

# PRAISING WITH PALMS

*v12 The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. v13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!"* **John 12:12-13**

*SEE also Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11 and Luke 19:28-44*

## **1 The PALM is a symbol of REFRESHING**

The first reference to a Palm is found in EXODUS 15:27

Earlier in Exodus 15:22-26 we have the story of when the Israelites had run out of water at a place called MARA. The problem was that the water at MARA was bitter and undrinkable. There the Israelites complained that God had brought them out of Egypt only to have them die in the Desert. The story read as follows:

**Exodus 15:25-26** *Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.*

*There the LORD made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them. v26 He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, **for I am the LORD, who heals you.**" (Jehovah RAPHA)*

Immediately the next verse says:

**Exodus 15:27** *Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.*

I am reminded of the words of Jesus in:

**John 7:37-38** *On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. v38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."*

Jesus was pointing to the promise made in:

**Isaiah 55:1-3** *"Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. v2 Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. v3 Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.*

**AS WE PRAISE WITH PALMS, REMEMBER,**  
**ONLY JESUS CAN FULLY SATISFY**

## **2 The PALM is a symbol of HOPE**

The SECOND reference to a Palm is found in: **Leviticus 23:39-41** " 'So beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the LORD for seven days; the first day is a day of rest, and the eighth day also is a day of rest. v40 On the first day you are to take choice fruit from the trees, **and palm fronds**, leafy branches and poplars, and rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. v41 Celebrate this as a festival to the LORD for seven days each year. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month.

This passage refers to one of the Festivals of the Jews called "The FEAST of BOOTHS" or "The FEAST of TABERNACLES". The Jews remember the time just before they left Egypt. It was a Festival held in AUTUMN, to celebrate the harvest when God's promise was fulfilled.

It is the same Festival at which Jesus made the CLAIM in the previous POINT.

HOWEVER, HE ALSO SAID:

*John 7:28-31 Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, "Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, v29 but I know him because I am from him and he sent me." v30 At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his time had not yet come. v31 **Still, many in the crowd put their faith in him.** They said, "When the Christ comes, will he do more miraculous signs than this man?"*

## **AS WE PRAISE WITH PALMS, REMEMBER, ONLY JESUS CAN FULFIL HOPE**

## **3 The PALM is a symbol of GOD'S PRESENCE**

The THIRD reference to a Palm is found in I Kings 6 where it talks about the building of the Temple by Solomon:

*1 Kings 6:29-35 **On the walls all around the temple**, in both the inner and outer rooms, he carved cherubim, **palm trees** and open flowers. v30 He also covered the floors of both the inner and outer rooms of the temple with gold. v31 For the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of olive wood with five-sided jambs. v32 And **on the two olive wood doors** he carved cherubim, **palm trees** and open flowers, and overlaid the cherubim and palm trees with beaten gold. v33 In the same way he made four-sided jambs of olive wood for the entrance to the main hall. v34 He also made **two pine doors**, each having two leaves that turned in sockets. v35 **He carved** cherubim, **palm trees** and open flowers on them and overlaid them with gold hammered evenly over the carvings.*

***2 Chronicles 3:5** He panelled the main hall with pine and covered it with fine gold and **decorated it with palm tree** and chain designs.*

**The NEW HEAVENLY TEMPLE is also decorated with PALMS.**

**We read about this in: *Ezekiel 40:1-5 The New Temple Area***

*In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth of the month, in the fourteenth year after the fall of the city--on that very day the hand of the LORD was upon me and he took me there. v2 In visions of God he took me to the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain, on whose south side were some buildings that looked like a city. v3 He took me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze; he was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand. v4 The man said to me, "Son of man, look with your eyes and hear with your ears and pay attention to everything I am going to show you, for that is why you have been brought here. Tell the house of Israel everything you see." v5 **I saw a wall completely surrounding the temple area.***

*Ezekiel 40:16 The faces of the projecting walls were **decorated with palm trees.** 40:22 Its openings, its portico and its palm tree decorations .... 40:26 Seven steps led up to it, with its portico opposite them; **it had palm tree decorations** on the faces of the projecting walls on each side. 40:31 Its portico faced the outer court; **palm trees decorated its jambs**, and eight steps led up to it. Also 40:34, 40:37, 41:18, 41:19, 41:20, 41:25 and 41:26*

## **WHEN JESUS ENTERED JERUSALEM THAT DAY GOD ENTERED JERUSALEM**

*Luke 19:37-40 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: v38 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" v39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" v40 **"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."***

## **AS WE PRAISE WITH PALMS, REMEMBER, ONLY JESUS ALONE IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP**

### **4 The PALM is a symbol of VICTORY**

The FOUTH reference to a Palms is found in

*Deuteronomy 34:1-4 Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the whole land--from Gilead to Dan, v2 all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, v3 the Negev and the **whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms**, as far as Zoar. v4 Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it."*

**WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE FIRST CITY THE ISRAELITES CONQUERED?  
JERICHO**

**WHAT WAS THE NICKNAME OF JERICHO? THE CITY OF PALMS**

## **Palms represent the VICTORY of GOD on behalf of ISRAEL**

As Jesus is entering Jerusalem on that day he is doing so in  
**ANTICIPATION of VICTORY**

Hence, we read:

***John 12:12-13** v12 The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. v13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!"*

**HOWEVER, THE ULTIMATE CELEBRATION OF VICTORY IS STILL TO COME:**

*Revelation 7:9-12 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. **They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.** v10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." v11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, v12 saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"*

**AS WE PRAISE WITH PALMS, REMEMBER,  
CELEBRATE THE VICTORY OF JESUS OVER SIN**

### CONCLUSION

**AS WE PRAISE WITH PALMS, REMEMBER,**

**ONLY JESUS CAN FULLY SATISFY**

**ONLY JESUS CAN FULFIL HOPE**

**ONLY JESUS ALONE IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP**

**TO CELEBRATE THE VICTORY OF JESUS OVER SIN**

**ONE FINAL PROMISE IF WE DO WHAT I JUST SAID**

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon. Psalms 92:12

**THAT PROMISE COMES OUT OF ISAIAH**

*Isaiah 49:8 This is what the LORD says: "In the time of my favour I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances,*

*Isaiah 49:16 **See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;** your walls are ever before me.*