



RCC Phoenix – 4.10.22 – Palm Sunday

Israel divided into 2 areas (Israel and Judah) and after centuries of disobedience to God, the Jewish people were held in captivity.

Israel was conquered by the _____.

Judah was conquered by the _____.

From the that time forward, the area of Israel was again _____ and ruled by many different nations / people groups.

Rome grew in prominence and military strength and conquered the land in _____ BC.

The account of the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus describes the situation at the beginning of the siege of the Temple in 70 AD: there was constant noise, the sound of the rebel zealots fighting each other together with the sound of weeping and mourning over the dead. Eventually, the stench of death covered the city, and the misery of starvation changed the sound of the city. It was complete quiet.

Josephus – Excerpt from the Book “Of the War”

The upper rooms were full of women and children that were dying by famine, and the lanes of the city were full of the dead bodies of the aged. The children also, and the young men wandered about the marketplaces like shadows, all swelled with the famine, and fell down dead, wheresoever their misery seized them. As for burying them, those that were sick themselves were not able to do it; and those that were hearty and well, were deterred from doing it, by the great multitude of those dead bodies...A deep silence also, and a kind of deadly night had seized upon the city.

Also, according to Josephus, Jerusalem was a stately, beautiful city surrounded by richly wooded hills. During the siege, all the timber was completely cut down on the hills for fifteen kilometers to use in constructing bulwarks, battering rams and for crucifying people. Anyone caught escaping the city, whether man, woman, or child, was crucified atop a great siege bank built up around the city. At one point, as many of five hundred people a day were being caught trying to escape and were crucified opposite the city walls. Inside the city there was death from starvation and murder. Outside the walls surrounding the city were literally thousands of crucifixions. Beyond that, barren hills whose trees had been cut down.

The Jews _____ the Romans.

Although these pictures recorded through the lens of history are horrific, Jesus came to fulfill and set into motion a _____ plan.

The entire time Jesus taught others, He did so in a way to show them His thoughts and goals were much different from their own.

A. Jesus _____ the Storm

Matthew 8:23-27 NLT

“Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with his disciples. Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” Jesus responded, “Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!” Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm. The disciples were amazed. “Who is this man?” they asked. “Even the winds and waves obey him!”

B. Why Does Jesus Eat With “ _____ ?”

Matthew 9:9-12 NLT

“As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with such scum?” When Jesus heard this, he said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.”

C. Being _____ Again

John 3:1-4 NLT

“There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.” Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.” “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?”

D. _____ Water

John 4:7-15 NLT

“Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Please give me a drink.” He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to

Jesus, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?” Jesus replied, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.” “But sir, you don’t have a rope or a bucket,” she said, “and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? And besides, do you think you’re greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?” Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.” “Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.”

Palm Sunday Passages:

Matthew 21:1-11 NLT

“As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. “Go into the village over there,” he said. “As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will immediately let you take them.” This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said, “Tell the people of Jerusalem, ‘Look, your King is coming to you. He is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey’s colt.’” The two disciples did as Jesus commanded. They brought the donkey and the colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, “Praise God for the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God in highest heaven!” The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. “Who is this?” they asked. And the crowds replied, “It’s Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

John 12:12-13 NLT

“The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, “Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to the King of Israel!”

OBSERVATIONS:

1. Mankind wants _____ relief from pain. God is carrying out His _____ plan.

Reflection Question:

Do we remain content if God takes a longer period of time to answer our prayer or answers it in a different way than the expectation we created in our mind?

2. Mankind tends to be concerned with our _____ life. God is concerned with our _____ life.

Reflection Question:

Do we want to leave a legacy of how important and successful we are? Or, do we want to leave an eternal imprint on those we meet reminding them of Jesus?

3. Mankind wants our lives to be _____ by men. God wants our life to be used so _____ will remember Him.

Reflection Question:

Evaluate your life now... would the people around you remember you as someone who lived for Christ?

Isaiah 55:8-9 NLT

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”