

# **My Kingdom is not of this World**

**John 12:12-16, 20-32**

SJSM Palm Sunday Sermon | Ven Wong Tak Meng | 12-13 April 2025



# **Palm Sunday: Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem (Jn 12:11-16)**



How would you  
describe Jesus'  
Entry into  
Jerusalem?







ESVS ▾

AA



## ESV: Triumphal Entry

John 12:12 The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13 So they



NLT (2nd ed.) ▾

AA



## NLT: Triumphant Entry

John 12:12 The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors 13 took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted,



NKJVS ▾

AA



## NKJVS: Triumphal Entry

John 12:12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 took branches of palm



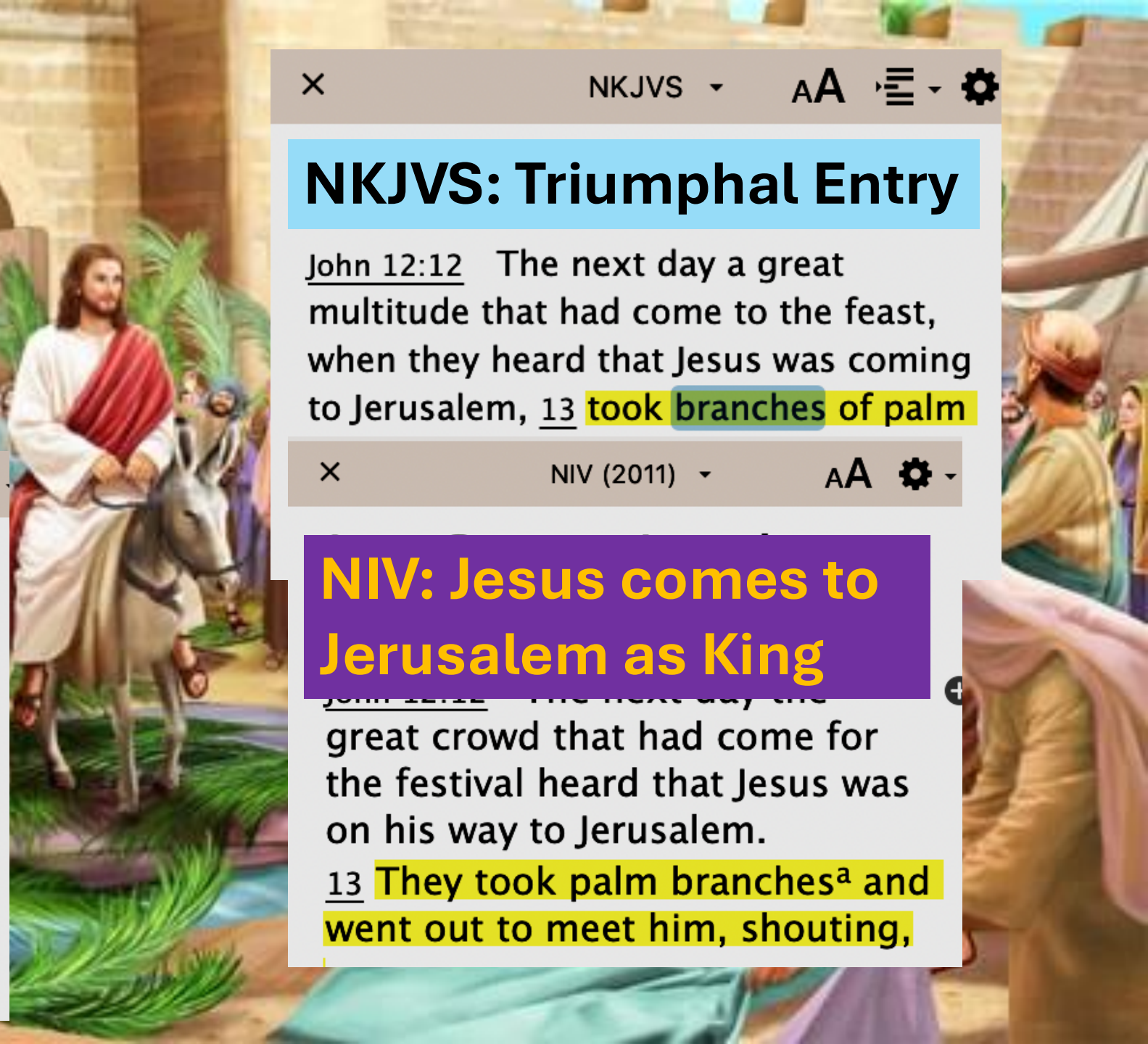
NIV (2011) ▾

AA



## NIV: Jesus comes to Jerusalem as King

John 12:12 The next day, the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13 They took palm branches<sup>a</sup> and went out to meet him, shouting,





