



[TOP](#)

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, June 10, 2025 - The Humble Donkey

JUNE 10TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

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While we often view donkeys or mules as stubborn and obstinate, in the Bible they are seen as patient, forgiving, workhorse creatures (Isa. 30:24). Donkeys were beasts of burden in the biblical world and would be the equivalent of pick-up trucks today in terms of their utilitarian capabilities. But donkeys had another use too. They were ridden at coronations, for example, by Solomon in 1 Kings 1:33–44. They were ridden by David's sons (2 Sam. 13:29) and the sons of leaders in Judges (Judg. 10:4; 12:13–15).

In John 12:13–17 Jesus makes His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The people were gathered in anticipation, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel!” (v. 13). Jesus arrived on a young donkey. His humble, yet royal, entrance fulfilled the prophecy from Zechariah 9:9, which spoke of a coming king, “gentle and riding on a donkey.” The donkey sent a message that Jesus’ kingdom would not be about earthly power and domination but about humility, peace, and salvation.

This challenged the expectations of many who anticipated a Messiah who would overthrow Roman rule through force.

Both the donkey and the horse are fitting choices for the arrival of King Jesus. For His entrance into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday, Jesus would arrive on a humble donkey. But when He comes again, the Son of God will return triumphantly, riding on a white horse. In Revelation 19:11, Jesus returns like a victorious general. “I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.”

We look forward to that day when we will welcome King Jesus, saying: “Hallelujah! For our Lord Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory” (Rev. 19:6–7)!

Go Deeper

Why did Jesus choose to arrive in such a humble manner? How will His return contrast this choice?

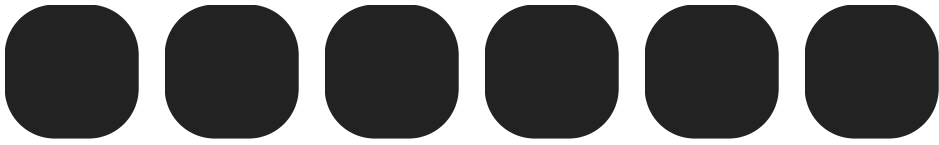
Pray with Us

Jesus, we are in awe of the beauty and humility of Your life on earth. Even to enter Jerusalem, You chose the humble donkey! And the anticipation of Your Second Coming in glory fills us with hope and joy. Come, Lord Jesus!

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