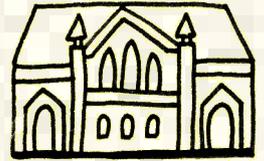


Days that change the world ...



There are some days that change the course of history:

- #defining moments
 - e.g. today I brushed my teeth and got on the bus to go to work ...
 - e.g. 9/11
 - Truly awful, destructive
 - Changed everything
 - Declaration of war + wars ...
 - Even changed how we travel on holiday



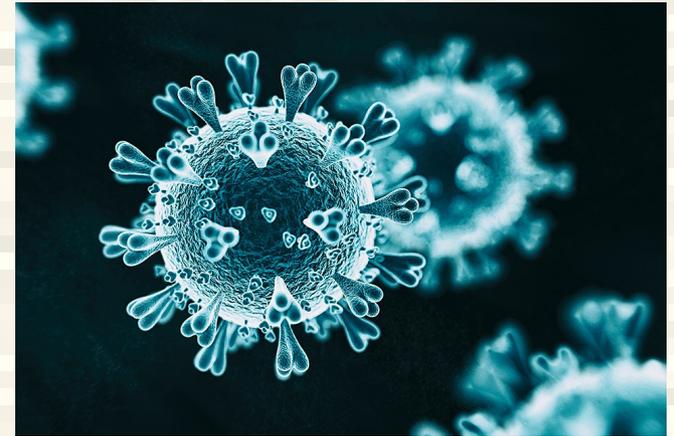
Source: ctv news

Days that change the world ...



Little virus:

- *“Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a contagious disease caused by a virus, ...*
- *The first known case was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019.[7]*
- *The disease has since spread worldwide, leading to an ongoing pandemic.[8]”*
- December 2019 has affected everything from coughing to shopping
- 2 years of isolation, anxiety,
- stilled the busy street, emptied the office, curtailed human normality ...
- **#defining moment in world history**

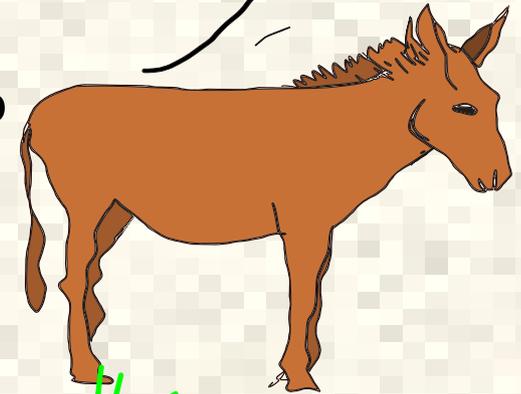
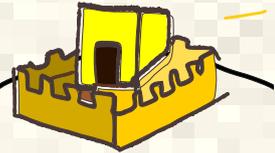


Source: gov.uk

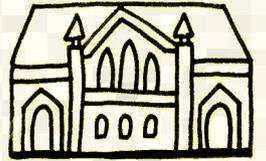
Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey

I want to persuade you that the day we remember today is up there with these dramatic days