# Two Important Questions:

1. How does Jesus' kingdom mean to Him?

2. What does "kingdom" mean to the people around Jesus?

# There are at least 5 ideas of “kingdom” that are contrary to Jesus’ Kingdom

- A. The Kingdom of **Social Power**
- B. The Kingdom of **Ruling Power**
- C. The Kingdom of **Revolutionary Power**
- D. The Kingdom of **Financial Interests**
- E. The Kingdom of **Populist Power**



# A. The Kingdom of Social Power

- King Herod, Pharisees and Chief Priests say: “Make me look good, because I am religiously / morally / socially superior to you... or else!”
  - ...some Pharisees...said to him, “Herod wants to kill you.” (Luke 13:31)
  - So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because... many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. (John 12:10-11)
  - So the Pharisees said..., “... Look, the world has gone after him.” (John 12:19)
  - ...the chief priests and the officers... cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “...I find no guilt in him.” The Jews answered him, “...he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.” (John 19:6-7)

## B. The Kingdom of Ruling Power

- Temple Establishment: High priests, temple guards
- Roman empire: Pontius Pilate, commanders, soldiers
- “Fear me, because I have power over you.”
  - **Temple power challenged:** ...one of the officers standing by **struck Jesus with his hand**, saying, “**Is that how you answer the high priest?**” (Matt 18:22)
  - **Roman dominance threatened:** Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, “**If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.**” (John 19:12)



# C. The Kingdom of Revolutionary Power

- Zealots, revolutionaries, including some disciples say: “Lead us to overthrow the Romans and restore our national glory, because I will fight to the end for you.”
  - ...the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and... said to him, “Say that **these two sons of mine are to sit**, one at your right hand and one at your left, **in your kingdom.**” (Matt 20:20)
  - So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time **restore the kingdom to Israel?**” (Acts 1:6)

## D. The Kingdom of Financial Interests

- Merchants, money changers, tradesmen say: “Enrich me, because I have a better deal than you, and you need me.”
  - And Jesus... overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.” (Matt 21:12-13)
  - ...Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. These he gathered together... and said, “Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth.... And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing...” (Acts 19:24-27)



## E. The Kingdom of Populist Power

- **The crowds say:** “Feed/heal/entertain/amaze/impress me, because I can boost your popularity.”
  - **Feeding of the 5,000:** And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, **“This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”** Perceiving then that they were about to come and **take him by force to make him king**, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself. (John 6:12-15)
  - **Lazarus risen from the dead:** When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, **not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.** (John 12:9)

# So, what is Jesus' Kingdom really about?





# So, what is Jesus' Kingdom really about?

1. Jesus' Kingdom is **not of this world** (ruling power, social power, revolutionary power, financial interests, populist power)

Jesus answered, “**My kingdom is not of this world**. If my kingdom were of **this world**, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But **my kingdom is not from the world**.” (John 18:36)



# So, what is Jesus' Kingdom really about?



**2. A Kingdom offering Peace and Salvation, not invading and imposing conquest**

**“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” (Matt 5:5)**

**“Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” (John 12:15, citing Zech 9:9 “righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey”)**



# So, what is Jesus' Kingdom really about?

## 3. A Kingdom that attracts, wins and bear fruit through **Sacrificial Giving**

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (John 12:24)

“...when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” (John 12:32)



# So, what is Jesus' Kingdom really about?



4. A Kingdom whose citizens **give up the Ways of this World**, to follow the Way of Christ

“Whoever loves his life loses it, and **whoever hates his life in this world** will keep it for eternal life.”

(John 12:25)

“Now is the **judgment of this world**; now will the **ruler of this world** be cast out.” (John 12:31)



# Palm Sunday: Truly welcome Jesus into our Hearts

- “My kingdom is **not of this world**. (John 18:36)
- “Whoever loves his life loses it, and **whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.**” (John 12:25)