

Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



**Today 25th March 2018 speaker Philip Wells, Full-time Elder.
This morning is Palm Sunday**

www.calvary-brighton.org.uk

calvary-brighton.sermon.net

Michael Portillo in great railway journeys in Ukraine:

"history is almost always made by economic forces, social change, or new ways of thinking, or transformative technologies

- but every now and again one person makes a decision which by itself shapes the future"

Vladimir was such a person, and his decision determined the development of Ukraine and indeed Russia for more than 1000 years

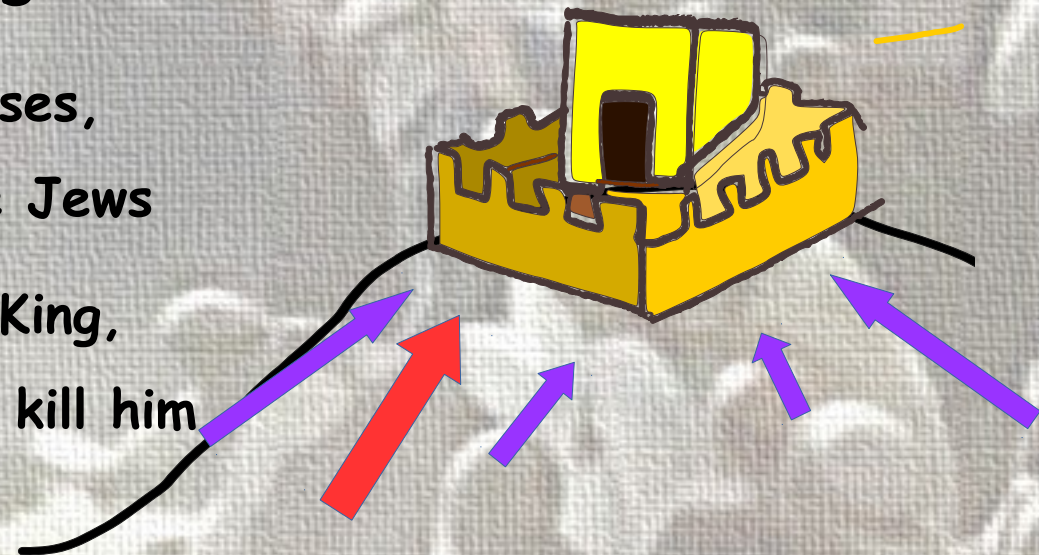
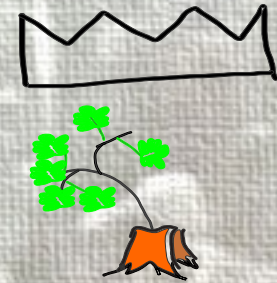
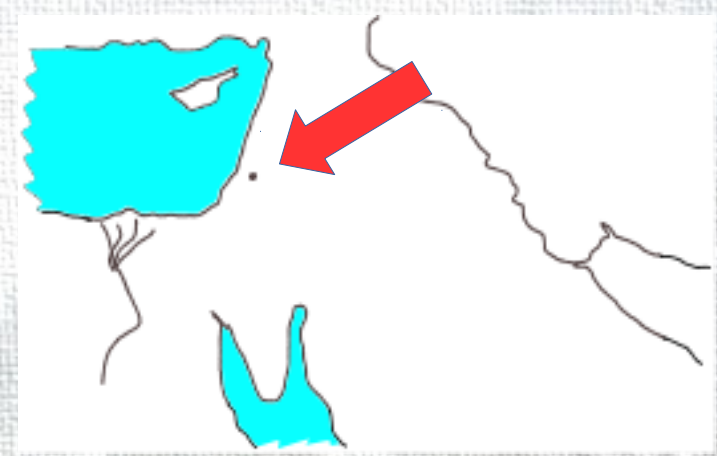


If that was true of this merely human prince, how much more so for the man Christ Jesus in the week that we now remember.

More than 2000 years, and into eternity itself.

