

King of the Kingdom

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(All verses taken from the NASB unless otherwise noted)

Merriam-Webster.com – “Messiah” - the expected king and deliverer of the Jews.

During Jesus’ earthly ministry he was a traveling preacher and teacher of the news that GOD’s Kingdom was coming and that men should repent in light of its soon appearance (Mark 1:14,15; Luke 4:43, etc). Many people began to suspect that this preacher from Nazareth could be the promised Messiah.

After Jesus’ death and resurrection, he instructed his disciples to go throughout the world with his message of the forthcoming dawn of GOD’s Kingdom (John 20:21; Mark 16:15). The disciples sent by Jesus had a wonderful new piece of the Kingdom gospel to share with the world, the news that the Messiah had arrived. They proclaimed that he died to serve as the sacrifice for man’s sins and that following his words would lead to life in the age to come.

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified. . .Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:36, 38).”

Every nation needs a government. The government’s responsibility is to develop and administer the rules and regulations of that nation. Usually there is one leader who is the head of the government and they achieve their status by election, appointment, or lineage. In the case of the coming Kingdom that GOD will establish on the earth, His only begotten son has been deemed the rightful ruler as a result of his Father being GOD. Also, the son of GOD had his perfect humble submission and obedience to his Father while he was on the earth. Jesus’ role is that of the Christ, or Messiah. It is important that we have the Biblical understanding when reading the word “Christ” in order that we may understand the fullness of just who this Jesus is.

Previously we have studied the term “Christ” and “Messiah.” We know that prophets, priests and kings were anointed. When looking for *THE* Messiah, the people of GOD had a particular idea in mind.

In its simplest form, the faithful awaiting the Messiah’s coming understood his role to be that of King of GOD’s Kingdom.

“Daniel 7:14 – And to him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations and men of every language might serve him. His dominion is an everlasting

dominion which will not pass away; and his kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.”

Revelation 1:5 - “...Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first born of the dead, and **the ruler of the kings of the earth**. To him who loves us and released us from our sins by his blood.”

Jesus as the Christ is foundational to the existence and spread of Christianity. Unfortunately, many people have lost the understanding of just what it means for Jesus to be the Christ. Over time the very church Christ began has lost the gospel message which Jesus and his followers taught. Because of the magnitude of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the church began it was greatly emphasized along with the truth of the Kingdom’s imminent arrival. Sadly, as people lost the Hebraic understanding of just what the Messiah was all about people looked at Jesus more as a personal savior than a future political and social leader. The Kingdom as the plan of GOD and Messianic dream is not separate from the preaching of “the Christ” in the book of Acts, but critical to understanding it.

Lets read the following verses with the understanding that “Christ” means “King of the Kingdom.”

Acts 3:18 & 19 - But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ (King of the Kingdom) would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

Acts 8:5 - Philip went down to the city of Samaria and *began* proclaiming Christ (the king of the Kingdom) to them.

Acts 17:2 & 3 - And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ (King of the Kingdom) had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ (King of the Kingdom).”

Acts 18:5 - But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul *began* devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ (King of the Kingdom).

Acts 18:28 - for he (Apollos) powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ (King of the Kingdom).

Acts 26:22 & 23 – "So, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; that the Christ (King of the Kingdom) was to suffer, *and* that by reason of *His* resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the *Jewish* people and to the Gentiles."

Acts 28:30 & 31 - And he (Paul) stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ (King of the Kingdom) with all openness, unhindered.

These verses can teach us some wonderful things. First, it was not just Jesus of Nazareth, a great man, who died for our sins, but even more so it was Jesus the King of GOD's Kingdom who died so that we could have entrance into it. Also, we can see that the preaching of Christ is not separate from the Kingdom message. In fact, we should understand that the disciples were clearly teaching about the Kingdom when they would share about the death and resurrection because it was regarding the Kingdom's King!

Beyond the book of Acts, when we read about Jesus Christ or the Christ, we should keep this understanding that we are reading about the King of the Kingdom.

Romans 5:6 - For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ (King of the Kingdom) died for the ungodly.

I Corinthians 15:3 - For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ (King of the Kingdom) died for our sins according to the Scriptures.

The death and resurrection of the Christ is not a different message because it is directly concerning the King.

John writes how important it is for us to believe that Jesus is the King of the Kingdom:

I John 2:22 - Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ (King of the Kingdom)? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

We must allow the Scriptures to teach us the meaning and identity of this Anointed One of GOD. Our faith is to be founded upon our hearing the Word and our new lives of love are to be based on the words of the King.

One day soon Jesus the King will return to the earth and rule on behalf of his Father. The sky will break open and he will meet his faithful saints in the air to escort him to his throne in Zion. He will be a leader like none other the world has known. He will be just, honest, wise and true. As a result of his leadership the world will be made right and GOD will be glorified. Any attempt at rebellion will be quickly shattered. War, famine and injustice will cease. His rule will pave the way for the eternal state of Paradise in which GOD Himself will dwell with man.

Oh how we long for this day! Like our brothers and sisters of the early church let us pray for boldness to speak the message of the coming Kingdom and the soon return of the King, Jesus our Lord.

Acts 4:23-31 - When they had been released, they went to their own *companions* and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard

this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM, who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, 'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS? 'THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.' "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur. "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness.

Thy Kingdom Come!