

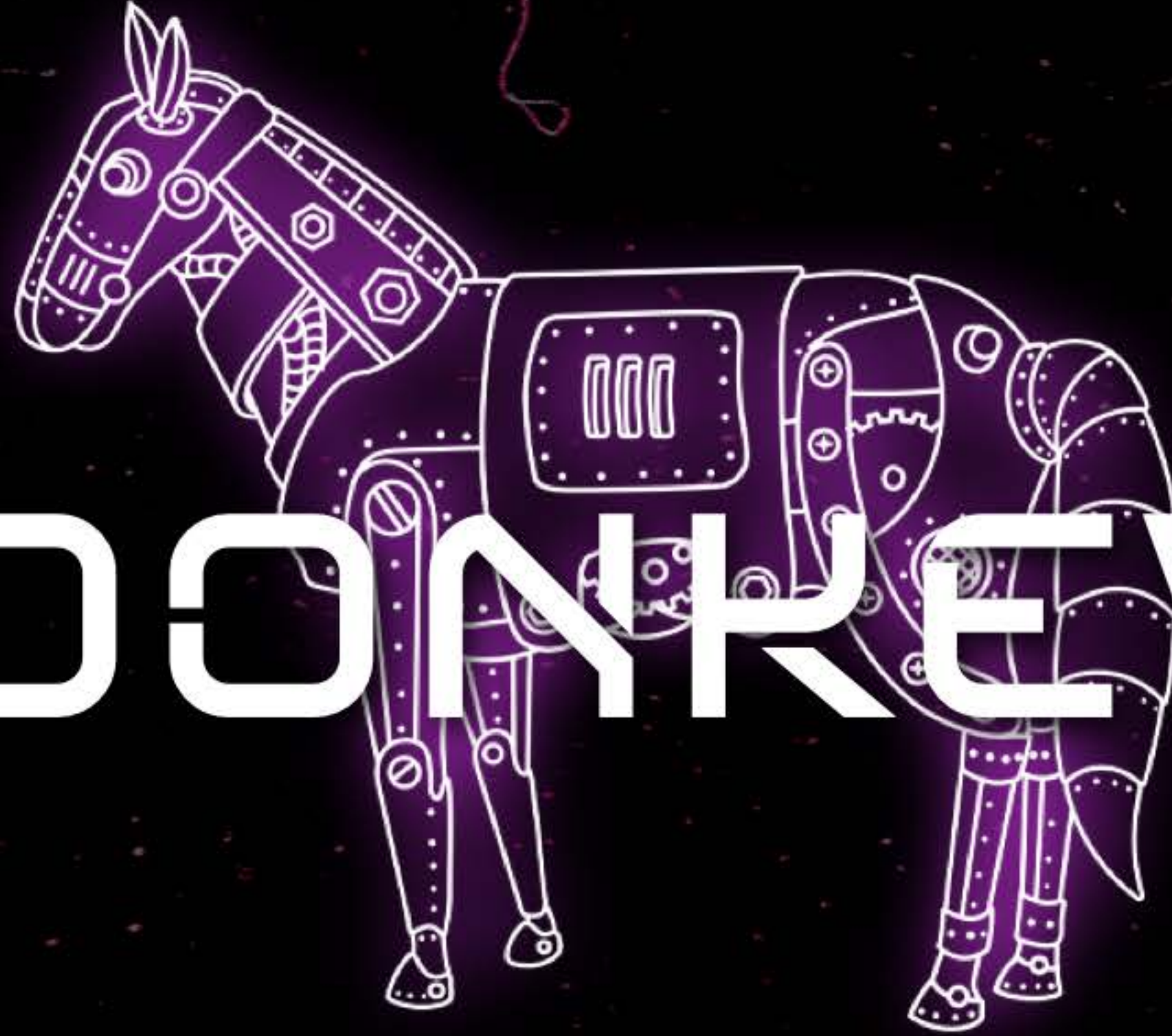
THE COUNTDOWN

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DONKEYS, DOVES & SHARKS

CLEAN OUT YOUR TEMPLE
MATTHEW 21:1-14

DONKEYS



MATTHEW 21:1-9

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' "

MATTHEW 21:1-9

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

JESUS enters Jerusalem as King not to establish the monarchy but to extend God's rule and reign by bringing peace between God and humanity through his own death.



DOVES

MATTHEW 21:12

Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.

JESUS not to restore the integrity of the temple institution but to establish himself as the priest who offers the final sacrifice that opens access to the Father for all people.



SHARKS

MATTHEW 21:13

“It is written,” he said to them, “My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”

MATTHEW 22:17-21

Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

JESUS pronounces judgment like the prophets of old, declaring the end of the temple's function as the means of access to God.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:16

**Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple
and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?**

MATTHEW 21:14

The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.