



In Bible times all the ordinary people rode on donkeys. King David rode on a white mule. All the king's sons also rode on white mules. (See II Samuel 13:29) The mules were not raised in Israel. They were brought from Israel's neighbors. They were shipped into Israel. Ordinary men and women did not ride on mules.

One day a great prophet in Israel said a very strange thing to the people. These people were having a hard time. Almost all of Israel had been prisoners in a far-off land. Only a few had come back to Israel. They felt so weak and little. Would Israel ever be the nation God meant it to be?

Zechariah was the prophet who spoke to these discouraged people,

Fear not, Your king is coming to you.
He is fair. He is great. Your king
will be riding on a donkey.

(See Zechariah 9:9)

This was strange! A king was coming. He was their king. But he would only ride on a donkey. Tell me why would a king ride on a donkey?

It had been a very long time since the prophet said this. Many people had wondered what he meant. They remembered. They waited.

TURN CARD OVER

~~It was many years later.~~

Jesus was walking along a dusty road. He was going to Jerusalem. It was the time of the Passover. There were many other people on the road too.

Jesus turned to His disciples and said -

Go to that town. You will
find a young donkey tied
there. Bring him to me.

The two disciples went. They found the donkey and brought him to Jesus. Then they knew that Jesus was getting ready to get on the donkey. Jesus was going to ride the donkey. Wait a minute! Off came the disciples coats. They laid the soft coats on the donkey. There was no saddle or blanket. Then Jesus mounted the donkey. He rode into the city.

The people saw Jesus riding on the donkey. They called to their friends -

Look! Look!

Then they remembered Zechariah's promise. They cried,

Here is our king!

The men took off their coats. They laid them down in the way to make a carpet for Jesus. Other people cut down branches from the trees. They laid them in the way too.

The people began to sing ,

Hosanna! Hosanna! He comes
in the name of the Lord.

They were very happy. This was not a proud king on a white mule. Here was a man like them who would be a kind king, a great king.

This is the day we remember on Palm Sunday.