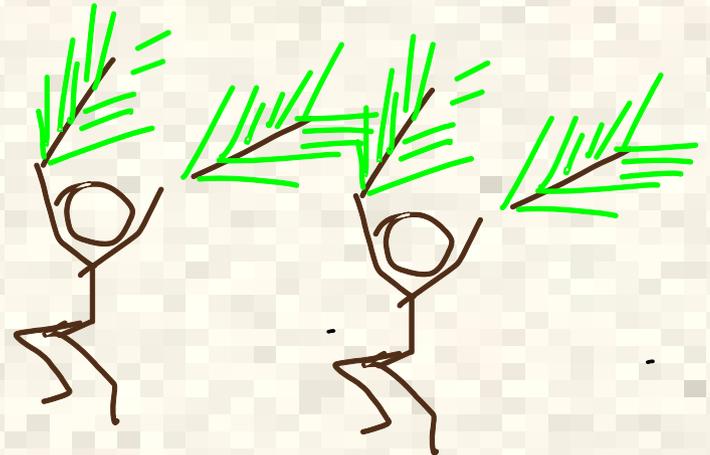
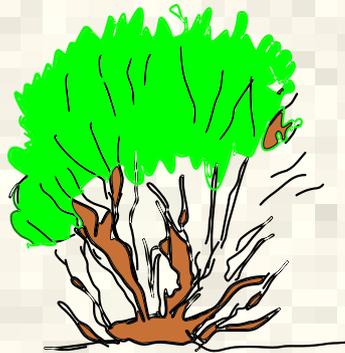
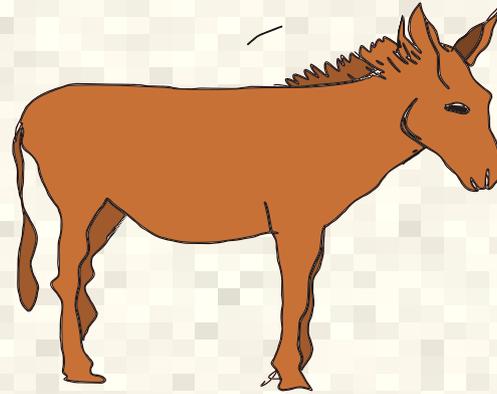
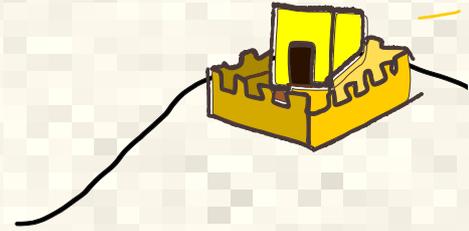
- ... and exceeds them!
- N.B. even more – day of Jesus' death (sky turned dark)
- +day of his resurrection (“death went into reverse” – C.S. Lewis)
- Jesus
 - *Entered Jerusalem*
 - *On a donkey*
 - *With cheering crowds*
 - *And a cursed fig tree ...*



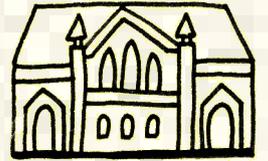
Why such a world-changing day?



1. a defining moment
2. a day of judgment
3. a day of salvation

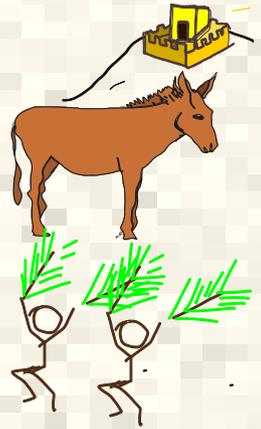


1: a defining moment

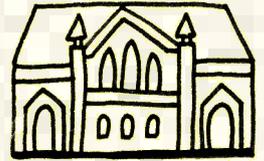


i. Deliberately engineered by Jesus

- we shouldn't think that this was random, or lucky, or unlucky
 - as Mark tells us: 10:32 “Jesus leading the way up to Jerusalem ...”
 - pre-arranged donkey/colt 11:4
 - (pre-planned 9/11 ... also a mind deeply at work here)
- but more to come...



1: a defining moment



ii. Defined by ancient hebrew scriptures (OT)

– **The city is not random:** “the city of King David”

- Jerusalem = Zion
- Agenda for this city = “all nations will stream to it”
Isaiah 2:1

– **David – the Messianic King is not trivial**

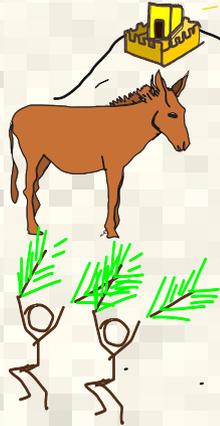
- Breath-taking manifesto: “I will make the nations your inheritance ... you will rule them with an iron sceptre”
Psalm 2:8

- i.e. Taking the place of his supreme international rule

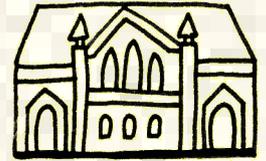
– **Prophecy is not vague:**

- “Rejoice greatly O daughter of Zion ... your king comes to you ... gentle and riding on a donkey ...” Zechariah 9:9

– ==> Jesus (who knew his Scriptures backwards) was aligning himself with these expectations of his Scriptures



1: a defining moment



iii. acknowledged by the people present

- There were a lot of people there getting very excited (e.g. demonstrations via TV)
- v.6 spreading cloaks
- v.8 waving branches
- v.9 quoting Messianic Scriptures
 - Hosanna ! Psalm 118:25,26
 - “Coming **kingdom** of our father David”



Q: How did they know to do this?

