

The King Revealed - From Unknown to Throne

The Invasion: The Kingdom & The Cross - Part 3

March 21, 2021

Rev. Dr. Tony Soldano

The Big Idea

The God of Israel became King through the finished work of Jesus on the cross. Through Jesus, God reclaimed what was rightfully His—the world and the nations, and His right to rule and reign over them.

- In and through Jesus the Messiah, Israel's God reclaimed His sovereign rule over Israel and the world
- The coming Kingdom – the sovereign rule of Israel's God arriving on earth through David's true son.

Main Passage

1Corinthians 1:23-25

²³ But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴ but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Psalms 2:6-8

⁶ "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion." ⁷ "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

The Kingdom Introduced

The Kingdom was introduced and defined by the following:

- 1) The public ministry of Jesus (3.5 years)
- 2) The Kingdom is defined through the cross - His agenda was that of suffering that led to the cross
- 3) The Kingdom and the Gospel are for the entire world.

In order to understand the Kingdom and the cross, we must consider the conversation that took place in heaven between the Father and the Son regarding the nations.

The Reign of the Lord's Anointed

Psalms 2:1-12

¹ Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?
² The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*,
³ "Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us."
⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The Lord shall hold them in derision.
⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:

⁶ “Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion.”

⁷ “I will declare the decree:
The LORD has said to Me,
‘You *are* My Son,
Today I have begotten You.

⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give *You*
The nations *for* Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.

⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron;
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ”

¹⁰ Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear,
And rejoice with trembling.

¹² Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,
And you perish *in* the way,
When His wrath is kindled but a little.
Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in Him.

The nations:

- Are called into account
- Are warned by God
- Are given to the Son as an inheritance - the God of Heaven wars against the nations - He will rule the nations
- Rage against God, but they are brought into order eventually
- Are brought back to their original design and purpose
- He will be glorified and exalted amongst the nations
- All authority has been given to Christ.

Main Points

The Kingdom is defined through the work of Jesus on the cross. This is God’s divine plan!

The Kingdom of God comes through:

- Suffering
- Serving
- Witness to the truth
- Agape love.

Book Ends

The life of Jesus can be summarized by two main events and communication regarding His life. These are like bookends:

- “This is my beloved son” – the words of Father God at the water baptism of Christ - the lamb of God baptized in the Jordan
- “King of the Jews” – the sign that was placed over the cross by the Romans, although for them it was scorn and humiliation, it also represented the prophetic and identity of Christ.

Main Points – Expanded

The Kingdom is defined through the work of Jesus on the cross, this is God's divine plan!

1) The Kingdom comes through the suffering of the cross

Luke 24:25-26

²⁵ Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"

- Jesus lifted on the cross is His exaltation Luke 24:26 – coming into his glory – sovereign majesty
 - The cross – the climax of the plan
- "If I be lifted up, I will draw all people to myself" – Jesus
- He was lifted between heaven and earth
- The cross serves the goal of the Kingdom.

The Lord's Chosen Servant

Isaiah 42:1-7

¹ "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. ² He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. ³ A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. ⁴ He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law." ⁵ Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: ⁶ "I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, ⁷ To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.

The Lord's servant:

- Here is "my" Servant – this is what God announces
- Servant – to bring God's justice
- Covenant to the people and a light to the nations and salvation to the ends of the earth
- The Servant suffers in Isaiah 53
- God's sovereignty over the whole world
- Reveal His identity and His mission on the cross.

2) The Kingdom of God comes through serving

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

- Confronting rulers – The Son of Man came to serve
- The title on the cross angered the following:
 - Religious system
 - Humanity
 - Political system
 - Demonic realm.

- The Kingdom redefined by the cross
 - Messiah and the cross are blended together
 - The Kingdom must come through His suffering and the suffering of His followers
 - The Kingdom grows slowly and secretly – like a seed.
- Incarnation and the cross – Jesus, King of the Jews and dressed in purple – John 12:32
- The Identity of Jesus

What is said about Jesus in the Gospel of Mark?

- Mark 1:11- “You are my beloved son”
- Mark 8:29 – “But who do you say that I am”
- Mark 9:7 – “This is my beloved Son”
- Mark 14:61 – “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed”
- Mark 15:39 – “This truly was the Son of God”.

3) The Kingdom comes through witness to the truth

John 18:37

Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

- The Kingship of Jesus
 - Witness to the truth – The Kingdom is based on all truth – Jesus said – ‘I am the truth’
 - Jesus debates with Pilate about truth
 - Pilate was a hardened Roman ruler who had seen his fare-share of politics, ambition, corruption and lies
 - God’s Kingdom is coming - Christ is returning to set it up on earth
 - The coming Kingdom – the sovereign rule of Israel’s God arriving on earth through David’s true Son – Jesus Christ
- The **facts and the truth** are NOT always the same thing
 - ***“Jesus said, I have come to bear witness to the truth”, He did not say I have come to bear witness to the facts***
 - For example, Jesus died a criminal’s death and with criminals, but the truth is that He was innocent and not a criminal
 - ***“Fake news is heavy on facts and light on the truth”***
 - Today’s news headlines would read something like this...
 - ***“Would-be Messiah dies criminal’s death”***
 - ***“So-called king, comes to a popper’s end”***
 - ***“Saviour who led many astray, is nothing more than a common criminal”.***

4) The Kingdom comes through agape love

- God's incredible plan was to conquer the world and invade the hearts of people through His unconditional love. The Kingdom of God would be expressed through compassion, care, mercy and grace. It would not come with force or violence. In other words, people would not be conquered by the sword, or by compulsion to the truth.
- The Kingdom and the cross:
 - ***"The cross is God's love story to humanity"***
 - Through the cross God reaches out to people to display His love and affection and not His wrath
 - Not through violence but through love.
- The Bible tells us that God is love, and the description of this love is found in 1Corinthians 13.

Closing

Luke 24:25-26

²⁵ Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"

- The resurrection was the proof and evidence of what Jesus said
- Eventually the Son of Man will be glorified and exalted
- "Parousia" – means royal presence/divine appearing, the exaltation of Christ is His divine presence.

Questions & Discussion

- 1) Why did God have to become King?
- 2) How is the Kingdom defined by the cross?
- 3) Why do the nations rage against God and His Anointed?
- 4) Why did Messiah have to suffer?
- 5) Why does Jesus call Himself, "The Son of Man"?
- 6) What stands out to you in the discourse between Pilate and Jesus?
- 7) How did Jesus bear witness to the truth?