

# Matthew 21:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying,

## Analysis

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**All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet**—Matthew's characteristic formula (πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθέν, plērōthē to rhēthen) introduces Zechariah 9:9. The Triumphal Entry wasn't spontaneous theater but divine orchestration. Jesus deliberately staged His royal claim (riding the messianic colt) while fulfilling prophecy to the letter.

Matthew emphasizes Jesus as Israel's promised King, yet one who comes **lowly, and riding upon an ass** (Zech 9:9)—not a warhorse but a humble beast. This paradox defines Messiah's first advent: genuine kingship in servant form, sovereignty through suffering.

## Historical Context

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Written circa AD 30 during Passover week, when Jerusalem swelled from 50,000 to over 250,000 pilgrims. Rome watched nervously for messianic uprisings. Matthew's Jewish-Christian audience needed proof that Jesus fulfilled Scripture despite His crucifixion—hence the constant appeal to prophecy.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus's deliberate fulfillment of prophecy strengthen your confidence in Scripture's divine authorship?
2. What does Christ's choice of a donkey over a warhorse reveal about the nature of His kingdom versus worldly power?

## Interlinear Text

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Τοῦτο	δὲ	ὅλον	γέγονεν	ἵνα	πληρωθῇ	τοῦ	ῥηθὲν
<b>this</b>	<b>All</b>	G3650	<b>was done</b>	<b>that</b>	<b>it might be fulfilled</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>was spoken</b>
G5124	G1161		G1096	G2443	G4137	G3588	G4483

  

διὰ	τοῦ	προφήτου	λέγοντος
<b>by</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>the prophet</b>	<b>saying</b>
G1223	G3588	G4396	G3004

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

**John 12:15** (Parallel theme): Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt.

**Matthew 1:22** (Prophecy): Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,