Q: Surely Jesus should have corrected them if they were wrong?

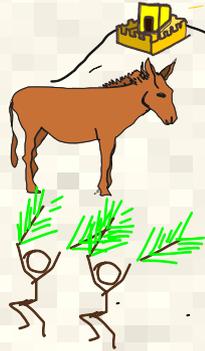
- (Matthew 21:16 – rebuke the little children? ...
“you have ordained praise”)
- ==> even the rag-tag people picked up on it
rightly!

1: a defining moment



iv. understood by nature/cosmos itself

- Luke 19:39 Pharisees: “rebuke your disciples ...”
- Jesus: “if they keep quiet the stones will cry out”



– ==> someone needs to make a big noise about this!

– ==> if the disciples don't then the stones would step up and make up the deficiency

==> a decisive moment – a defining moment – a cosmic moment

==> don't let it pass you by!

2: a day of judgment

God's Messianic King comes to be enthroned in his city – the City from which he rules the world!

==> this is a defining moment

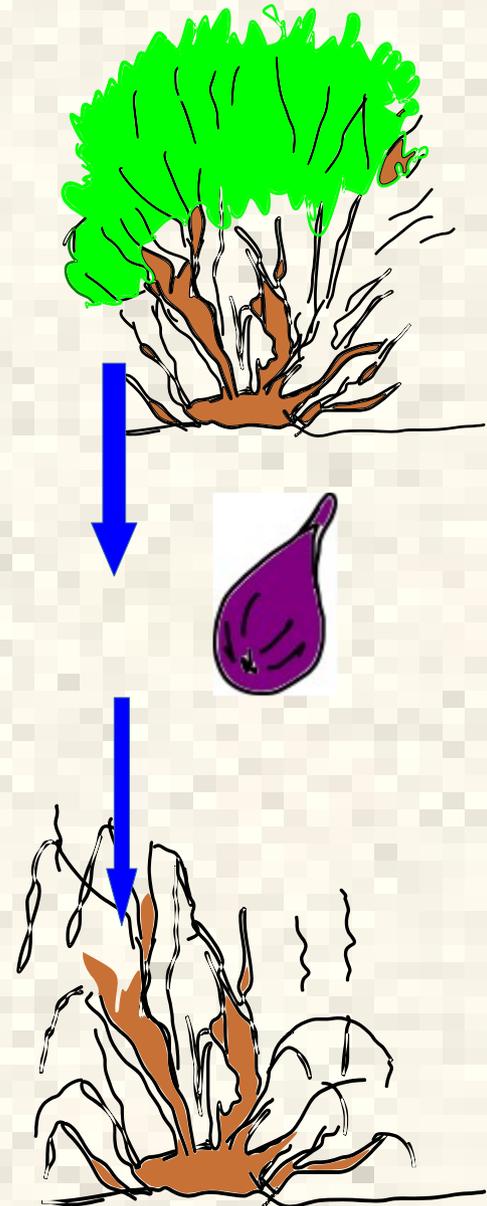
==> **a day/moment of judgment**

Mark 11:12-14 + 11:20

- Very uncharacteristic of Jesus!
- Fig tree (leaves) v.13
- Not the season for figs ... but looked anyway v.14
- Fruitless / barren / useless v.14
- “cursed”

Removed from list of fruitful trees, dig it up, take it to the dump, waste of space!

