

1 DONKEY ONE

2 White House Travel

- One of the most familiar pictures on American TV screens is that of the president of the United States walking across the South Lawn of the White House to board Marine One.
- Once aboard Marine One—the president along with his staff fly to Andrews Air Force Base to rendezvous with Air Force One.
- Air Force One, known as the flying White House, is not only an impressive and specially customized Boeing 747 super wide jet, but is also symbolic of the power and prestige of its most important passenger—the President of the United States.

3 Air Force One

4 Air Force One

5 Air Force One

6 Air Force One

7 Planning the Trip

- The only thing more impressive than the size and customization of Air Force One is the planning that goes in to fly her.
- Getting the president from place to place is a bit like planning the Normandy invasion.
- It involves . . .
 - hundreds of man-hours,
 - millions of dollars, and
 - tons of hardware,
- It makes your last plane trip look like a cakewalk by comparison.

8 Planning the Trip

- Even before the president takes off, Secret Service agents and local law enforcement at each destination have already been hard at work for days or, sometimes, weeks or months, interviewing and screening people who will be close to the president.
- They analyze primary and alternate routes through the city and sweep the site of the meeting or rally for any security problems.
- If the destination is a foreign country, coordination with the host nation requires even more planning and rehearsal to ensure the president's safety.

9 Limo One

10 Question

- If it takes all that for the president of the United States just to go make a speech, . . .
- . . . what did it look like for the King of Kings, God's chosen ruler of the whole world, to make his grand entrance at the beginning of the most important week the world has ever known?

- Luke and the other gospel writers give us a window into the travel arrangements that were needed when Jesus came into Jerusalem and into an environment that was anything but secure.

11 Reason for the Trip

- Presidents usually go where they're invited to make a speech or attend a meeting.
- Jesus received no invitation to come to Jerusalem.
 - “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.” (Matthew 23:37 NIV)
- No summit meeting was scheduled with the temple officials, who had no doubt heard about Jesus' teaching and healing.
- But Jesus knew all along that he would need to make the trip. Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. (Luke 18:31 NIV)
- He goes on to predict his death and resurrection for the third time, but even his own cabinet of disciples do not understand the plan. The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about. (Luke 18:34 NIV)

12 Mode of Transportation

- In the first-century Roman world, emperors always made their arrival in a city with a great deal of pomp and circumstance.
- Elite troops carried Roman standards—the equivalent of big, bold letters on a plane.
- The emperor himself entered the city riding on a warhorse, the ancient forerunner of a jet, or in a chariot, which acted like an ancient armored limo.

13 Caesar's Triumph

14 Mode of Transportation

- Jesus, however, eschews the decorations and instead has a donkey commissioned as his royal mode of transport.
- And by-the-way, it isn't even a full-grown donkey; it's a colt.
- In comparison to other victorious conquerors of that day, Jesus must have looked pail.

15 The Crowd

- The crowd accompanying Jesus was as humble as “Donkey One”— a ragtag collection of disciples and hangers-on spreading their cloaks in the road, which was the ancient equivalent of rolling out a red carpet.

- However, this wasn't any ordinary king—promoting his own glory and flaunting his symbols of power, but a fisher of men who spoke the truth so accurately, that it not only produced repentance in the hearts of sinners, but was affirmed by God with signs, wonders, and miracles.
- Nevertheless, the religious elite despised Jesus' popularity so much that they forbade them to cheer and sing praises to his name. For the people shouted . . .
- “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the King of Israel! (John 12:13 NIV)

16 The Crowd

- Obviously, the reason for Jesus riding a donkey was to fulfill Zechariah 9:9.
 - Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9 NIV)
- Here in this Scripture was the hope of Israel, an unpretentious shepherd King who would bring peace to the land and protect the people from all their enemies.
- However, instead of receiving Jesus and recognizing his peaceful intentions, the rulers of Israel out of jealousy and envy (Matt. 27:8, Mark 15:10) plot to discredit Jesus and have him put to death.
- As it says in the scriptures, . . . where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. (James 3:16 NIV)
- BTW – Why did Cain murder Abel?

17 Significance

- When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Donkey One it was a major statement to His messianic claims.
 - Riding on an unbroken colt was a sign in and of itself—somehow, Jesus had divine favor.
 - It was in fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9.
 - Showed that his intentions were peaceful. He did not come as a conqueror, but as a peacemaker.
 - And the rejection by the majority of people showed how hard the people's hearts had become.

18 Psalm Sunday

- Palm Sunday is a great time to assess our preparation for the King's arrival, not only in our individual hearts but also in eschatological terms.

- We have to remember, though, that the King arrived the first time humbly, being born in a manger, and then began his inauguration week by riding into a city on a little donkey. It will be quite different the second time.
- In fact, when Jesus came the first time it was for the purpose of reconciliation and mercy—even to His enemies who repent.
- However, when He comes again, it will be for the purpose of retribution and judgment upon all hypocrites and enemies.
- As it says in the scriptures, “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”” (Luke 20:42–43 NIV)

19 Warhorse One

- I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. (Revelation 19:11 NIV)
- Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? “It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save.” (Isaiah 63:1 NIV)
- As the Apostle Paul says, And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. (2 Thessalonians 2:8 NIV)

20 Warhorse One

- Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. (Revelation 1:7 NIV)
- Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! (Revelation 6:15–16 NIV)

21 Blessed are Your Eyes

- When Jesus came the first time, the majority of the people were blind to the obvious and rejected Jesus’ teachings and claims.
- They did this because of the hardness of their hearts—as they had already rejected the witness of the Holy Spirit in their consciences and were given over to a spirit of stupor.
- As the Scripture says, “He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn — and I would heal them.” (John 12:40 NIV)
- However, for those who are born of God’s Spirit, “But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.” (Matthew 13:16 NIV)

22 Give God Glory

- Therefore, since, we know that this humble man who rides “Donkey One” is the King of Glory, let us not fail to give Him glory.
- Let us not let the world intimidate us to keep silent.
- Let us stand for the truth and let the world know we put God first in our lives.
- Why does Tim Tebow get so much attention? Is it because he is a great quarterback? Or is it because he gives God’s glory in everything he does and God seemingly blesses him with favor?
- As Jesus says, if we don’t give God glory, the rocks will instead. (Luke 19:40).

23 So How Do We Give God Glory?

- This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

(John 15:8 NIV)