**Jesus Our King**

**Ps. 110:1-4; Zac. 9:9; 2 Sam. 7:8-14a**

In the last few weeks, I’ve been talking about knowing God and how Jesus has made God known. We know God through Christ. We have seen how we know Him through His roles as Prophet, Priest, and King. The last two messages have been about Jesus as Prophet and High Priest. Today, let's consider His role as King. Last week, we saw in the psalm how God swore that one day he would raise up another priest like Melchizedek, and that Melchizedek was both king and priest, king of Salem and king of righteousness, as well as being a priest of the Most High God.

We also saw that Jesus Christ was declared a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek, and I mentioned that he is our King as well. Normally, the offices and functions of priests and kings were different; they had totally different jobs. But Melchizedek was both. To some extent, David was another example of this. David was never a priest, but he did priestly things, such as offering sacrifices before the Lord (1 Chron. 21:28), dancing before the Lord in worship (1 Chron. 15:29), singing, and playing the harp (1 Sam. 16:23), and he put on an ephod, like the priests (1 Chron. 15:27), and prepared the way for Solomon's temple to be built, the place where worship would take place (2 Chron. 3:1). David also made plans for that temple, created choirs of the Levites, composed psalms and prayers, all to facilitate worship, the function of the priests.

Of course, David is most famous for being the greatest king of Israel. The people had asked God for a king, because they were constantly harassed by enemies from all sides and desperately wanted someone to guide them. They were tired of the uncertainty and disorder, the lack of leadership. They wanted peace and prosperity.

David cared about his people. He served them and guided them wisely. Psalm 78:72 says that "he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and with skillful hands he led them." God gave him victories over the enemies of Israel and subdued them everywhere. Israel had peace and prosperity during his reign. As a father of a large family or as the shepherd of a flock, King David brought a sense of peace and security, and led Israel to abundance and blessing. However, we know that David was also human, and therefore failed terribly. He committed adultery and had a very loyal and noble man murdered.

However, God promised something very special to David in 2 Sam. 7:8-14, something called the Davidic covenant. He promised that one of his sons would reign forever over God's people. This person would build the house of God. He would defeat all the enemies of God's people and establish them in their own place, a permanent place, where there would be peace. Now, David did this up to a point. He defeated enemies, brought peace and prosperity. Later, his son Solomon accomplished even more. He built the first temple, which was magnificent, and the nation grew and prospered tremendously under his leadership. However, Solomon deviated from God's ways eventually, built temples for many other gods from neighboring nations to please his many wives, mistreated his own people, burdened them with heavy taxes, and made life difficult for them. Immediately after his death, the people rebelled, and the country split in two and began to decline. So neither David nor his son Solomon represent the fullest manifestation of the King predicted by God. They were just types or shadows of the final King of Israel. Who is that king? The Lord Jesus Christ!

Since Israel was promised that one day a king from the tribe of Judah would rule over them forever, drive out their enemies, and bring them peace and all of God's blessings, they were devastated when the last king, Zedekiah, failed God and was defeated by the Babylonians in 586 BC. After this happened, no other son of David arose to lead Israel, but they kept hoping there would be. When they finally returned from exile, they kept searching and waiting for that person, but no such king ever appeared. No one from the tribe of Judah reigned over Israel again for centuries.

So the line of Judah and Jesse became like the dry root of a cut down tree. But Isaiah 11 had predicted that one day, that dry old root or trunk would produce a new shoot, and the Spirit of God would be upon Him. He would destroy the wicked, bring justice and peace, and even the Gentile nations would come to God at through Him. Well, that tree certainly was cut down, that root certainly was looking completely dead in the dust.

But then this couple from that line, Joseph and Mary, they had a Son who was born in the city of David. For 30 years, He lived in anonymity. But when Jesus began His ministry, He told the people: "The time has come, and the Kingdom of God is at hand" (Mark 1:15). Some scoffed. But as this Man began to do miracles and speak greater wisdom than had ever been heard, others began to hope again. Now, they thought His words meant that the earthly kingdom of Israel would be established again, and they were excited. They followed Jesus because they expected him to drive out the Romans and "make Israel great again." Many during his ministry called him "Son of David" because they expected him to be the fulfillment of the Davidic covenant. When he rode a donkey, which the kings used to ride, down the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem, the people waved palm branches, as they had done with the Maccabean kings (who had reigned, but only as vassals), and said Hosanna (which means deliver us!) to the Son of David (Matt. 21:9), Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! They thought that Jesus would take over and reign. Zechariah 9:9 had predicted their King would come like this.