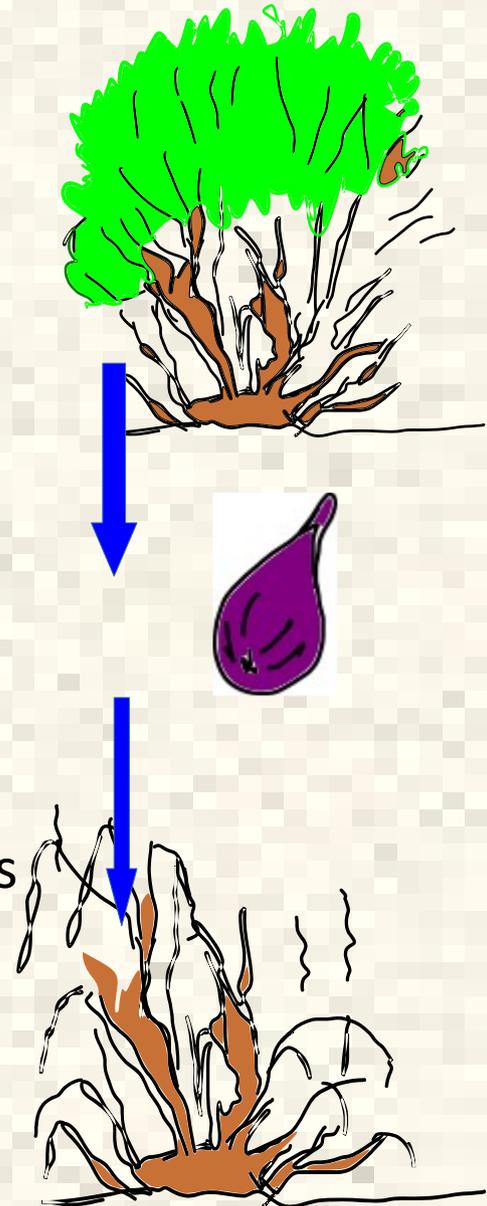
Lots of patience and effort and trouble ... in the end “God says: enough is enough”



2: a day of judgment

Fruitless city → judged city

- A big thing!
- Throughout Hebrew Scriptures, this city is God’s HQ on earth
 - Privileges and promises
- BUT privileges despised, promises disbelieved
- God is patient ... but not infinitely patient
 - ==> ? Fruit of gratitude, honour, praise, respect, service
 - e.g. child: cherished ... but disrespectful and ungrateful
 - ==> ? our society: so much from God ... order ... security ... standard of living ... medical advances ... covid vaccinations → gratitude? Humility? Respect?
 - It would not be surprising if God were to say “if you don’t want me, then you won’t be having my benefits”

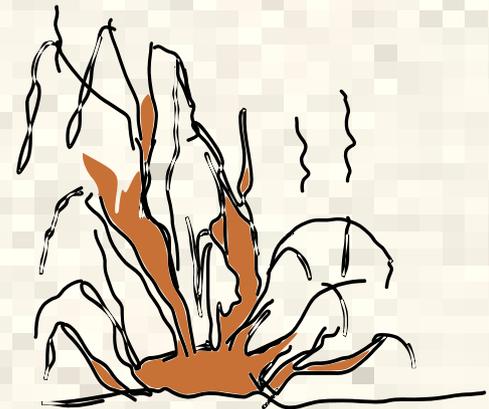


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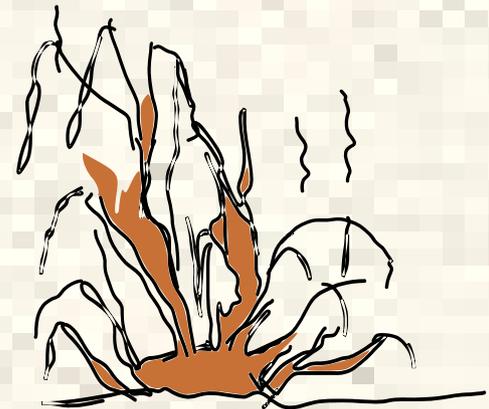
- ==> *personal level: where are you and I on the response chart.*
- *“I am keen to respond rightly to the God who has given me so much: 1 = not at all 5= give my whole life”*
1...2...3...4...5...



