## **II 21:12-17 How committed are you, I to prayer, unlike Jews who lost their commitment**

### **A 21:12-13 As God's Promised King, Jesus claimed the Temple was His Place of Prayer**

- 1 When the Lord went into the God's House, the temple, He could see that it was in a terrible state, a picture of Israel's rebellious spiritual state, with sin allowed in the temple
- 2 Found temple's outer courts for non-Jews to pray had become market place to cheat them
  - a Jewish traders were ready to supply any sort of animal or bird needed by Jews from distant places to offer different sacrifices to God, so temple became an animal market
  - b Money changers ready to change foreign money into local currency to buy animals...
- 3 High priests and other spiritual leaders almost certainly would have received commission
- 4 Lord entered the temple area, drove out all the animal, bird traders, no doubt setting free the animals, overturned the tables of the money lenders, scattering their coins everywhere
- 5 No protests, all knew was wrong-quite a sight, as Jews love money, scrambling for coins
- 6 Lord made it very clear temple belonged to God and as God's King also belonged to Him
- 7 Even under the New Cov. when Lord returns a 2<sup>nd</sup> time He will also judge Chn church
- 8 As Bible-believers we must beware of prayerlessness, sin, temptation to abandon truth...

### **B 21:14-16 Jesus again proved He was the Messiah, children believed, but Jews did not**

- 1 For the last time in Matthew's gospel, the Lord emphasized He was the King/Messiah as He healed blind, lame and did many other wonderful things. (Isaiah 35:5)
- 2 Is interesting that the little ones continued to sing Hosanna/save to Son of David, **but**
- 3 **v16** Spiritual leaders refused to trust Jesus, believe who he was, protested re kids joy Ps.2
- 4 Jews had temple, priesthood, daily services, OT, special Covenant relationship with God, sacrifices **but no** spiritual fruit, grace, truth, humility, spirituality, holiness - bad leaders
- 5 Math. shows religious leaders opposed Jesus, same today for all who preach Bible truths

### **C How deep is your and my commitment to personal and church prayer?**

- 1 Jewish leaders more concerned about obeying OT law, than being committed to prayer
- 2 Jews didn't want Jesus to rule their lives, change their sinful self-centred rebellious ways
- 3 For Chns Lord Jesus wants them to be committed to pray to God daily, seek His guidance
- 4 Jesus wants to rule every area of Chns' lives, influence all decisions, bear fruit of Spirit...
- 5 If we have repented/believed, has given us Holy Spirit to help us live for God, obey Bible
- 6 Are you hungry to read the Bible, find out how you should live for God in godless world?
- 7 If this **isn't** true in your life, have you **really** understood what it is to be born-again Chn?

## **III 21:18-22 Fig tree shows God's Judgement on Israel for unbelief, rejection of Jesus**

- 1 Lord came to a fig tree that had early leaves, which often meant there were some small figs
- 2 Various OT quotes talk about fruitlessness of the Jews in serving God, ending in judgement
- 3 Fruitless fig tree shows the temple with its empty religion, ritual is also ripe for destruction
- 4 **Likewise** will be Day of Judgement for every Chn as to how each has served Lord in his Church and the world with spiritual gifts and life skills, God has given each one of us?
- 5 If Judgement happened today is each living in a way pleasing to God, as can't deceive Him?

## **IV How committed is our response to Jesus as our ruler, king, prayer and obeying His word**

- 1 Many think being a Chn is going to church on Sundays, but ignoring Jesus the other 6 days
- 2 But that is not true. Must make a definite decision to repent, place trust in Jesus, live for him
- 3 To be a Biblical Christian, each must **make** a personal commitment to Jesus **daily** as follows
  - a Make Jesus king and ruler in your life
  - b Pray to God about all areas of your life every day
  - c Obey Bible, let God change my self-centred nature to prepare me for God's judgement
- 4 Why should Chns be committed in this way? – Jesus was fully committed to face flogging, rejection, spitting, mocking, very painful death on cross so you/I can be reconciled to God
- 5 C T Studd said – “If Jesus did that much for me, how can I please self for rest of my life”