None of them understood that he first had to fulfill the role of High Priest before he could take his throne and reign. He is a Servant King who serves his people. He had to die for the sins of the world to provide atonement, and that meant that he would have to be rejected and crucified. Yet even at his trial, much was said about kingship. The Jews told Pilate that he had said he was the King of the Jews. Pilate asked if that was true and Jesus only said, “The words are yours” (Matt. 27:11.) When they crucified him, Pilate had it written in Hebrew, Latin and Greek, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews” (John 19:20). The religious leaders asked him to change it to say, "This one said, I am King of the Jews," but Pilate said, "what I have written, I have written."

The religious leaders also denied him, because when Pilate asked, "Shall I crucify your king?" they replied, "We have no king but Caesar" (John 19:15). In one of his parables, Jesus spoke of a person who "went to a distant country to receive a kingdom and return," leaving his resources in the hands of his servants. But he said that "his citizens abhorred him and sent a delegation after him saying: 'We do not want this man to reign over us" (Lu. 19:14). The Lord understood very well His opponents’ rejection of His kingship – He predicted it!

Jesus humbled himself to be exalted. He humbled Himself as far as anyone could go, became a servant, and died a criminal’s death. This He did as our High Priest. But because of this, God has highly exalted Him and given him a name above every name, so that at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord. (Philippians 2: 6-11) Now He is King of all kings and Lord of all lords! (Revelation 19:16)

Now, what does Jesus’ kingship mean for us? Well, like David, he has defeated our enemies, sin, guilt, the devil, the world, death, and hell. He makes it possible for us to be transferred from the devil's kingdom to His (Col. 1:13). But we have to understand what this kingdom is like, because it is so very different from any kingdom of this earth, any kingdom that we could imagine. Why am I saying this? First of all, because the kingdom of God is actually invisible during this era in which we live.

In Lu. 17:20, 21, when asked about the coming of the kingdom of God, Jesus said, “The kingdom of God can’t be detected with visible signs. You won’t be able to say here it is, or it’s over there, because the kingdom of God is among you (or in the midst of you or even within you NLT). To Pilate, Jesus himself said that his kingdom was not of this world (Jn. 18:36). However, Jesus' main message was always the kingdom of God more than any other topic, and he began His ministry by declaring that the time had been fulfilled, and the kingdom had drawn near (Mark 1:15). That’s strange! A kingdom that is not of this world and is not physically seen? Yes, because it is only a spiritual kingdom now, not a physical one, one that’s within us. It’s not an external realm. And it is also a kingdom that has already arrived in a certain sense, but at the same time, it has not yet arrived. How is that possible?

The kingdom of God is the place where God is King, where He reigns. This place, which is not really a place like an earthly territory, but only the "place" within one, in our spirit and soul, the "place" where we submit to King Jesus, His Father, and His Spirit, the Heavenly King, who created all that is, and reigns over everything except the human beings and rebellious spirits of this present age.

It seems to me that Adam and Eve lived in the kingdom of God and God's plan was for them to reign over the earth as His representatives. But Satan deceived them and usurped their authority, and he became the god or king of this age (2 Cor. 4:4). Satan made them doubt the character of the King, who only wanted their welfare.

Jesus came humbly and defeated the devil in his temptation in the desert and bound him throughout his ministry on earth, but then He let Satan and his minions arrest and mistreat Him, even crucify Him. But Jesus submitted to this abuse in order to defeat the devil (Heb. 2:14), and offered himself as our High Priest, thus redeeming us and opening the way for us to be translated from the kingdom of Satan and enter God’s kingdom again, to live under the dominion of God.