2: a day of judgment

Fruitless city → judged city

- *This happened 2000 years ago, and was a long time coming ... but it surely came*
- *Jesus is not only Lord of Jerusalem, but Lord of the whole earth*
- *... he will also surely judge the world ... and all the people that have ever lived.*
 - *Whether they have believed in him or not*
 - *With or without their permission*
 - *Don't say no-one ever told you!*
 - *So the next point is very important ...*



3: a day of salvation

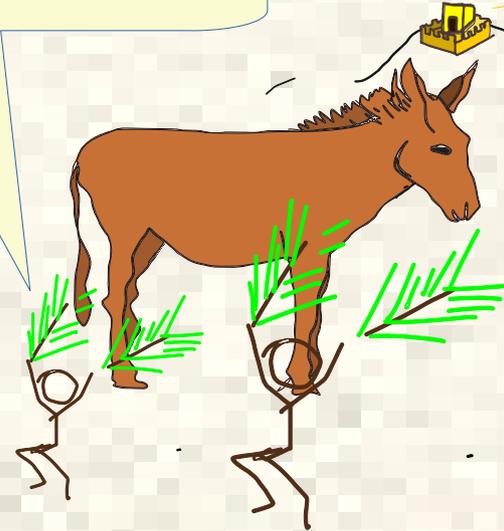


Look again at the scene.

The entry of the coming King

- “Hosanna” = save now (?)
 - save please (?)
- The David-style King is a saving King
 - = he doesn’t come simply to put people down, and kick people out, and remove the good things of their lives
 - BUT to restore, remedy, fill, bless
 - e.g. 10:47 blind beggar “Son of David, have mercy on me ..”
- **Parallel:** lost all our spiritual capital (poor), realised we are actually adrift in a fog of uncertainty, guilty at the bar of justice
 - He comes to show “mercy” ... don’t we need it?

Hosanna



3: a day of salvation

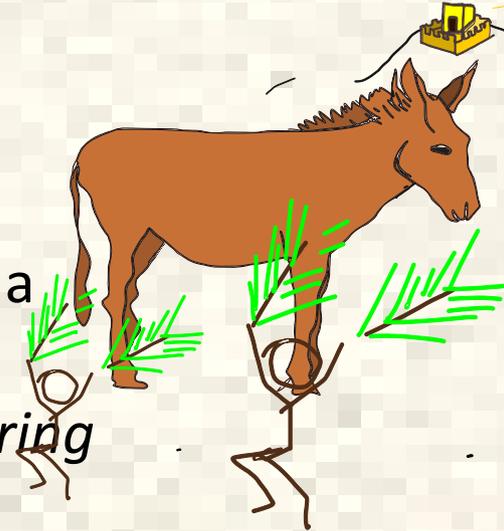


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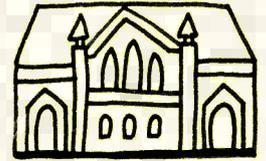
The entry of the coming King

He comes on a donkey ...

- Not a grand war-horse, but a humble **village** animal which he has *borrowed*.
 - // humility → “humbled to death, even death on a cross”
- *“If only you had only known on this day what would bring you peace”* Luke 19:41
 - An opportunity is here today ... for redemption, for salvation, for peace.
 - Don’t let it pass you by.
- e.g. covid has taught us that some opportunities are precious ... might not come again (e.g. Sue Jones)
 - *Here is an opportunity that might not come again ... to have salvation from the King while he is in the business of showing mercy ... “Son of David have mercy on me ...”*



Palm Sunday – a day that changed the world



Conclusion -

1. A decisive day, a defining day

- as engineered by Jesus himself, bursting into time and space/history propelled by the promises of God in Hebrew Scriptures.

The king who rules the world comes to his city.

- *Has it impressed us?*
- *It's a dress rehearsal for his coming on the judgment day!!*

2. a day of judgment

- Will he find fruit at this late stage?
- Will his city receive him? Or reject him?
- *What does he find in our lives?*
- *What will he find on the final judgment?*

3. a day of salvation

- An offer of peace while he passes by!
- An opportunity for each of us here – to find redemption, forgiveness, purpose, eyesight ... Don't missed out.

