# **Prophetic picture of the Triumphal Entry**

Carl Van Vliet

Holy Week / Triumphal Entry; Triumphal Procession / Mt 21:1–11; Mt 25:1–13; 2 Th 2:1–12

# **Prophetic picture of the Triumphal Entry**

**Matthew 21:1–11 NKJV**

1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose *them* and bring *them* to Me. 3 And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.”

4 All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

5 *“Tell* *the daughter of Zion,*

*‘Behold, your King is coming to you,*

*Lowly, and sitting on a donkey,*

*A colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”*

### Jesus Enters the City on a Donkey:

**There is a culture here that needs to be understood - In Middle Eastern culture a visiting King was known for their intentions based on whether they rode into the city of visitation on either:**

1.  **A Donkey**

2. **A Horse**

**A king entering on a donkey meant that he king came in peace.**

**A King entering on a horse meant they cam for war, they came to conquer**

[**Zechariah 9:9-10**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Zec9.9-10) “9 “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; **He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.** 10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. **He shall speak peace to the nations**; His dominion shall be ‘from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.’”

Historical culture has it that there was another procession into Jerusalem on the west (Jesus entered on the EAST on the Temple Mount side - entering from the mount of olives through the kidron valley into Jerusalem.)

If history is correct then on the west another procession came in - Pontius Pilate. Pilate was governor of Jerusalem and surrounding territories of the Israelites for the Romans, it was a point that all governors would bring in extra troops during feasts days as a show of force to “keep the peace” making sure no one incited a riot. He would have been coming in for Passover and the feast of unleavened bread.

**And he rode in on a war horse.**

There is a stark contrast here: on one side of the city enters an armed force: Peace through superior firepower. Peace through strength

On the other - The Suffering Servant Jesus, rides in lowly on a donkey - Bringing the only true peace that is possible:

The simple way the world defines peace is “the absence of strife and discord”

 Peace: Websters Dictionary:

 1**:** a state of tranquility or quiet:  **a:** freedom from civil disturbance
**b:** a state of security or order within a community provided for by law or customs breach of the *peace*2freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions
3harmony in personal relations
4a:a state or period of mutual concord between governments
b:a pact or agreement to end hostilities between those who have been at war or in a state of **enmity**

In the Bible there are 401 references to Peace in 373 Bible verses

### The world has no grid for the enmity mankind has with God, but it is still there.

Enmity: “opposition; very bitter, deep-rooted, irreconcilable hatred and variance.

Enmity: Paul described it in [Romans 8:7](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro8.7) “7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.”

 James said it this way: “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously [Jas 4:4–5](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jas4.4-5).

The first use of the word enmity is found in the book of Genesis after the fall in [Genesis 3:15](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ge3.15) “15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.””

Christ came to bring peace for us with God:

When the angels sang “Peace on earth good will towards men” (Luke 2) It was not the absence of strife in the world. Jesus didn't end all conflict in the world or in our lives. Peace on earth was the **peace with God through the blood of Christ**!

[Colossians 1:20](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Col1.20) “20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, **having made peace through the blood of His cross**.”

 [Romans 5:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro5.1) “1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**,” . Due to our sins, we were enemies of God and were separated from Him

[Ephesians 2:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eph2.13) “13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” Jesus restored our relationship when He took on our sins and died our death on the cross [Ephesians 2:14](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eph2.14) “14 **For He Himself is our peace,** who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,” He provided a path for reconciliation with God, and now we are joined to God

Jesus comes to bring true peace [John 14:27](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn14.27) “27 **Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you**; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

But the enemy is also here: Just as the picture of Pontius Pilate and the Roman troops come riding in to the city to suppress, to instill fear, to subject the people under him, then Our enemy (the Devil) also comes in to suppress us, to instill fear in us to subject us as slaves to sin.

