

Sunday, April 10, 2022
Summary of the Coming of the King
Matthew 21:1-11
Wayne Shelton

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Among the crowds of Galilean pilgrims arriving on foot in Jerusalem for the Passover festival, Jesus chose to make a conspicuous entry on a donkey. Since we have no other record of Jesus riding, this must have been a deliberate act, meant to be noticed. The instructions in the opening verses suggest that it had been carefully prepared. It was, as Matthew makes clear, a fulfilment to Zechariah's prophecy of the coming of the Messianic King (Zech. 9:9-10). The disciples and the Galilean crowd recognized the allusion and turned the arrival into a triumphal procession. Their shouts in v9 made no secret of their belief that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah, now coming to set up his reign in Israel's capital. The people of Jerusalem were, however, taken aback, and the whole city was stirred, not with enthusiasm but with concern: *'Who is this?'* And the question confronts us as well. Who is this King of Palm Sunday?