

LESSON 7



JESUS IS KING

Scripture Texts: *Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:30-33; Matthew 28:18; John 18:36; Matthew 12:28; 1 Corinthians 15:24-26*

Many are looking for Jesus to set up an earthly kingdom here and reign from Jerusalem for 1000 years. This does not fit with the time of His kingdom as given in the Bible. It does not suit the nature of His kingdom. If the kingdom reign were to take place in the future, then kingdom blessings would also be meant for the future and not now. This is a great mistake in which there is great harm. It causes mankind to look and wait for a ship that will never come in.

Jesus Christ is King over all. His kingdom is unseen, inside the heart, spiritual and eternal. He reigns over all. All people owe Him love, loyalty, respect, and obedience.

MEMORY VERSE: *Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.* *Matthew 2:2*

A King Foretold and Sent

Isaiah 9:6-7 Isaiah the prophet received from God this promise of a King. The One to come has authority to govern, is a Prince with a throne and a kingdom. His government is increasing and endless.

Luke 1:30-33 About 700 years later the angel Gabriel spoke to a maiden in Nazareth of this **Son of the Highest**. He was to have a throne and reign over an endless kingdom. His throne is **the throne of his father David**. (See 1 Chronicles 17.) He was born to Mary. He was called Jesus (meaning Savior) as Gabriel had instructed. When a little later the wise men from the east came to worship Jesus, they asked for **he that is born King of the Jews**. Included in this was the fact that this Baby Jesus was a King.

An All-Powerful King

Matthew 28:18 When Jesus was ending His stay on earth He stated to His disciples, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth**. Power and authority belong to kings. Jesus **taught them as one having authority** (Matthew 7:29). Not only in word but in action His authority was evident. **With authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him** (Mark 1:27).

Special Characteristics of His Kingdom

John 18:36 Jesus said, **My kingdom is not of this world**. It is a heavenly one, not like any other kingdom. It is not ruled from this world. Its headquarters are in Heaven. Its boundaries cannot be drawn on a map. Its power is not from force but from the sweet influence of spiritual graces and from the great love between Jesus and His subjects. **The kingdom of God cometh not with observation**. It is unseen. It is **within you**—an inward power in God's children (Luke 17:20-21). This kingdom is **not meat and drink**. One's position in it does not depend upon material things or forms or ceremonies. It is **righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost** (Romans 14:17).

These are spiritual. He whose heart is filled with these has the kingdom of God within him. Christ rules there. It is by the power of these that Jesus rules His subjects. There is but one true test by which one can prove his love for Jesus (John 14:15, 23, 24).

Jesus was born a King, lived a King, died a King, rose a King, and is reigning a King. He reigns as Sovereign, with absolute authority, not limited by human laws or religious bodies. We fear human dictatorships, but we need not fear His. It is clear that Jesus has unlimited authority, so how should we treat His commands?

Jesus Proved His Authority

Matthew 12:28 Jesus said, **If I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.** There is no question of by what power Jesus did miracles. Thus there can be no question that His kingdom was in force while He worked here. John the Baptist preached, **The kingdom of heaven is at hand.** Jesus began His work **preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.** His kingdom was already in action.

Many are looking for Jesus to set up an earthly kingdom here and reign from Jerusalem for 1000 years. This teaching is a great deception to souls. It causes lost ones to think they have a better opportunity to be saved in a future reign of Christ. The truth is that Jesus has been reigning in His kingdom for nearly 2000 years. The time these people are looking for Jesus to come back and save them is the time He is coming back to judge them.

First Corinthians 15:24-26 Jesus is to **reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.** The second death has no power over saved souls. Jesus puts the enemy of death under His feet when He takes away one's sins. The second death, in which the soul is cast into hell, is defeated when the blood of Christ is applied to the sinful heart (1 Corinthians 15:55-56; 1 John 3:14; Revelation 20:14). The first death is physical; the second death spiritual. The first separates from man; the second separates from God eternally. Jesus will come and receive His people and present the victorious kingdom to His Father (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). **Then cometh the end.** This dispensation will end and the next one begin. We can see from these Scriptures that Christ's reign as King is from His first coming until His second.

We have seen that Christ's kingdom is an inner, unseen one. It causes outward manifestations as it influences the life but itself remains unseen. It is the joy of all who love **the Lamb that was slain** to count Him **worthy** of all praise and worship and obedience. None will overdo it.

JUST A THOUGHT

God wants men, but He does not need them; men need God, but they do not want Him.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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