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By contrast is Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The Son of God, in stark contrast to Antiochus, rides into Jerusalem, to reclaim His Father’s city and Temple, not with moral hubris, but humbly, astride a donkey. He marches into the outer courts of the Temple but not yet into the Holy of Holies. Like the High Priest of Old, it is later this Holy Week where Jesus Christ will enter into the Holy of Holies, with the one, perfect acceptable sacrifice, His own shed blood, for the atonement of the sins of His people. But not yet and not on Palm Sunday. For in a great and prophetic act Jesus enters into those outer courts and “drove out all those who sold and bought in the temple” and “he overturned the tables of the money-changers” and he declared for all to hear –It is written, “My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you make it a den of robbers.” (Matthew 21: 12-13) The Temple had become corrupt. The priests were no longer in the lineage of Melchizedek, for Antiochus had killed them all. And what was masquerading as worship was just high theater. It was to be a spiritual place, a “house of prayer”. But the priests had robbed the Temple of its Spirit, had lost the Living presence of the Living God. And so the Messiah had come to reclaim the Temple, to enter into it...
and to make it HOLY, and to retake it for the Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty. He was to re-win the Temple mount by a mount called Mt. Calvary. Reza Aslan’s book “Zealot” on the ministry of Jesus basically argues that He is a radical on the issue of the holiness of God’s Temple and the entire focus of His ministry is to reclaim the Temple and make it holy once again. Jesus seals His fate, and His death upon a cross, the very moment He challenges the Jewish High Priests and powers that be, when he undermines the financial backing of the false façade of Temple worship, by entering on Palm Sunday and turning the tables over on the moral chaos, the self-worship and hubris of those who claim to be His priests. Unlike Antiochus, Jesus came to make HIS Temple HOLY, and HIS City HOLY and HIS People HOLY. Jesus walked the Highway of Holiness to Jerusalem and the Temple in order to reclaim it and make it HOLY, HOLY, HOLY once again.

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By: The Reverend Dr. Stuart D. Broberg, The Church of the Covenant, Washington, PA

IF THIS HAS BLESSED YOU, PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND!
RECLAIMING THE TEMPLE FOR GOD
Lenten and Easter Series: The Holiness of God
Palm Sunday –March 29, 2015 –Hebrews 9: 19-28
The Church of the Covenant

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