

Another King: Jesus

Text: Acts 17:1-7

Key Verse: Acts 17:7

We have a King: Jesus. Our King has a kingdom. Those who live under communism or communism in its adolescent state, socialism, are not a free people. Those who live in a democracy or those who live in its best form, a republic, are free to a far greater extent. A monarchy can either be benign or dictatorial. A theocracy which uses the laws of false gods or even the true and Living God, when left up to man to interpret will soon fall short of the glory of God and freedom will be jeopardized.

The Bible prophesies the best possible form of government shall take place in the form of a theocratic monarchy when, "...The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15b). Only then will true peace on earth cover the entire globe.

Until that kingdom comes literally upon this earth from east to west and north to south with Jesus as King, we will have wars and rumors of wars. Yet, in any place in the earth even at this present hour, whoever knows Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior can enjoy freedom and peace in earth like no one else.

It is interesting to note that in the Bible, the phrase "Kingdom of God" is used 69 times and the "Kingdom of Heaven" is used 32 times and only in Matthew. Theologians have pointed out that Mark shows us Jesus as Servant of Jehovah; Luke shows us Jesus, as Son of Man; John shows us Jesus, as Son of God and Matthew shows us Jesus as King of Kings. So it does make sense that Matthew would use these terms interchangeably. If I may attempt to make any difference, I would say, if we've been born from above (born again), we're in the Kingdom of God and when we live according to His principles, it brings the Kingdom of Heaven to earth (Matthew 6:10).

When Paul and Silas came preaching the Gospel in Thessalonica, they were said to have been preaching another King, one Jesus. Although this was meant to be an accusation of wrong doing, it actually was a statement of truth. This accusation is one of the greatest compliments anyone could ever receive. It speaks of a higher order of life, yes, even a life dominated by a Royal Savior, who, in turn, grants to His subjects the best possible life.

I. CHRIST CONFIRMS THAT HE IS KING.

Matthew 27:11; Mark 15:2; Luke 23:3; John 18:33-37; John 19:19;
I Timothy 6:12-16.

The first time Jesus came to a manger, the second time He comes to a throne. The first time Jesus came, he stood before Pilate; the second time He comes, Pilate will stand before Him. The first time Jesus came to a crucifixion, the second time He comes to a coronation.

II. THE DESIRE OF GOD'S HEART IS TO BE OUR KING.

I Samuel 8:1-7

When man rules, selfishness abounds (I Samuel 8:8-22).

On April 18, 1775 John Adams and John Hancock were at the home of Rev. Jonas Clarke, a Lexington pastor and militia leader. That same night Paul Revere arrived to warn them of the approaching Redcoats. The next morning British Major Pitcairn shouted to an assembled regiment of Minutemen; "Disperse, ye villains, lay down your arms in the name of George the Sovereign King of England." The immediate response of Rev. Jonas Clarke or one of his company was: "We recognize no Sovereign but God and no King but Jesus!"

When a nation allows God to be King, blessings abound. To turn back from the rulership of our Lord is to invite judgement. Psalm 9:17: "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."

III. KING JESUS ALONE IS THE DOOR TO THE KINGDOM.

Even if a nation turns its back on God, the individual within that nation may find peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7). John 10:7-9: "Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."

Galatians 2:16: "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

IV. WHEN JESUS REIGNS AS KING, THE CULTURE IS FLIPPED.

Acts 17:6: "And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also." When Jesus is King in a person's life or community, things do not merely make a 180-degree turn, things are not turned upside down, but more correctly, right-side up!

V. CHRIST'S KINGDOM IS THE BEST DOMINION TO LIVE UNDER; NOW AND FOREVER.

When man and woman were created, God intended for them to have dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:26-28). Dominion is from the Hebrew word, *radah*, which means to rule or reign. Through Christ we are promised in Romans 5:17, "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." This is reiterated in II Timothy 2:12; Revelation 20:6. Everything we lost through Adam, we've gained through Christ (I Corinthians 15:45).

Jesus says to His subjects in John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Matthew 28:19, 20: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Here are just a few commandments of Christ that make for the more abundant life (John 10:10):

1. Love one another as Jesus loves us (John 13:34, 35).
2. God answers prayer, therefore pray (Matthew 7:7-11).
3. Keep the golden rule (Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31-36).
4. Pray for your enemies (Matthew 5:44, 45).
5. Follow Christ daily, dying, yet truly living (Luke 9:23; John 6:56, 57).
6. Watch and pray and be relieved of the troubles of this world (Luke 21:33-36; Matthew 6:30-33).
7. Be assured, even death itself will never separate us from Christ or His love (John 14:1-3; Romans 8:38, 39).

-Pastor Pope-