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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A2016 ~ The Triumphal Entry.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Towards the end of the 13th Century, the Ottoman Empire was founded by Turkish tribes, covering a much larger area than present-day Turkey. This empire controlled Palestine and Jerusalem for 400 years before it was dissolved in 1918 at the end of the First World War.

British troops led by General Allenby made an assault on the surrounding areas of Jerusalem in early December 1917. The land was very difficult to cross. The hills were so steep and the valleys so deep that it was difficult to move the different sections of soldiers into place all at the same time to order to have a coordinated attack. When most of the soldiers were in position and ready to fight, it then rained continuously for three days. The hills were covered with mist, making it impossible to see from the air or send visual signals.

When the attack started and after a single day's fighting, the Turks retreated and Jerusalem fell into British hands. This happened on the first day of the Jewish feast of Hanukkah or Dedication.

General Allenby was a competent horseman and it would have made sense for him to ride triumphantly into the city. However, Allenby entered on foot out of his great respect for the Holy City, becoming the first Christian to control the city for centuries.

In today's *Bible Adventure*, when it was close to the Feast of Passover and families had to choose their Passover lamb, the King of kings, being Jesus Christ, rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

All four Gospels record the triumphal entry of the Lord Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. The crowds waved palm branches and chanted, "Hosanna to the Son of David." The word 'Hosanna' is an exclamation of praise to God. If you want to read the passages about this event, it is recorded in Matthew, Chapter 21, Mark, Chapter 11, Luke, Chapter 19 and John, Chapter 12.

At the Passover each year, the population of Jerusalem swelled from 50,000 to 250,000. When the people in Jerusalem heard that Jesus was coming to the feast, they took palm branches and went out to meet Him. The prophet Zechariah had predicted 500 years earlier that the Messiah would enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey, which was a colt, the foal of a donkey.

All his life, Jesus had walked everywhere. But now, He deliberately decided to cover this short distance of 2 miles from Bethany to Jerusalem on an unbroken donkey, one He wouldn't ride again. By doing so, He was publicly declaring that He was the Messiah.

Why a donkey used you might ask? Jesus wasn't riding a horse, for He wasn't coming to make war. He was riding a donkey, the animal used by poor people. King Jesus was coming in peace, even as his ancestor King David had done so before Him. The crowds threw their outer garments on the donkeys' backs as well as the road to respect Jesus as Israel's king. King Jesus came to declare peace to the nations.

Jesus had come to fulfil Zechariah 9:9: "I am the righteous King of Israel who brings salvation to my people. I am coming to my city and my people in peace and to make peace."

The authorities weren't happy to hear this large crowd shouting, "You are the king of Israel!" For 600 long years, Israel had no king. Now a king was coming to Jerusalem, to His own people, although they wouldn't receive Him. Some of the Pharisees in the crowd told Jesus to rebuke His disciples for making such a disturbance. In Luke 19, Jesus replied to them, saying, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

Jesus rode the donkey from the Mount of Olives, down to the Kidron Valley and up to the Eastern Gate on the Temple Mount. When Jesus was close to the city, He wept over it. He said: "If you only knew today what is needed for peace!" Then He prophesied the complete destruction of Jerusalem, the Temple, the inhabitants of the city; and that Jerusalem's outer walls would not have a single stone left in place. The reason for this destruction Jesus said was because the people didn't recognise the present time when God had come to save them through Jesus.

The crowd shouted out praise to Jesus, yet most of them didn't understand Jesus' true purpose of riding through Jerusalem. They were looking for a political and economic Messiah, one who'd set them free from the control of Rome and improve their living standards. If this didn't happen their enthusiasm would wane and in a few short days, the crowd would then cry, "Crucify him!" And this is exactly what happened.

In the same way, many Christians today don't want the real Jesus who is available to save them from their sins and release them from the control of Satan. Rather than seek eternal life with God in the next life, which Jesus offers, such people hope instead that Jesus will help them get their ultimate goals of health, wealth and power in this world. But King Jesus comes to us, not to give us the things of this world, but to give us peace with God and peace of mind. He came to die as the Passover Lamb, offering himself as an atoning sacrifice in our behalf to secure this peace for all who trust in Him.

