

Aim: *Jesus came to earth for a specific reason, but most of the people on earth missed that reason. In riding on the donkey, Jesus showed that beyond any doubt, He was fulfilling the scriptures.*

Refer:

Resources:

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey, He was fulfilling a prophecy given by Zechariah and during His life on earth Jesus fulfilled many hundreds of prophecies.

The first prophecy about the Messiah is found in the book of Genesis where God is talking to Satan, who had disguised himself as a snake and tricked Eve.

Read it in Genesis 3:15

Read Isaiah 9:6

Read Isaiah 11:1-2, 4, 10.

At the time when Jesus lived on earth, the Romans ruled a much of the world, including the land of the Jews. The Jews had to pay taxes to Rome, they had Roman Governors, Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers says that Jewish householders might be forced to share their homes with Roman soldiers and their horses. The Pulpit Commentary says that Jews could be forced to act a courier, or to carry a soldiers' luggage for a mile. (Biblehub.com commentaries on Matthew 5:41)

Have a good reader read the following verses and think and discuss what the Jews of Jesus day would have been thinking as they read this prophecy.

Read Zechariah 9:9-10, 14, 16.

Living under Roman rulership wasn't particularly fun, nor was it good for Jewish pride, and so the Jews were looking forward to the coming of the Messiah to lead them in battle and free them from their enemies. When Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah, they believed the time had come.

The time had come – just not the time they thought had come. It was now the week of the final Passover celebration. The time of fulfillment for the promise of Genesis 3:15, when the snake would strike His heel – an injury that would appear to be fatal but then would not be, but He would strike the head of Satan, the snake – a fatal injury.

Jesus didn't come to free the Jews from the Romans, but for the much greater purpose of freeing all mankind, from the power of Satan and death. Jesus' purpose wasn't a secret, or at least it shouldn't have been. Genesis 3:15, talked about the 'striking of His heel', Isaiah 53 contains a very clear prophecy about the crucifixion. (Can read Isaiah 53 verses 3, 5, 8, 9)

How did so many of the Jewish leaders get it so wrong?

Read what Jesus said as He sat on the donkey looking at Jerusalem.

Luke 19:42-44

What did Jesus' call Jerusalem in Matthew 23:37?

Mark tells us about something else that happened at this time. Read Mark 11:12-14, 20-26

If you have been doing these lessons for a while you should already know the A.B.C prayer. We can use this prayer to ask for anything that God has promised and know for sure that God will give us what we ask for.

A – Ask

B – Believe

C – Claim, get or receive your answer and give thanks.

There is something else that we can learn from the fig tree. Ellen White in *Desire of Ages* tells us that the cursing of the fig tree, was an object lesson. It was obvious that the trees without leaves didn't have fruit, but it looked like the one with leaves might have fruit. The Jewish nations should have had the Fruit of the Spirit – but as a group, they did not. Just as the trees time was up, so the time of the Jewish nation as God's special people, was almost up – soon their city would be destroyed.

God wants us to have the Fruit of the Spirit, He wants to work in our lives, and do wonderful things with us.

Philippians 2:13NLT says, "God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him." But He never forces us. Instead we need to ask and allow Him to work in us.

We can use the A.B.C. prayer by praying, "God in Philippians 2:13 You said You will give us the desire and the power to do what You want us to do. I am asking You to do this. Since You say You will I believe it. Now I am claiming it. Thankyou for doing this in me."

Pray like this and you will never regret it.