

March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday Holy Week

Biblical World View: Chanel Rion from One American News gave a report about the **Middle East Summit** that happened in Saudi Arabia on March 18, 2026 at the nation's capital of Riyadh. Top diplomats from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Türkiye, and Azerbaijan issued a **joint statement** condemning Iran's attacks on the regional states. This has never happened before! Iran is symbolic of the "**Prince of Persia**," the spiritual principality over the region. **12 nations in agreement** spoke out against Iran and **signed a document** strongly condemning their actions, essentially giving the nod of approval to the United States and Israel as they dismantle the Iranian empire. The Iranians have terrorist groups and strongholds all throughout the Persian Empire.

12 is the spiritual number for government. It is the number for manifest sovereignty. It speaks of Divine government on the earth. Ultimately, it symbolizes the government of the glorified Saints over creation, ("Numbers in the Bible" Robert D. Johnston). 12 Persian nations representing the Persian Empire, came together in agreement, made a joint statement (decree) and signed a document against Iran whose ruling principality is the Prince of Persia. This is very powerful!

Rion compared President Trump's style of leadership to that of **King Cyrus** who after conquering local rulers, would leave local officials and administrative structures in place. This is how King Cyrus built the **Persian Empire**, which was the largest Empire ever at that time. President Trump's doctrine (established at the Abraham Accords) was to make way for peace and prosperity and let the local leaders take the reins. President Trump calls this "peace through strength."

Leading up to Holy Week

After raising Lazarus (who had been dead and in the tomb for four days), the miracle caused a major stir. Many people believed in Jesus, but the chief priests and Pharisees began plotting to kill both Jesus and Lazarus (**John 11:45-53**). Jesus then withdrew from the public eye with his disciples to a town called Ephraim (near the wilderness) to avoid immediate arrest (**John 11:54**).

Six days before the Passover on Saturday, Jesus returned to Bethany (the home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha). That evening, a dinner was held in his honor, during which **Mary anointed Jesus' feet** with expensive perfume (**John 12:1-8**). A large crowd came to see **Jesus and to see Lazarus**, whom he had raised (**John 12:9-11**). The next day (the following Sunday), Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey — what we call Palm Sunday (**John 12:12-19**).

The week from Palm Sunday to the crucifixion of Jesus (observed as Good Friday) is known as **Holy Week or Passion Week** in Christianity.

Palm Sunday: How Would You Spend Your Last Few Days on Earth?

The Triumphal Entry: Jesus approached Jerusalem from Bethany (about two miles away) and rode into the city on a young donkey, fulfilling the prophecy in **Zechariah 9:9** ("*See, your king comes to you... gentle and riding on a donkey*"). Crowds welcomed him enthusiastically, **spreading palm branches** and cloaks on the road while shouting "*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*" (**Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19**). **Ps 118:25-26** *Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD. Save:* Strong's #3467, Hebrew, *yasha`* (yaw-shah'); avenging, defend, deliver (-er), help, preserve, rescue, be safe, bring (having) **salvation**, save (-iour), **get victory**. From *yasha* comes the word **Yeshua** which is **Jesus' name** and it means "**He shall save**," and in the NT the word **Hosanna** is used. **Now:** Strong's #4994, Hebrew *na'* (naw); "I pray," "now," **Yasha Na!** Calls on the name of Jesus for victory in every area of our life!

This was seen as a royal, messianic entry, though Jesus wept over the city, foreseeing its future judgment. He spent the night in Bethany with friends like Lazarus, Mary, and Martha.

Holy Monday: Jesus returned to Jerusalem and visited the Temple. He drove out the merchants and money changers who had turned the outer courts into a marketplace, overturning their tables and declaring, "*My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers*" (**Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-48**). Some accounts also mention him cursing a barren fig tree on the way, symbolizing judgment on unfruitful religious practice. He healed people in the Temple and taught there before returning to Bethany.

Holy Tuesday: This was a day of intense teaching and debate in the Temple. Religious leaders (chief priests, scribes, and Pharisees) challenged Jesus' authority and tried to trap him with questions about paying taxes to Caesar, the resurrection, and the greatest commandment. Jesus responded with parables (e.g., the wicked tenants, the wedding banquet) and delivered the **Olivet Discourse on the Mount of Olives**, prophesying the destruction of the Temple, signs of the end times, and his own second coming (**Matthew 21:23–25:46; Mark 11:20–13:37; Luke 20:1–21:36**). He also praised a poor widow's offering at the Temple treasury.

Holy Wednesday: The Gospels are relatively quiet about specific public activities this day, leading some to describe it as a day of rest or preparation in Bethany. Key events include the religious leaders plotting to arrest and kill Jesus (**Matthew 26:1-5; Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:1-2**). Judas Iscariot met with them and agreed to betray Jesus for **30 pieces of silver**. In some interpretations, this is also linked to Jesus being anointed with expensive perfume by a woman (often identified as Mary of Bethany) at the home of Simon the Leper, an act Jesus said prepared him for burial (**Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8**).

Maundy Thursday: The Last Supper and the Arrest of Jesus. His disciples prepared for and shared the Passover meal (the Last Supper) in an upper room in Jerusalem. Maundy means "**commandment**" or "**mandate**." "*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*" (**John 13:34**) During this meal:

- Jesus washed his disciples' feet as an example of humble service.
- He instituted the Lord's Supper (**Communion**), breaking bread and sharing wine as symbols of his body and blood (**Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-39; John 13**).
- He predicted his betrayal by Judas and denial by Peter, and gave teachings about love, the coming Holy Spirit, and peace (much of **John 13–17**).

After the meal, they went to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, where Jesus prayed in anguish. Judas arrived with soldiers and betrayed Jesus with a kiss. Jesus was arrested, and his disciples fled (though Peter followed at a distance and later denied knowing him three times).

Good Friday: Jesus faced a series of mockery trials before His crucifixion.

- Before the Jewish Sanhedrin (high priest Caiaphas and others), where he was accused of blasphemy and condemned.
- Before Roman governor Pontius Pilate, who found no fault but sent him to Herod Antipas (ruler of Galilee) at one point.
- Back before Pilate, who ultimately yielded to the crowd's demands and sentenced Jesus to crucifixion, despite offering to release him (a custom during Passover).

Jesus was scourged (flogged), mocked by Roman soldiers (crown of thorns, purple robe), and forced to carry his cross to Golgotha ("the place of the skull") outside Jerusalem. He was crucified around 9 a.m. between two criminals. From the cross, he spoke seven recorded statements, including "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing,*" "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" and "*It is finished*" (**Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 18–19**).

Jesus hung on His cross for 6 hours. Darkness covered the land from noon to 3 p.m. Jesus died around 3 p.m. At that moment, the Temple veil tore, an earthquake occurred, and other signs were reported. His body was taken down before sunset (to avoid violating the Sabbath) and placed in a new tomb owned by Joseph of Arimathea, with a stone rolled over the entrance and guards posted. The Sanhedrin requested Roman guards be posted at the tomb.

Holy Week culminates in the sorrow of Good Friday but points forward to the hope of the resurrection on Easter Sunday (the first day of the following week). These events are central to Christian theology, representing Jesus' sacrificial death for humanity's sins and his victory over death.