

Celebrating Easter

THE FIRST PALM SUNDAY

The city of **Jerusalem** was bustling with people. Jews from near and far were arriving for the week-long Passover. As Jesus came closer to Jerusalem, he asked two of his disciples to go ahead of Him. He said, "When you get to the town, you will see a donkey tied up. Untie it, and bring it to me. If anyone asks you about taking the donkey, just tell them, the Lord needs it." The disciples did as they were asked and brought the donkey to Jesus.

When they brought the donkey to Jesus, some of the disciples took off their coats and laid them on the donkey's back. Then Jesus rode on the donkey towards Jerusalem.

Many years ago, the prophet **Zechariah** foretold that the true king would come, not galloping on a war horse, dressed in armor, but riding on a peaceful donkey. Jesus was showing all who had eyes to see that He was that king, entering his capital in peace.

As he was traveling, some people saw Jesus coming and came running towards Him. They had heard he might be coming and they wanted to see him. One by one they laid their coats on the ground for the donkey to step on. Even the people that weren't wearing coats ran to the fields and trees nearby and cut palm branches and laid them down. "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna, Hosanna!" The word Hosanna means *save us*.

1. Why was the city of Jerusalem crowded with people?

2. On what type of animal did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on?

3. What was the first thing the disciples did before Jesus got on the animal?

4. Was the prophecy of Zechariah fulfilled when Jesus rode through Jerusalem on a donkey? Write yes or no. _____

b. Support your answer from the passage.

5. Name TWO things the people put on the ground as Jesus passed by on an animal.

6. Quote the sentence the people chanted as Jesus passed by.

7. Which word below means the same as **bustling**?

- a. riding b. full c. busy d. still