

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

All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet—Matthew's characteristic formula (πληρωθῆ τὸ ὁρθέν, 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

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

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

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

Τοῦτο	δὲ	ὅλον	γέγονεν	ἵνα	πληρωθῆ	τοῦ	ρῆθεν
this	All	G3650	was done	that	it might be fulfilled	which	was spoken
G5124	G1161		G1096	G2443	G4137	G3588	G4483
διὰ	τοῦ	προφήτου	λέγοντος				
by	which	the prophet	saying				
G1223	G3588	G4396	G3004				

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.

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,