



NEWSCAST 17. THE CLASH

..... Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem was an occasion for great excitement for the crowds of pilgrims who were coming up to Jerusalem for the Passover. They clearly still entertained hopes that Jesus would lead the people as a triumphant Messiah.

Although there were a variety of expectations about the nature of the Messiah, the most widespread popular belief was that the Messiah would be another King David — a military leader who would defeat the Romans and restore a sovereign Jewish nation under God's rule. Jesus rejected such an idea of the Messiah as too narrow in outlook and doomed to failure. God's kingdom is to transcend national boundaries and is to be God's rule over the lives of men everywhere.

The hopes that Jesus would lead the people as a triumphant Messiah were increased by the dramatic raising of Lazarus from the dead at Bethany. Jesus' previous miracles of raising from the dead were in Galilee and would probably have passed largely unnoticed in Jerusalem.

Such excitement surrounding Jesus was a cause of concern to the Sanhedrin. They were afraid of any popular uprising which would lead to sharp Roman reprisals. Indeed, such fears were not unjustified. The revolt of 66-70 A.D. led to the burning of the Jerusalem temple and the complete destruction of the nation by the Romans.

Biblical references:

Mark Chapter 10 v.46— Chapter 11 v.19

John Chapter 11 v. 1 — Chapter 12 v. 19.