The only ones who are in the kingdom of God are those who have voluntarily submitted to its King. When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, He said they should pray, "May your kingdom come, your will be done, here on earth as it is in heaven." (Matt. 6:10) I believe that this prayer is primarily about the coming of the kingdom in our hearts, although yes, one day the kingdom will also come visibly to earth.

In this life is when we must ask Jesus to reign over us and when we must submit to His reign. I sometimes wish He’d just take full control over us and move us like puppets, but that's not how the kingdom of God works! The kingdom of God is voluntary, it requires our cooperation, the exercise of our free will. We have a part, and we have to make the decision every day to submit to King Jesus and walk with His Spirit. And this kingdom is completely different from the world.

In the world, people want authority over others, and they will use any means to obtain that authority. In the kingdom of the world, everything revolves around the desires of the flesh, the eyes, and the pride and pride of this life. Everything revolves around self, and selfishness reigns. But in the kingdom of God, everything revolves around King Jesus, everything is God-centered, and what counts is humility, submission to the Lord, love, joy, kindness and other fruit of the Holy Spirit. Our King has set us the best possible example, because He said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble, and you will find rest for your souls." (Mat. 11:30) The example that our King set inspires us to live differently than the world lives.

In the kingdom of this world, what counts are the pleasures of the flesh, and giving free rein to its passions and desires. But in the kingdom of God, the important thing is self-control under the authority of the Benign King, Jesus, because we know that his ways are those of peace and blessing. The devil, the flesh, and the world reign here at this time, but those who have seen the light of God, and have come to know him as he is, as a humble and loving King, whose ways are always of love, they submit to King Jesus and obtain a life a thousand times superior. When the Lord is our Shepherd and King, we will lack nothing!

Satan suggested that Adam and Eve would lose something if they continued under the kingdom of God, but the reality was quite the opposite. They lost everything by *leaving* the kingdom and reign of God. One day in the courts of God and in his presence is better than a thousand outside of them (Ps. 84:10)

Those who submit to King Jesus will reign in this life (Rom. 5:17), because one who is in harmony with God and under his authority *has* authority and victory. A Roman centurion understood this principle and said that he had authority because he was *under* authority (Mark 8:9.) Only when we are subject to King Jesus will we have peace with God and obtain the promised inheritance. The Bible promises that those who submit in this life will reign together with Him in the life to come (Dan. 7:27; Rev. 20:6) This is our inheritance and the promise God has given us. That is why Paul said in 2 Tim. 2:11, 12, If we die with him, we will also live with him. 12 If we persevere, we will also reign with him. It’s more than worth it to submit to King Jesus!

Someday, Jesus will come to this earth again, and this time, he will not come in humiliation, because this he did at his first coming. This time, it will come with all its power and glory. The book of Revelation describes how He will drive the devil and all his minions out of this place forever. There will be no more demons, temptations, sickness, sin, pain, or tears! He will reign and everything will be more wonderful than we can imagine! There is so much evil here that we could never defeat it and cast it out ourselves. But our King Jesus will have no problem doing it! He is the Sovereign over the entire universe. And then the heavens and the earth will be recreated in a perfect way and the Lord will reign in a visible way. And those of us who have come to know him as he is, humble, loving, the Suffering Servant, the humble King who has done everything for us, we will have no problems submitting to His reign. No, on the contrary, we *long* for his reign!

We who have voluntarily submitted to the King will have a part in his kingdom and will reign forever with him. That’s why Paul said he knew a crown was awaiting him! Glory to God forever!!

As I close, let me ask you, do you see that there is a King who rules over the entire universe and one day he will visibly rule and reign over the earth? He wants to reign over your life now. Have you ever submitted to His rule? Have you bowed your knees to the King of kings and asked him to be your King? If not, you can do it today. If you accept Jesus as your King, you will reign with Him when He returns.

If you have received Jesus, praise him and thank him for being your Prophet, Priest and King! Be glad you have Christ, the Word of God, who guides you into all truth. You have a High Priest whose sacrificial intercession for you has reconciled you to God. You have such a King, who will provide you with everything you need, defeat all your enemies and lead you to His great Promised Land. A humble King, a servant King, who has led by wonderful example – we can follow a King like that!