



Hosanna! Hosanna!' The crowds shouted and sang as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Now who'd get excited about a man riding on a donkey? People who had read the Old Testament, that's who. Some laid their cloaks down in the road, and some cut branches from the nearby trees to mark the way, as they would do for a king.

A king? A king on a donkey? What made them think of that? Well, the Old Testament prophet, Zechariah. Years before, he'd said: 'Shout for joy, Jerusalem! Your king comes to you, riding humbly on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.' Jesus knew the Old Testament very well, of course. That's why he'd sent his disciples ahead of him to get the donkey in the first place. 'Go into Bethphage,' he'd said. 'You'll find a donkey and her foal tied up there. Bring them to me.' Just as his followers were about to go, he'd said, 'If anyone tries to stop you, just say, "The Lord needs them," and they'll let you go.'

So the disciples had gone and got the donkey, a humble animal, just as Zechariah had described it, and thrown cloaks on its back for Jesus to sit on. And that's what he was riding into the city.

'Hosanna to the Son of David!' cried the crowds, both behind and ahead of Jesus. 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the high places!' And the singing crowds replied, 'This is the prophet, Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee.'

Glossary

Hosanna! a Hebrew word usually used to mean 'Praise', but it actually means 'Save us, please!'; **prophet** someone who receives messages from God to pass on to the people.