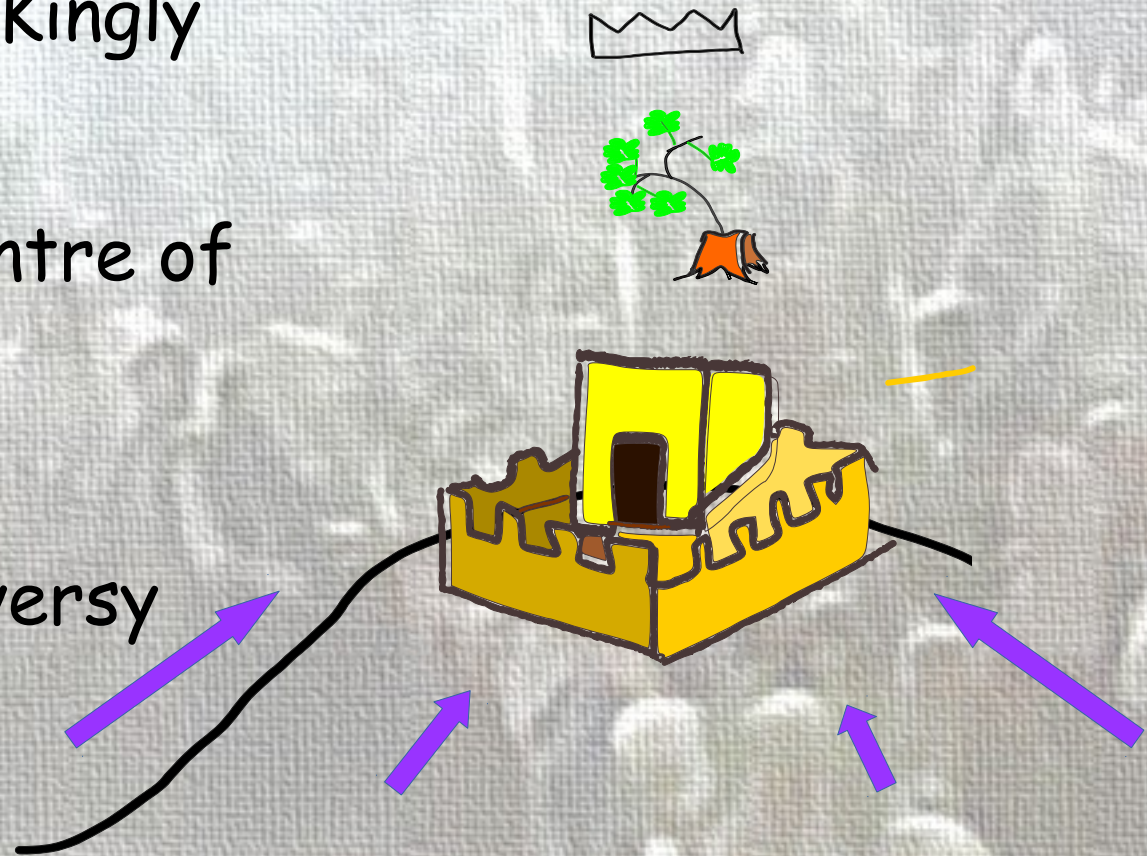
The decision that Jesus took?

- _ To go boldly into the national capital Jerusalem
- _ Founded in the midst of ancient prophetic promises (e.g. Isaiah - city, mountain, Branch, Immanuel)
- _ HQ for the prophesied "for ever" King
- _ One place on earth where heaven comes down = the Temple of the LORD
- _ The focal point for all the promises, hopes, fears of his people, the Jews
- _ The place to which he comes as King, which - a few days later - will kill him as an intolerable blasphemer.



Jesus entered Jerusalem

- 1. in a deliberate act
- 2. in fulfilment of Kingly prophecy
- 3. at the nerve-centre of the temple
- 4. in the centre of powerful controversy

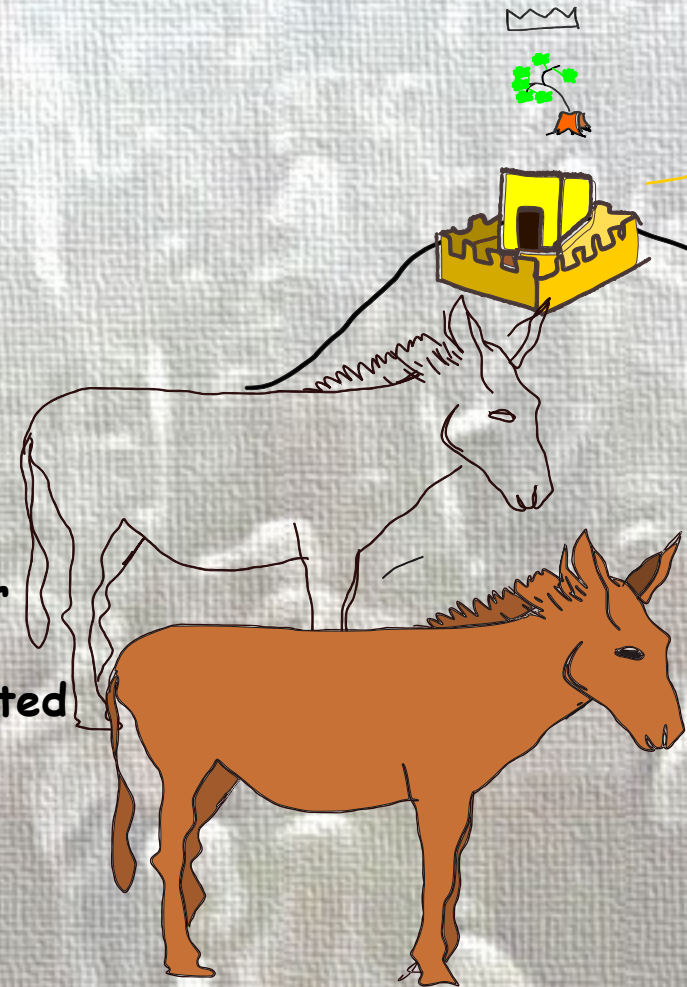


Jesus entered Jerusalem

1. in a deliberate act

N.B. previously Jesus had kept quietly out of trouble (e.g. ministry in Galilee)

