

January 13, 2019

Matthew 27:1-3

Background of the Roman Trials

- Before we consider the *scene* of the trials, we need to recognize the *theme* in order to better understand what was going on in the heavenlies.
- In **Gen. 1:28**, God had given Adam authority to rule over the created order in His Name. But in rejecting God as his King, an alien anti-Christ Being was able to gain rule of the created order.

1 John 5:19 *the whole world is under the control of [this usurper]*

- The Bible calls this malevolent usurper:

...the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4)

...the evil one (John 17:15; 8:44; Matt. 4:10)

...the devil (John 8:44; Matt. 4:10)

...Satan (Matt. 4:10)

- As a result, we all wrestle:

Eph 6:12-13 ...against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places

- And the medium of Satan rule is in the realm of our natural bodies which the Bible calls the flesh.

Rom 7:5 For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions ...were at work in our members to bear fruit for death...

- Satan has become the king of fallen humanity, but God will overthrow his rule through His anointed King.
- This True King will deliver God's people from their slavery to sin and Satan by paying the penalty of death on their behalf so as to destroy Satan's ability to rule over them (Heb.2:14).
- On that 1st day of the week so many years ago in Jerusalem, two opposing processions entered God's city: The Divine procession and the imperial procession.

The Humble Procession

- Before we consider the *scene* of the trials, we need to recognize the *theme* in order to better understand what was going on in the heavenlies.
- Jesus rode a donkey into the city as the people cheered Him by laying their cloaks and palm branches on the road in front of him and shouting “Hosanna, Son of David” (Matt 21:6-9).
- Now the King of Glory was entering Jerusalem to face the usurper in the person of Pilate, who represented the imperial power of Rome and Caesar a living god.

Zechariah 9.9 *behold, your King is coming humble and riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey...*

The Imperial Procession

- As Jesus and His disciples entered Jerusalem from the east, Pilate and his soldiers was entering Jerusalem from the west.
- This procession was intended to overwhelm the citizens of Jerusalem, dissuading them from any thought of rebellion.

- The stage for this cosmic confrontation is set.

Matt 27:1-2 *When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. 2 And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.*