

## **THE LORD OUR KING**

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Children, for a very long time the Lord had promised in the Word that a king would be born in Israel, who would be greater even than David, the king of old. People had waited, and waited, and at last that king came. It was the Lord Himself, and He rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on an ass, and on a colt, because that was the sign of a king. And all the people were very thrilled, because they wanted a king very much. So they greeted Him with palm branches, and with their clothing laid in the way, and shouted, “Hosanna to the son of David, blessed is the king that cometh in the name of the Lord” (Matthew 21:9).

But the people had the wrong idea of what He was going to do as a king. They wanted Him to throw the wicked Herod off the throne, and become a king in Jerusalem like other kings. Then they thought that He would fight against the Romans, and beat them, and make the Jews the strongest people in all the world. That was what they wanted Him to do, and they were terribly disappointed when He didn't do it.

If you think, children, the Lord could have done that so easily. He could do anything. Think what it would have been like if He had decided to fight on earth. None of His soldiers could have got hurt. Remember what happened when Peter cut off the ear of the high priest's servant? The Lord just put His hand over the ear, and it was made whole again. If He had been fighting on earth, and one of His soldiers got hurt, He could straight away have made him better. None of His soldiers could have been killed. Remember how He made Lazarus alive after he had been dead for four days? He could have made all His soldiers alive the moment an enemy soldier killed them. They must have won any war.

In fact, He wouldn't have needed soldiers. He could have called on the angels of heaven to fight for Him. He said to the soldiers and to His disciples, “Do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matthew 26:53) Twelve legions is more than seventy thousand men. No army could stand against the angels.

The Lord could easily have conquered the world and ruled it like an earthly king. But that would have been nothing to Him. It would have been so easy that He didn't even need to do it. We think that would be quite something—a king who could never be beaten, whose soldiers couldn't be hurt or killed. But to the Lord it was nothing. He had far more important things to do.

What is more important than ruling over all the world? Well, making all the people of the world really happy, forever, that's what's more important. The Lord knew that you don't make people happy by the sword. He said, "all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." You don't make people happy by fighting them, and killing those they love, do you?

No, the Lord knew that He could bring people into happiness by leading them to the laws of His heavenly kingdom, the laws that are taught in His Word. He knew that people must see Him, not as an earthly king, ruling on a throne on earth. They must see Him as the King of heaven and earth, and they must know that His laws are those in His Word. He doesn't lead by a sword, and armies, He leads by love, and His truth. And when people follow Him, they are led to a kingdom that lasts forever, in the heavens.

So think, children, as you remember Palm Sunday, that it would have been nothing for the Lord to make Himself an earthly King and beat all the armies of this earth—nothing at all. He could have done it terribly easily. But He wanted something much more than that. He wanted to lead people to a heavenly kingdom, where there isn't sickness and pain and fear like on earth, and where people live, happy and safe, day after day forever. For the King of heaven makes sure that nothing bad can happen to them. *Amen.*