



THE KING OF KINGS

December 22, 2025 | *2 Samuel 7:12-13; Luke 1:32-33, 68-75*

A King Is Coming

One of the stories that we often tell at Christmas time is that of the birth of John the Baptist. He was born just before Jesus to Zacharias and Elizabeth.

At John's birth, Zacharias, who had been unable to speak for many months, suddenly burst forth with praise to God. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied of the arrival of the Messiah.

Zacharias said, "The Lord has accomplished redemption for His people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David. As He spoke by the mouth of the holy prophets — salvation from our enemies..., to remember the oath which He swore to Abraham..." (*Lk. 1:68-75*). What did Zacharias mean?

Centuries earlier, the Lord began revealing His plan to redeem His people from their sins and deliver them from their enemies. He would do it by raising up a great king. He slowly began to unveil His plan through prophecies.

It began with Abraham in *Genesis 17:6*, "I (God) will make nations of you (Abraham), and *kings* will come forth from you." Then, He spoke to Jacob (or Israel), saying, "I am God Almighty. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and *kings* shall come forth from you" (*Gen. 35:11*).

Next, Israel (or Jacob) prophesied regarding his son, Judah. "Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies... Judah is a lion's whelp... The scepter shall not depart from him, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh (the Messiah) comes, and to him shall be the obedience of all the peoples" (*Gen. 49:8-10*). The King will come from Judah.

God clarified the family of this great king in *2 Samuel 7:12-13*. The Lord said to David, "When

your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish His *kingdom*. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the *throne* of his kingdom forever.”

There it is — a great king shall come from the line of David, and His kingdom shall last forever! But who is it?

The Triumphal Entry

This king would not be just a man, for how could a man have a kingdom that lasts forever? This king would be much more than a man. To be eternal meant that He would be divine in nature. But who is He? Where is He?

Isaiah gave us some clues. “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us, and the *government* will rest on His shoulders; and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David...” (*Isa. 9:6-7*).

This great king would be divine, a child who is called the Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace (*1 Kgs. 2:33*). He would come from the line of David (a man), but His rule (or government) would be forevermore (divine).

Daniel also prophesied of this great king, that He would have an everlasting kingdom (*Dan. 7:13-14*). This great king was the Promised Messiah, who will be given dominion forever! But how will we know Him when He arrives?

The prophet Micah provided a location. “But as for you, *Bethlehem*..., from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.” (*Mic. 5:2*). This great king would come from Bethlehem, which was King David’s hometown (*1 Sam. 16:1*).

Malachi gave us another clue, “Behold, I (the Lord) am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me...” (*Mal. 3:1*). In other words, someone would be a forerunner to the Messiah, to announce His arrival. Of course, that person was John the Baptist (*Jn. 1:6-23*).

Finally, there was one more clue. Zechariah told everyone to be looking for a special day, when this King would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey (*Zech. 9:9*). This event is what we call “the Triumphal Entry,” when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey’s colt (*Matt. 21:1-9*). The people shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!”

But after all of these clues, God’s people still missed the Messiah King, primarily because He did not meet their expectations. The people knew the prophecies. They identified Jesus as the Messiah, but they were expecting political liberty, not spiritual liberty. The Jews had the right person, but the wrong purpose.

The people misunderstood the prophets, who predicted that the Messiah would save them from sin and their enemies. However, Jesus would fulfill those purposes at two different times, with

two separate advents, not at the same time.

We have the luxury today of knowing that Jesus already came once and will come again. The Jews thought that the Messiah would accomplish all these things in His first and only arrival (*Lk. 17:20; 19:11; 24:21; Acts 1:6*). When Jesus didn't deliver them from their enemies, they turned on Him and dismissed Him as someone other than the Messiah.

The King of Kings

But Jesus was the Promised King.

The gospel of *Matthew* opens with His genealogy, which includes David the king (*Matt. 1:1-16*). The angel who visited Mary, His mother, told her, "He (Jesus) will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord will give Him the throne of David, and His kingdom will have no end..." (*Lk. 1:32-33*).

The wise men, too, who came from the east, asked Herod, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?" (*Matt. 2:2*).

During His ministry, followers recognized Him as the King (*Jn. 1:49*). Later, at the end of His life, Pontius Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you a king?" (*Jn. 18:33*). Jesus replied, "You say correctly that I am a king, but My kingdom is not of this world... My kingdom is not of this realm" (v.36-37).

Jesus was more than an earthly king. He was, and is, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, which means all other rulers will fall before Him (*Rev. 17:14*). