

Matthew 21:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon.

Analysis

Brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes—The disciples improvised a makeshift saddle (ἱμάτια, himatia—outer garments) for the unbroken colt. **They set him thereon** uses an ambiguous pronoun: Jesus rode the colt (as Mark/Luke specify), while garments covered both animals.

Matthew alone mentions both mother and colt, perhaps hyper-literalizing Zechariah's Hebrew parallelism ('on an ass, on a colt the foal of an ass'). This detail emphasizes Jesus's gentle authority—mounting an unbroken colt that would normally be untamed, yet it bore Him peacefully into Jerusalem.

Historical Context

Colts were considered unrideable until trained. No king had ridden an animal before (Num 19:2, Deut 21:3). By riding the unbroken colt, Jesus demonstrated both His creative power (calming the animal) and His qualification as King-Priest (riding what was ceremonially pure).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's control over the unbroken colt illustrate His sovereignty over untamed areas of your life?
2. What 'garments'—possessions, comforts, reputation—might God ask you to lay down for Christ's purposes?

Interlinear Text

ἤγαγον τὴν ὄνον καὶ τὸν πῶλον καὶ ἐπέθηκαν
And brought G71 G3588 **the ass** G3688 **and** G2532 G3588 **the colt** G4454 **and** G2532 **put** G2007

ἐπάνω αὐτῶν τὰ ἱμάτια αὐτῶν καὶ ἐπεκάθισεν
him thereon G1883 **them** G846 G3588 **clothes** G2440 **them** G846 **and** G2532 **they set** G1940

ἐπάνω αὐτῶν
him thereon G1883 **them** G846

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 9:13 (Parallel theme): Then they hasted, and took every man his garment, and put it under him on the top of the stairs, and blew with trumpets, saying, Jehu is king.