[1 Peter 5:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Pe5.8) “8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your **adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**”

# **This Triumphal Entry has prophetic implications as well:**

**Two advents are described in the Bible, remember the word advent means “coming” and was used to describe the visitation of a VIP, Dignitary or royalty. Those two advent are:**

**Christ coming as conquering King As in** [**Psalm 2:6-9**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ps2.6-9) ““Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.” “I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ””  **or** [**Psalm 110:1-2**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ps110.1-2) “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!”

Christ as Suffering Servant as in [Isaiah 53](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Is53)

We now understand these as:

**The 1st Advent: Jesus Incarnation whence Jesus comes as a suffering servant as described in** [**Isaiah 53**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Is53) **and among other places.**

**The 2nd Advent: Jesus Parousia meaning the “arrival” or Presence, this advent or coming Jesus returns as conquering King and establishes His Millennial Reign.**

**This Parousia - Arrival of a VIP or dignitary has specific key characteristics:**

**When a VIP such as a king would come the people would “come out” to meet Him and escort Him back into the city**

**The Triumphal Entry when Jesus come in on a Donkey is the prophetic picture of the Parousia, the Second Advent - Second coming of Christ:**

[**Revelation 19:11-16**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Re19.11-16) “11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS”**

[Matthew 24:30-31](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt24.30-31) “30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, **and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.** 31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will **gather together His elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Gather together - Parousia we will come to Him and make His processional - His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

Just a little later, as Jesus is teaching in [Matthew 25](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt25) He teaches a parable of ten virgins. In it he describes another coming out to meet Him - This time as the returning Bridegroom - **Same event different language to represent it:**

[Matthew 25:6-7](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt25.6-7) “6 “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; **go out to meet him!’** 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.”

“Go out to meet Him” is a Greek word: Apantesis - The Bridgroom is Christ - He is coming and **when He comes we will go out to meet him!**

[1 Thessalonians 4:17](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Th4.17) “17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds **to meet the Lord** **[Apantesis]** in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

[2 Thessalonians 2:1-2](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.2Th2.1-2) “1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and **our** **gathering together to Him**, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though **the day of Christ had come**.”

So the **Parousia is the Arrival of the King in the Second Coming** and the **Apantesis is the gathering of the Saints to “Meet” Him in the air** and escort Him back to Rule and Reign!

Zechariahs Prophecy in [Zechariah 9](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Zec9) fulfilled with Jesus entering the city on the back of a donkey, headed to the cross to bring true peace, but further in Zechariah he prophesied of **Christ 2nd Coming** - [Zechariah 12:10-11](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Zec12.10-11) “10 “…**then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.** 11 In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.”

What did Jesus say at His second coming those who had rejected Him will do? They will mourn [Matthew 24:30](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt24.30) “30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, **and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”**

**What is significant of the mount of Olives?**

**The 1st Triumphal Entry processional begins at the mount of Olives**

**The Ascension happens at the Mount of Olives -** [**Luke 24:50**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Lk24.50)[**Acts 1:9-11**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ac1.9-11) “…**This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.””**

[**Zechariah 14:4**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Zec14.4) “4 **And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives**, Which faces Jerusalem on the east.”

Christ came the in the first triumphal entry beginning at the mount of olives on His way to the Cross **to bring peace with God through His suffering, death burial and resurrection!**

Christ Ascended to Heaven after the Cross and Resurrection at the Mount of Olives - **Seated now at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us, praying for us as we await His Parousia, His second Coming as King of Kings and Lord of Lords!**

**Christ will return in power for the 2nd Triumphal entry at the Mount of Olives** and He will make war with the nations that reject Him until [Psalm 2](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ps2) is fulfilled [Psalm 2:6-9](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ps2.6-9) “6 “Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.” 7 “I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 **Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ””**

**Maranatha - Come Lord Jesus**

**We await the fulfilment of you second coming as our Blessed Hope as Paul said in** [**Titus 2:11-14**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Tt2.11-14) “11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”