- The journey was pre-planned
 - 16:21, 20:17
- v.3 the detail pre-planned
 - “the Lord needs them”
- The timing was pre-planned
 - Passover: 26:2
 - 1000s of pilgrims present from all over
 - celebration of the birth of the nation
 - Killing of first-born of Egypt, substituted by a Lamb for Israel
- The result was definite
 - N.B. 2 donkeys!
- The result was dramatic
 - Excited crowd 21:8 – cloaks and branches
 - Excited shouts “Hosanna”
 - v.10 whole city stirred
 - ==> something of vast importance going to happen



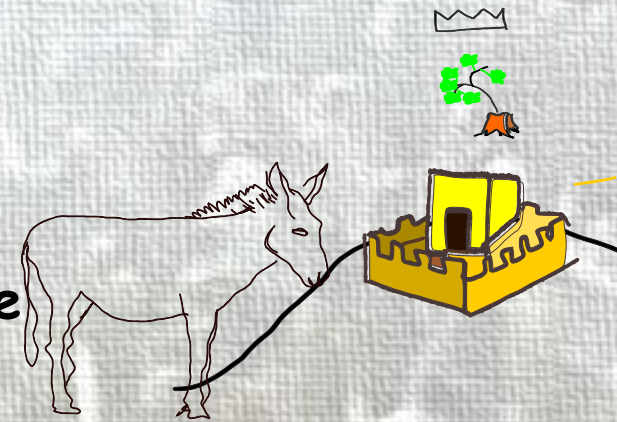
Jesus entered Jerusalem

2. in fulfilment of Kingly prophecy

- Look more carefully
- Donkey, cloaks, branches, shouting

a. donkey is Kingly fulfilment of Zechariah 9:9

- “your king comes ... He will proclaim peace to the nations ... his rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth”
- ==> huge, unmistakeable and provocative claim

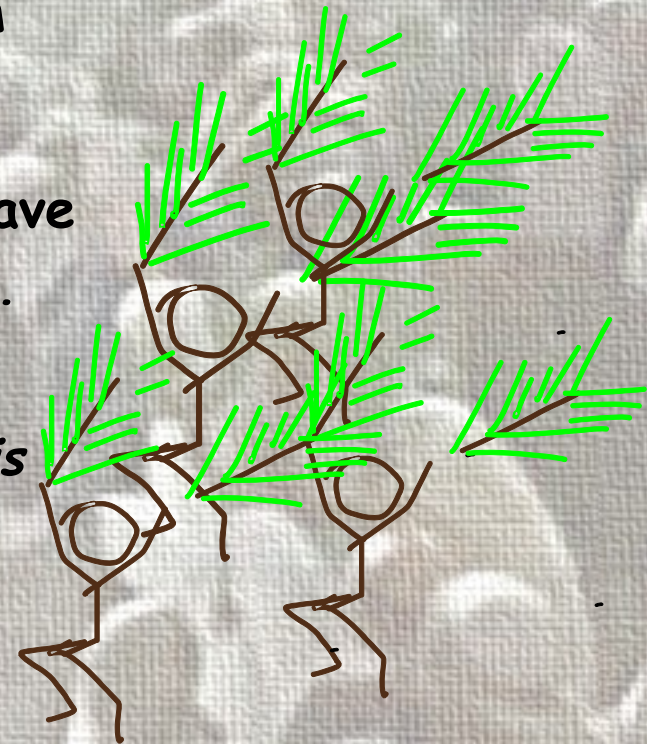


b. the shouting is Kingly acclaim

- Psalm 118 - Hosanna to the Son of David = Save us now! (Military/political/spiritual freedom ... now!)

