

John 12:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written,

Analysis

Jesus finds a young donkey and sits on it, deliberately fulfilling Zechariah 9:9. The humble mount contrasts warrior kings' war horses, demonstrating the kingdom's spiritual nature. Jesus orchestrates this prophetic fulfillment, showing sovereignty over messianic revelation's timing and manner. The donkey represents peace, not war; humility, not pride. This dramatizes the first advent's purpose: not conquering Rome but conquering sin. The act rebukes the crowd's militaristic expectations while affirming genuine messiahship.

Historical Context

Matthew and Mark record that Jesus arranged the donkey beforehand (Matt 21:2-3). Kings rode horses for war, donkeys for peace. Solomon rode David's mule at his coronation (1 Kings 1:33).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' choice of mount correct misguided messianic expectations?

2. What does this prophetic fulfillment teach about Jesus' deliberate self-revelation?
3. In what ways does humble obedience better demonstrate kingdom power than military might?

Interlinear Text

εὕρων	δὲ	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	ὄνῳριον	ἐκάθισεν	ἐπ'
when he had found	And	^{G3588}	Jesus	a young ass	sat	thereon
G2147	G1161		G2424	G3678	G2523	G1909

αὐτό	καθώς	ἐστιν	γεγραμμένον
^{G846}	as	it is	written
	G2531	G2076	G1125

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 9:9 (Parallel theme): Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.