

God Leads

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Big Idea: God sent King Jesus into the world to rescue us from the kingdom of darkness.

I. A Word about Kings

Kings and kingdom are mostly part of our history lessons in modern 21st century America. Kings governed cities and nations throughout time. They were the center of authority, power, and wealth and therefore administrated, organized, and cared for the people under their rule. Kings arose through ancestral lineage, so that thrones were inherited upon the death or appointment of the previous king (normally the father). Kings had underlords, counselors, nobles, governors, and armies to help them collect taxes, settle disputes, and protect the city or kingdom. The authority and administration of kings is carried forward through our modern governments, whether democratic or not.

What are our greatest fears we have about being governed?

What are the best things we can expect out of our own governments? What limits their ability to deliver?

II. A Word about Jesus

There are many reasons that God sent Jesus into the world. Among them was the obvious fact that humanity has rejected God's rule and authority. Humans were created to rule the world under God as vice-regents. Humans exhibited from the beginning that we don't want to reign under God, but rather independent of him. We don't like submitting to his command; we would rather make up the rules. We also don't think he has our best interests in mind and that he is out to use us and abuse for his own selfish reasons. All the while, we have actually not been able to establish our own rule, but have succumbed to the rule of the Serpent (Satan). He is fulfilling our worse nightmares and has enslaved us. God sent Jesus as the heir of His throne to establish his reign by rescuing us and transferring us from the kingdom of darkness to His kingdom of righteousness.

John 18:33-38 So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" 35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." 37 Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." 38 Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

Acts of King Jesus in Matthew:

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| 1. Legitimate heir of David: Matthew 1:1-17 | 10. Lord of Sabbath & Temple: Matthew 12:1-8 |
| 2. Succeeds unlike Adam: Matthew 4:1-11 | 11. Feeds the people: Matthew 15:32-38 |
| 3. Identifies with His people: Matthew 4:12-17 | 12. He is transfigured: Matthew 17:1-13 |
| 4. Preached the Kingdom: Matthew 5:1-7:28 | 13. He seizes the Temple: Matthew 21:12-17 |
| 5. Foreign soldiers submit: Matthew 8:5-13 | 14. He pronounces judgment: Matthew 23:1-36 |
| 6. Has authority over nature: Matthew 8:23-27 | 15. He is crucified and buried: Matthew 27:1-66 |
| 8. Reconstitutes Israel: Matthew 10:1-4 | 16. He rises with all authority: Matthew 28:1-20 |
| 9. Commissions emissaries: Matthew 10:5-15 | |

Kingdom of Heaven = Kingdom of God = Kingdom of Christ = Kingdom of Israel

Matthew 21:1-12 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them

at once." 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 5 "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. 8 Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" 10 And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" 11 And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

What are differences between the kingdom of Jesus and our "kingdoms" on earth?

What Jesus did that no biblical king ever did before:

1) *Inherited an eternal throne*

Hebrews 1:5-12 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? 6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." 7 Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire." 8 But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." 10 And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; 11 they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, 12 like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."

2) *Rules over all nations and kings*

1 Timothy 6:13-16 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, 14 to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which he will display at the proper time--he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen

Revelation 17:14 They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.

3) *His Father rules with him*

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4) *Shares his rule with all his subjects*

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

5) *Conquers his enemies through emptying himself in love*

Hebrews 2:14-15 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

III. A Word to Us

Authority Matters

Do you embrace authority? Are you submissive, or would you rather be in charge? Do you follow the "chain of command" or would you rather bypass the processes of authority placed around you?

We are Rebels

Why are we rebels? What is so appealing to us about usurping God's throne? Do you think that you can do better? Do you think you have better ideas, better intentions, or better resources? How come we don't submit to the only true King?

Jesus is King

Are you committed to King Jesus? Do you delight in His reign over you or do you think He is now powerful enough or not enough – perhaps we think Him a tyrant? Do you rely on His absolute sovereignty or would you prefer that we all have a say?

The Kingdom has Begun, but Awaits the Return of the King

Do you expect everything to be fixed now? Are you patient about the King's timing or are you chomping at the bit to cause the return to happen? Are you spreading the good news of the kingdom of amnesty and forgiveness to other rebels?

The Kingdom is Forever

Are you afraid of losing what you have? Are you insecure about your future? What can possibly be a legitimate fear if Jesus is your King? Are you more focused on what matters for the short-term (the here and now), or what matters for the eternal kingdom?

Colossians 1:9-14 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. 11 May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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