==> the crowd are in no doubt that the King is making his public claim to power

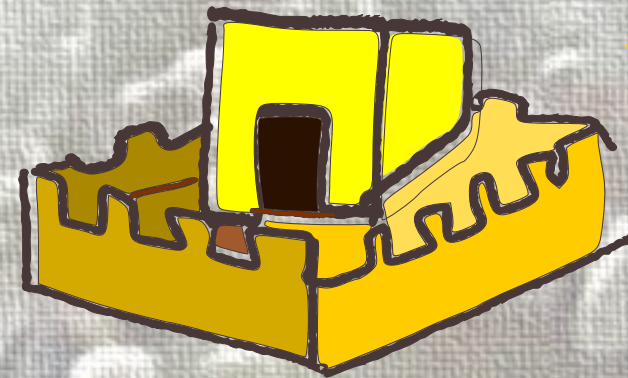
==> "I am King, I claim this city ... this world, and everyone in it"



Jesus entered Jerusalem

3a. at the nerve-centre of **the temple**

- Having arrived in Jerusalem Jesus immediately enters **the temple** v.12
 - = the place where LORD God dwells, his presence meets earth
- He assesses **the temple** ... and finds it unsatisfactory
 - Comparing “what is written” with what he finds (like Isaiah?)
 - “house of prayer [for all nations] has become “a den of thieves” (= Isaiah)
 - Is this a superficial criticism regarding a few technicalities, rogue elements? Or a profound critique of the whole establishment?
 - ==> a new place where God dwells, where you go to meet God ...
 - = Jesus



Jesus entered Jerusalem

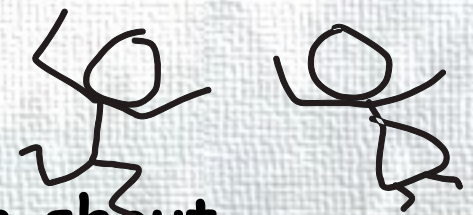
3b. at the nerve-centre of the temple

- The *blind and lame* come to the temple (v.15)
- Israel's problem is that she is deaf, blind, lame ... incapable of hearing, seeing, walking with the LORD
- The Son of David arrives with power to remove deafness, blindness, lameness
- N.B. Israel's problem was deeper than merely physical ... it's the same today
- ==> we need Jesus to heal our deafness, blindness, lameness!





Jesus entered Jerusalem

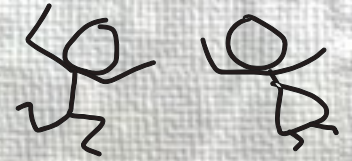


3c. at the nerve-centre of the temple

- He does amazing things + the children shout in the temple area

- "Hosanna to the Son of David"

- Guardians of the Kingdom (chief priests and teachers of the law) are indignant!

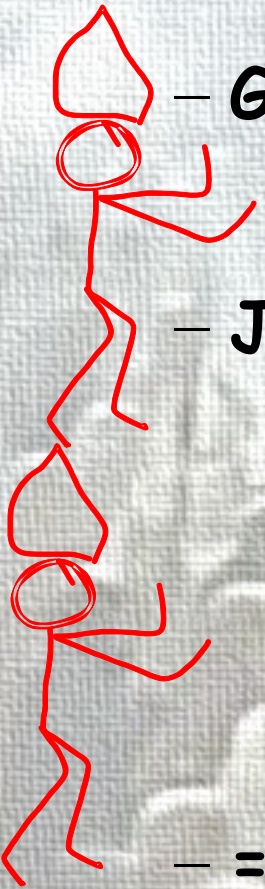
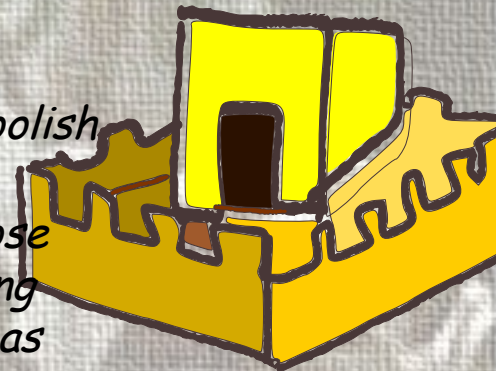


- Don't you hear? [Shut them up!]

- Jesus: Psalm 8:2 *"God's glory is above the heavens ... enemy and avenger ... antidote: from the lips of children ... established praise"*

- i.e. God's secret weapon is not the power, wisdom of great men, but appreciation of the humble believer

- ==> *"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise..." has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world*
- *God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong, He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things and the things that are not to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him... let him who boasts boast in the Lord" 1 Cor 1:27*



Jesus entered Jerusalem

4. in the centre of powerful controversy

- All the city was stirred!
 - Crowd ... excited and shouting, Children ... carried along
- But were they stirred rightly?
 - 21:11 "This is Jesus the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee"
 - Is that a sufficient understanding?
 - What about his Kingship? What about his sacrifice?
- Some were indignant!
 - This is all OTT, wrong, dangerous!

What about us?

a. angry? Offended? Put off?

- Why? What is about Jesus that you don't like?
- Are you right to be offended?

b. excited but ignorant?

- Many positive things about Jesus-stuff!
- BUT: haven't actually worked out his sacrifice, his Lordship, his deliberate personal claims

c. faithfully responsive (blind, lame)

- Lord I want to see ... followed him
- Jesus answers such prayers!

