

Mark 11:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord:

Analysis

And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna (Ωσαννά)—the Hebrew phrase hoshiya-na (אָשְׁר־הַשְׁׁלֵמִים) literally means "Save now!" or "Save, we pray!" from Psalm 118:25. This psalm was sung during Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles, anticipating messianic deliverance. By shouting "Hosanna," the crowds plead for Jesus to save Israel from Roman oppression—political liberation uppermost in their minds.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord (Εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου)—this quotes Psalm 118:26, clearly recognized as messianic. The phrase "he that cometh" (ho erchomenos, ὁ ἐρχόμενος) was a messianic title meaning "the Coming One." The crowds proclaim Jesus as God's authorized representative, coming "in the name of the Lord" with divine authority. They rightly identify Jesus as Messiah but fail to understand that His saving work requires death and resurrection, not military conquest. Their worship is genuine but incomplete, celebrating the King while missing the cross.

Historical Context

Psalm 118 was the last of the "Egyptian Hallel" psalms (Psalms 113-118) sung at Passover, celebrating God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt and anticipating final messianic salvation. Every Jewish pilgrim knew these words by heart. The phrase "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" welcomed pilgrims to Jerusalem

but here takes on profound messianic significance. When Jesus later quoted Psalm 118:22-23 about the rejected stone becoming the chief cornerstone (Mark 12:10-11), He revealed the paradox: the One the crowd welcomes as King will be rejected by the builders (religious leaders) and killed. Within a week, the same crowds would turn hostile, disappointed that Jesus wasn't overthrowing Rome. The Pharisees, hearing the commotion, demanded Jesus silence the crowd (Luke 19:39-40), recognizing the political danger of messianic claims. Jesus refused, declaring that if the people stayed silent, "the stones would cry out."

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the crowd's cry 'Hosanna' reveal both right recognition of Jesus as Messiah and wrong expectations about the nature of His salvation?
2. What does Psalm 118's original context of deliverance from Egypt teach about Jesus as the ultimate Exodus-bringer, delivering from sin and death?
3. In what ways do Christians today risk celebrating Jesus as King while misunderstanding or avoiding the centrality of the cross?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οἱ	προάγοντες	καὶ	οἱ	ἀκολουθοῦντες	ἔκραζον
And	G3588	they that went before	And	G3588	they that followed	cried
G2532		G4254	G2532		G190	G2896
λέγοντες,	Ωσαννά·	Εὐλογημένος	ὁ	ἐρχόμενος	ἐν	
saying	Hosanna	Blessed	G3588	is he that cometh	in	
G3004	G5614	G2127		G2064	G1722	
ὄνοματι	κυρίου·					
the name	of the Lord					
G3686	G2962					

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 21:9 (Blessing): 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.

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 19:15 (Parallel theme): 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.

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