

# John 12:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

## Analysis

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The crowds take palm branches, symbols of Jewish nationalism and military victory. Their cry 'Hosanna' (save now) blends Psalm 118:25-26, a messianic psalm. 'Blessed is the King of Israel' explicitly identifies Jesus as Messiah, but their understanding is political, not spiritual. The palm branches suggest they expect military deliverance from Rome. This demonstrates how right confession can rest on wrong foundation. They acknowledge Jesus as King but misunderstand His kingdom. Their fickle loyalty will soon shift to 'Crucify Him.'

## Historical Context

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Palm branches symbolized Jewish nationalism, featured on Maccabean coins. Psalm 118 was sung at Passover. The crowd's actions constituted potential sedition from Rome's viewpoint, explaining Pilate's later nervousness.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How can correct confession coexist with fundamental misunderstanding?
2. What does the crowd's nationalism teach about projecting political hopes onto spiritual realities?
3. In what ways do we reduce Christ's kingdom to earthly categories?

## Interlinear Text

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ἔλαβον τὰ βαῖα τῶν φοινίκων καὶ ἐξῆλθον εἰς  
**Took** G2983 G3588 **branches** G902 G3588 **of palm trees** G5404 **and** G2532 **went forth** G1831 **to** G1519  
ὕπαντησιν αὐτῷ καὶ ἔκραζον, Ὡσαννά· εὐλογημένος ὁ  
**meet** G5222 **him** G846 **and** G2532 **cried** G2896 **Hosanna** G5614 **Blessed** G2127 G3588  
ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι κυρίου ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῦ  
**that cometh** G2064 **in** G1722 **the name** G3686 **of the Lord** G2962 G3588 **is the King** G935 G3588  
Ἰσραὴλ  
**of Israel** G2474

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 15:3** (Kingdom): And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

**Revelation 7:9** (Parallel theme): After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

**Matthew 23:39** (Blessing): For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

**John 1:49** (Kingdom): Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

**Hosea 3:5** (Kingdom): Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.

**John 19:15** (Kingdom): But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

**Zephaniah 3:15** (Kingdom): The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more.

**Revelation 19:16** (Kingdom): And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

**Isaiah 44:6** (Kingdom): Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

**Leviticus 23:40** (References Lord): And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.