

A MANGER, A DONKEY, A GUESTROOM, A CROSS AND A TOMB

Because the blood of bulls and goats is powerless to take sins away, hence when He [Christ] entered into the world, He said, Sacrifices and offerings You have not desired, but instead You have made ready a body for Me...Then I said, Behold, here I am, coming to do Your will, O God what is written of Me in the volume of the Book (Heb. 10: 4-5,7). This is the most celebrated birth. The Son of God did not come according to the will of man, but of God. The place where God chose for His Son to be born was most significant and meaningful, although many are ignorant of this fact. The Son of God came to fulfill His Father's will of salvation for humankind. He came representing a lamb for the purpose of being offered as a sacrifice to take the sins of the world. As such, He was given a manger for a crib in His birth. Not a regular manger, but a special one, where only the perfect chosen lambs laid their heads. These were raised for the temple sacrifice as an atonement for the sins of the nation of Israel. No one knew why there was no room for God's Son to have a proper place to be born and a crib to lay His head. However, God does not need the things of the world to accomplish His intents and purposes. He has chosen the people from whom He was to bring His Son to the world and the exact place where He wanted to manifest His glory. His glory shone brighter in that humble place, where shepherds and lambs witnessed His glory and rejoiced, while the world slept through it, knowing nothing that was happening.

To fulfill the prophecy found in Zachariah 9:9, which reads: Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O Daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King comes to you; He is just and having salvation, patient, meek, lowly, and riding on a donkey, upon a colt, the foal of a donkey. YAHSHUA sent two of His disciples to bring Him a donkey from a specific location. That prophecy was to be fulfilled in that space of time of His life before His death. Matthews so relates the story: When they came near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage at the Mount of Olives, He sent two disciples on ahead, Saying to them, Go into the village that is opposite you, and at once you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie [them] and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall reply, The Lord needs them, and he will let them go without delay... then the disciples went and did as YAHSHUA had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and laid their coats upon them, and He seated Himself on them (Matt. 21:1-3, 6-7). That donkey was raised for a specific purpose. The Son of God riding on a donkey broke all barriers of doubt that He was King. The crowd seemed to understand and went ahead of Him, and those who followed Him kept shouting, Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest! They echoed the words of the Psalm 118:26, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Even though the crowd did not understand what was happening, they, nevertheless, proclaimed Him to be King, acknowledging His future position of King of kings and Lord of lords. He did not ride on a stallion Arabian horse with pomp and fame, but He chose a humble donkey to announce His Messiahship.

Not many days after that the Feast of Unleavened Bread or Passover, was approaching. This Passover was to be His last with a purpose for Him to fulfill. For that He had come 33 years earlier. His Father's plan for the salvation of the world was about to be fulfilled in His Son, YAHSHUA. As a Passover Lamb, the only One who could save men, He stood courageously in that hour of that space of time set for Him to do. His desire now was to have His last Passover alone with His disciples. A place had been designated by God for His Son to have His last Passover. YAHSHUA then gave instruction to two of His disciples how to go about finding a place by saying, Go and prepare for us the Passover meal, that we may eat it... Behold, when you have gone into the city, a man carrying an earthen jug or pitcher of water will meet you; follow him into the house which he enters and say to the master of the house, The Teacher asks you, where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover [meal] with My disciples? And he will show you a large room upstairs, furnished. There make preparations. And they went and found it as He had said to them; and they made ready the Passover (Luke 22: 8,10-13). YAHSHUA said to the disciples, I have earnestly and intensely desired to eat this Passover with you. I shall eat it no more until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. He took the cup and said, Take this and divide it among yourselves; He took a loaf [of bread], He broke and gave it to them saying, This is my body which is given for you; He took the cup after supper, saying, this cup is the new testament or covenant [ratified] in My blood, which is shed for you (Luke 22:15-20). These were solemn and final hours on earth our Lord had to go through before His betrayal and death.

Next a cross was given Him where He was to be sacrificed through death of crucifixion. On that, He was going to be made a curse for the entire world, as He carried upon Himself sin, transgression, iniquity of men. For Adam's race was found under the curse and condemnation, after sinning against God. The Bible does not tell us what kind of tree was used for that purpose, but it tells us it was a tree. It was by means of a tree that Satan, through a serpent, tempted Eve- the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God used a tree to have His Son crucified to redeem the human race. Today many Christians use the cross as a symbol to represent their faith. Several passages found in the New Testament use the word tree: Acts 5:30; 13:29-30; 1 Peter 2:24; Acts 10:39; and Galatians 3:13 in the words of Paul: Christ purchased our freedom from the curse by becoming a curse for us, for it is written, Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree. Another tree, and that of a tree of thorns, a crown was made and pierced through YAHSHUA' head. Gentiles then crowned Him King, not knowing the prophetic meaning of that gesture. The Son of God suffered many hours of trials and abuse and a cruel death to purchase men for God and give them back the image of God, in which he was created.

In His death, a tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea was provided for Him. The tomb was in a garden; and in the garden of Gethsemane before His death, He suffered His last hours being tempted by the devil, forsaken, betrayed and denied by those who were close to him. It was in a garden also that the first sin was committed and in that same garden the promise of redemption was given through the Son of God.

A manger, a donkey, a guestroom, a cross and a tomb, were things YAHSHUA borrowed. They were things necessary to fulfill prophecies about Him and God's ultimate plan for human life.

Remember the words of Paul, Let this same attitude and purpose and mind be in you which was in Christ YAHSHUA: Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God, did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained, but stripped Himself, so as to assume the guise of a servant, in that He became like men and was born a human being. And after He had appeared in human form, He abased and humbled Himself and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross (Phil. 2:5-8)!

Today, all He wants from us in return is our commitment to follow Him by losing focus of the world's good, and leaving behind all that entangles our pursuit to follow Him. This world is not our home, and the things of the world we should not be burdened with, but in contentment we should follow Him freely to carry our cross as He commanded us.