Through the Spirit in Luke, Chapter 2, Simeon understood this purpose of Jesus' incarnation. When he saw the infant Jesus, he prayed, "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

In 1 John, Chapter 2, it says: "Do not love the world or anything that belongs to the world. If you love the world, you do not love the Father. Everything that belongs to the world – what the sinful self desires, what people see and want, and everything in this world that the people are so proud of – none of this comes from the Father; it all comes from the world. The world and everything in it that people desire is passing away; but those who do the will of God live forever."

When Jesus came to earth, He came as the suffering servant to reconcile sinful people back to Himself. But when He returns to earth a second time, He will come on a white horse to conquer all His enemies. This will happen after Satan and sin have ruled the earth for the seven years of Tribulation. The Scriptures say that the end result of this Tribulation will be near-destruction of all human life.

In recent years, many pastors have given the depressing news to their congregations that Christians will go through the Great Tribulation. Is this true? What do the Scriptures say? In 1 Thessalonians 5:9, the Apostle Paul says: "God did not choose us to suffer his anger, but to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us in order that we might live together with him, whether we are alive or dead when he comes."

God knows the heart of everyone and no one can fool God. Some people say they are Christians but have never given themselves to do His will. They are often active in churches and appear good to everyone around them, but there's an embarrassing day coming when they will be rejected by the Lord Jesus. In Matthew, Chapter 7, these people who are rejected will respond that they did many wonderful works for Jesus but the Bible says Jesus will still deny ever knowing them. He'll even call them 'wicked' and order them away from Him. Such people, you see, didn't teach the people around them the truth of Jesus when they had the opportunity to do so. Instead, they led others astray so that they too would also be lost for eternity. In a section of the old walled city of Jerusalem, there remains to this day a gate called the Eastern Gate or Golden Gate. It gives direct access from the Temple area to the Mount of Olives. In 1517 when the Turks conquered Jerusalem under the leadership of Suleiman the Magnificent, he commanded that the city's ancient walls be rebuilt. In the middle of this rebuilding project, for some unknown reason, he ordered that the Eastern Gate be sealed up with stones.

A rumour swept Jerusalem that the Messiah was coming. Suleiman called together some Jewish rabbis and asked them to tell him about this Messiah. They described the Messiah as being a great military leader who would be sent by God from the east. He would enter the Eastern Gate and liberate the city from foreign control. Suleiman then decided to put an end to Jewish hopes by ordering the Eastern Gate be sealed right up. He also put a Muslim cemetery in front of the Gate, believing that no Jewish holy man would defile himself by walking through a Muslim cemetery. Despite Suleiman's efforts, there's absolutely no force in all creation that can stop or hinder the fulfilment of even one of God's prophecies.

It was in the Six Day War in 1967 that the Israeli army broke through the Lion's Gate and returned control of the ancient city of Jerusalem to the Jewish people, for the first time in 1,897 years. During this war, some of the Jewish commandos wanted to blow up the 15-foot-thick sealed Eastern Gate with explosives to gain entry into the old city and give the Jordanian defenders a surprise. But the leader of the group, an Orthodox Jew, passionately protested the idea, stating that "the Eastern Gate can be opened only when the Messiah comes."

The Eastern Gate is positive proof that the Bible is the Word of God. The Gate has remained sealed since that time and the Muslim cemetery still blocks the entrance. The old walled city has eight gates yet the Eastern Gate, and it alone, remains sealed. The gate awaits the return of the Messiah in glory. Then and only then will it be opened, as prophesied in Ezekiel 44.

Do you have assurance that you are ready to meet the Lord Jesus when He comes back for His people? If you are, then you'll be pleased to know at King Jesus' triumphal entry through the Eastern Gate sometime in the future, that you'll be there to watch. He'll then enter the City of David, and to the triumphant shouts of "Hosanna to the Son of David," He'll be crowned the Kings of kings and Lord of lords.

Today Jesus is still coming to see us in peace. Jesus died, was buried, was raised on the third day, and ascended into the heavens. He's the Sovereign Lord of the universe.

Now is the accepted time to accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. He will deliver us from all our sins and set us free from death by granting us life everlasting, secured by His death on the cross. But if we will not confess Jesus as Lord and King over our lives, we will cause Him to weep over us, as He wept over the unbelieving city of Jerusalem.

All rightful honour as sovereign Lord will be given to Jesus on the last day of judgment. In Philippians, Chapter 2, Verses 10-11 it says: "In honour of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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