

Palm Sunday and Jesus' Triumphant Entry

John 12:12-19

April 10, 2022

1. Every human society has its moments of procession.
 - a. Athletic victories: women's soccer team in 2015.
 - b. Winning wars. Korean War General Douglas MacArthur in 1951 (after he was relieved of duty by President Harry S. Truman).
 - c. Accomplishments: John Glenn, 1962; Apollo astronauts, 1969.
 - d. Political candidates: Richard Nixon, 1960
 - e. Funerals.
 - f. Weddings.
 - g. Worship.
 - h. Others?
2. What is a procession? A procession is an organized body of people walking in a formal or ceremonial manner.
3. Why have a procession? Display of power; display solidarity; entertain; advertise (circus, Macy's Day Parade); mark important changes; exhibit spoils of war; maintain cultural heritage.
4. Read Psalm 68:24-26. Why would the people be celebrating God coming into His sanctuary?
5. Triumphant Procession. In the world of the Old Testament a triumph over enemies had two aspects: the triumph of a god and the triumph of a human king. "Religion and warfare were interwoven, and the celebration of a triumph was as much a celebration of divine triumph as it was an earthly triumph" (Dictionary of Biblical Imagery).
 - a. Read Exodus 15:1-18. What does the above information imply about Israel's victory over Pharaoh?
 - b. Read Ephesians 6:12, Colossians 1:13, John 12:31-32, Deuteronomy 32:16-17, Psalm 106:37-39. How does this change our understanding of Jesus's triumphal entry?
 - c. As modern Americans, where are we most likely to lose sight of spiritual battle? Why?