



SIGNIFICANCE OF PALM SUNDAY

Today many in the Christian community celebrate Palm Sunday. Many churches pass out palms to their parishioners and preach a sermon about Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Throughout history many leaders have been cheered and then totally rejected a short time later. Consider about 2,000 years ago Jesus was hailed and cheered as he entered Jerusalem only to be scorned, ridiculed, and demanding his execution only one week later.

Matthew 21:1-16

1 And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples,
2 Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me.
3 And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.
4 All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying,
5 Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.
6 And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them,
7 And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon.
8 And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others 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.

10 And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?

11 And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.

12 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,

13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.

15 And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were sore displeased,

16 And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

Notice how the chief priests and the political leaders immediately started conspiring on what to do to Jesus Christ when they became fearful of losing their own political power and prestige. It is the same today when a politician feels threatened by a political rival. Just like Elliot Spitzer who preached reform and honesty in government,

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when he felt threatened he went after his political foes with everything he had.

Examples of his excess are legion, though several stand out. As district attorney in 2005, Spitzer threatened to indict the insurance company American International Group Inc., unless the company caved to his demands that it fire its long-time CEO, the insurance industry magnate Maurice “Hank” Greenberg. Although the company complied with Spitzer’s demand, the case cast a spotlight on Spitzer’s penchant for using threats to end-run the very legal process that he was charged with upholding.

To disagree with Spitzer was to invite retribution. John Whitehead, a onetime chairman of Goldman Sachs Chairman, found out as much when he dared to publish an open-letter critical of Spitzer’s attacks on Greenberg. For speaking out, Whitehead became the next target on Spitzer’s personal hit list. As he wrote in the Wall Street Journal, shortly after his letter was published, Spitzer issued the following threat: “I will be coming after you. You will pay the price. This is only the beginning and you will pay dearly for what you have done. You will wish you had never written that letter.” Spitzer’s aides dutifully denied the quote, but it had all the hallmarks of his take-no-prisoners style.¹

I’m not just picking on Elliot Spitzer, but all politicians are the same. Whenever they feel threatened they will seek to destroy the one that is threatening them. Is it any wonder that Satan rules all of the kingdoms of the world?

Luke 4:5-8

5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

7 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness Satan showed him all of the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. I believe that since those who are in the spiritual dimension are not constrained to time as we are, those in the spirit world live outside of time. Thus Jesus was shown not only the kingdoms that were present 2000 years ago, but Jesus saw all of the kingdoms that are present today as the United States and Canada. Is it any wonder that the nations of the world are continually fighting each other and attempting to conquer each other? Is it any wonder that the radical Muslims are willing to kill themselves in the name of Allah? All nations of the world are ruled by the devil and under his total control.

Thus when the politicians lie, cheat, sin, and are hypocrites they are under the power of Satan just as the politicians and political leaders 2,000 years ago. When Jesus entered Jerusalem 2,000 years ago the politicians conspired to warp the people’s opinion of Jesus. They lied and told the people anything that would make the citizens want to see Jesus Christ crucified within only one week! The tactics that the chief priests and politicians used 2,000 years ago against Jesus are the same that they use today!

Just look at how your opinion has changed about Iraq in the last five years. In 2001 the United States along with the UN were united in going to war against Iraq. Now, many in the United States are against the war. What has happened to change your mind? Have you been lied to by the news media to compel you to change your mind? Have the politicians and news media conspired against the president in a joint effort to change your mind? How were the minds of the citizens of Jerusalem altered within one week?

The news media along with the politicians use the same tactics that were used 2,000 years ago.

1 <http://www.frontpagemag.com/> Frontpage Magazine, Mar. 13, 2008, The Fall of a Hypocrite, by Jacob Laksin.

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They lie, deceive, and tell you anything that will swing your opinion. We as Christians need to be extremely cautious that we are not deceived by these agents of Satan. There is one thing today that we have that our forefathers did not have. We have the Internet that gives us instant access to multiple opinions all around the world. This access is not the only tool that we have to protect ourselves from the devices of the devil. We also have prayer and an ability to have direct communication with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The deception that is upon us today is extremely strong. The strength of the deception is just as strong as it was on the citizens of Jerusalem. Within one week they went from hailing Jesus to calling for his crucifixion! Your opinions have also been altered by the deceptive practices of Satan and his agents!

We need to arm ourselves against the deceivers by putting on the whole armor of God!

Ephesians 6:10-18

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with

all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

As we get closer and closer to the rise of the Antichrist, the powerful deceptions used by Satan and his agents is increasing. Look at the following headline:

“Prostitute who caused the downfall of Elliot Spitzer”

Was it the prostitute that made Elliot Spitzer contract with the Emperor's Club? Hasn't it been brought out that the former governor and attorney general of NY has a ten-year history of visiting prostitutes? Why has the news media been reporting that the call girl is responsible for the governor's actions and causing his downfall? This twisted, deceptive reporting of the news is the work of Satan and his agents! When the news media attempts to make you believe that someone else than the real culprit is the cause of the action, it is the work of Satan's agents!

If you are not armed with the whole armor of God, you have no defense against the wiles of the devil. The devil will be able to make you believe that white is black and black is white. He will cause you to believe that righteousness is evil and wickedness is righteous! Look at how the news media portrays the Christian community. Do a Google search for “Christian fundamentalist” and you will find many news articles calling us everything from bonkers to extremists! The news media does not have a nice view of the born-again Christian community. They tell the world that we are to be shunned by reasonable people.

As you can see the news media along with the politicians are against the righteousness of the born-again Christian. Just as they crucified Jesus Christ about 2,000 years ago the same will begin to happen to you!

Matthew 24:3-13

3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the

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world?

4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the

same shall be saved.

Haven't you heard the term "Christian Fanatics" lately? The news media along with the politicians are prepping the world for the rise of the Antichrist. They are preparing the world to think that they are doing good by executing born-again Christians! This will soon happen just like Jesus told his disciples on the mount of Olives. The world is being pumped up with extreme hatred! Look at the hatred that the Islamic fundamentalist have against both Israel and the born-again Christian. That same hatred is also coming to those who are nominal Christians, atheists, and every other sect in the world.

You must be strong in the Lord and be filled with his Holy Spirit to be able to combat and fend off the wicked evil influence of Satan and his demonic agents. Only those who are strong in the Lord will be able to combat the evil deceptions that are hurled at us on a daily basis. As Paul told Timothy we are living in perilous times.

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Sunday School 11:30 AM

Sunday Morning Worship 12:00 Noon

Sunday Evening 6:30 PM

Wednesday Evening 7:30 PM

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