

## King

For this Christmas season, we will be using one large passage of scripture. It is the announcement of the choosing of Mary to be the means through which Jesus, Son of God would come into the world. In this announcement, Gabriel the angel, introduces the glories that are about Jesus Christ that give reasons for us to worship our Lord this Christmas season. I will not read the whole passage like we did last week. The passage will be on the front page of the bulletin.

I want to give you the glories and then get into the glory that I want to share with you for today. There are five glories we will be considering:

- The glory of the virgin birth,
- His name is Jesus,
- He is Holy, the Son of God,
- He is Great,
- He is King and forever He will reign.

It is the last one that I want to open this morning. The place where Gabriel announces this glory is in verses 32 and 33.

Let's stand together to read these verses.

*32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;*

*33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever and His kingdom will have no end."*

All of us have a desire to be king whether we acknowledge it or not. We want to be king over our house. Jane, is it alright if I say that I am king over my house? We want to be king over our little world. We want to be king on Highway 501. How dare these subordinates cut in front of me? How dare that guy goes so slow as to take up my time? After I wrote that, one thing I have to constantly remind myself is that I am not King of the Road.

As this passage states, however, there is but One true, eternal King. His name is Jesus Christ. He is the fulfillment of a promise God had given to David many, many years before. That promise is found in 2 Samuel 7.

### **The Manner in which He is King**

The manner in which Jesus is King has two different references of time. In those two differences of time there are two differences in which He operates His kingdom.

First, let's consider the moment of His arrival in His first coming to our present time.

One of the best places I can show you the manner in which He is King in a concise presentation is in the Christmas narrative of Matthew. John Johnson beautifully read that story last Sunday night in our Hanging of the Greens. The magi, or wisemen came from the east seeking him who is King of the Jews. It is interesting to me that the scribes and Jewish leaders knew of the exact place where the King was to be born, but they never went to seek Him. It was people from outside of Judaism who gave indication that the King they were seeking had come into the world. As the magi were directed toward Bethlehem and headed that way, they found Jesus. I love verse 11 of that passage.

*After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell (prostrated face down in a position to worship) and they worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

The three gifts have been debated as to if they are significant or not. The fact that the gifts are specifically mentioned by Matthew gives to me indication that they are significant. I think they give indication of the kind of King Jesus was to be.

**Gold** – Gold is a symbol of nobility and royalty. When Sheba visited Solomon, she first gave him gifts which include gold as an acknowledgement of his royalty. Matthew will continue to present Jesus as King throughout the Gospel. However, as we know, the extent to which Jesus could have made that claim was greatly limited by Him.

The Savior of the world is also the true King of the world. He will not be Savior of those who will not accept Him as sovereign Lord. One of the early church's first known creed included the acknowledgement that Jesus is Lord.

**Frankincense** – In the Old Testament grain offerings, frankincense was used on occasion when the people especially wanted to please the Lord in their offering. Frankincense was a sign of deity. Because it was offered by priests, I kind of see it as pointing to the fact that not only is Jesus God, but He is also a King-Priest. Indeed we are told by Hebrews that Jesus is priest in the order of Melchizedek, the King and Priest of Salem.

The best place in scripture that makes this clear is Psalm 110. It is a Psalm of David where he prophecies the coming of one that even he would declare as his Lord. In verse 4 of Psalm 110, we read "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

He is our High Priest in that He brings God to us and us to God. He is our High Priest in that even now, He makes intercession for us to the Father. At the same time, He is King.

He is our High Priest in that He offered the greatest sacrifice for our sins, in that He offered Himself. This brings us to the third gift, the gift of myrrh.

**Myrrh** – Myrrh was used with other spices to prepare the body for burial. Myrrh points to Jesus' humanity. However it also points to the fact that Jesus was a sacrificing King. This makes Him most unusual as opposed to any other king. No other king would sacrifice himself for the citizens of his kingdom. However, that is exactly what Jesus did. But we know also that Jesus not only died for our sins, but He arose from the dead exalting Him as absolute King of kings and Lord of lords.

Philippians cites it best. *He humbled Himself to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

After Jesus ascended, Jesus remains Lord. He also remains High Priest. He also is head of His Body, which is the church. He is King of the church.

Two weeks ago, someone sent a link to a NYT article titled, "Is there an evangelical crisis?" I am immediately put on the defense when anything comes out of NYT. The article cites that evangelicals

have been in the past years in a place of growth and resiliency. However, the writer wonders if the resiliency will hold in the aftermath of the recent political season with the election of Trump as president. The article cites that may evangelicals allegiance to Trump may bring a decline to evangelicalism. The person who sent me the article asked me what I thought about it.

I told him that if churches are putting more trust and faith in a king, president, or other national, political leader than they are in Jesus Christ, the church needs to repent. I hope that is a non-partisan statement. If it is not, let me make it clear. If the Church puts more trust in any political leader or system, then we need to repent. Any church who puts more faith and trust in Trump, Shumer, Ryan, Clinton, or any other personality or system than they do in Jesus Christ, they need to repent. Those personalities will one day be in their graves, but Jesus will remain as the resurrected King of kings and Lord of lords. Make your allegiance and put your trust Him and Him alone.

The second reference of time is in the future when Jesus will return as Lord and Judge. Let me show you a good description of that day.

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and on His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself. <sup>13</sup> *He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. <sup>16</sup> And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

The King born and placed in a cradle. He died as a slave on the cross. But He will return to make His Kingdom complete.

The Means by which He becomes Our King

How are to be sure Jesus is our King now? You do so by surrendering to His Lordship, turning from sin, asking forgiveness for sin, and committing to Jesus as Lord.

John 3:16 – For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only unique one of a kind Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have everlasting life.

John 1:12 – But as many as received Him (Jesus) to them He gave the right to be children of God, even to them who believe upon His name.

Lift up your heads, O gates,  
And be lifted up, O <sup>8</sup>ancient doors,  
That the King of glory may come in!

<sup>8</sup> Who is the King of glory?  
The LORD strong and mighty,  
The LORD mighty in battle.

<sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates,  
And lift *them* up, O <sup>9</sup>ancient doors,  
That the King of glory may come in!

<sup>10</sup> Who is this King of glory?

The LORD of hosts,  
He is the King of glory.

This is another of the glories of Christmas. It gives us good reason to worship Him.