

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Liturgy of the Palms

Matthew 21: 1-11

1. And when Jesus and His disciples drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, which was an village not far from the city (*1,) they rested. And looking unto the nearby Mount of Olives they sighed, for they were super-weary with walking. And they were sore, and some were afraid. Then sent Jesus two disciples,
2. Saying unto them, Right! Get thee up, for our journeying is not yet finished and my destiny has yet to be fulfilled. Go ye into the village over against you, and pass by the inn – no, not that inn, the other one - and straightway ye shall find an ass tied – I said, not that inn - and a colt with her: loose them, carefully, and bring them unto me.
3. And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, We heed thee not, and if there be much muttering and threatenings of violence say, The Lord hath need of them; straightway they will send them for I have written to them in advance and booking their use. If there is any doubt show them this fragment of papyrus.
4. And all this was done, dear reader, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying,
5. Tell ye the daughter of Sion, (although why she would be interested, G-d only knows,) Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass, which be a mighty work to sit on two animals at the same time, and this shall be a sign.
6. And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, and indeed many did say mutterings and ought, and some of those oughts were exceedingly naughty, but they spoke as Jesus had commanded, and also misquoted Zechariah, and suddenly the noise was stilled, and also the wind, for they had not yet eaten.
7. And they brought unto Him the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, (that is across their backs,) though not quite all for there were women and children looking on, and they set Him upon his ass thereon the beast.
8. And a very great multitude did gather along the road, and heeding not the prints of the ass's hooves nor those of the colt, nor the evidence and whiff that was left of their passing, did spread their garments in the way; others, finding no palm crosses, ignored the protests from the gardeners and did cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way.
9. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest, and they did sing, Ride on, ride on in Majesty, an octave too high so that their voices were made hoarse. And it took ages.
10. And when He was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved and did flush mightily, saying, Who is this?
11. And the multitude said, Hast thou not been paying attention? This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee. And some did silently wonder if anything good could come from Nazareth but they left that question for another time. And many cinnamon rolls were eaten and much wine was drunk. And some say that they saw Him with His disciples take the road to Bethany, but that, like many things, is not in this book.

Footnotes:

(1) Some scholars place Bethphage on the Jericho Road, a Sabbath-day's journey limit from Jerusalem. ie. 2/3 of a mile. This would explain why the processional hymn "All glory, laud and honour" has so many verses.

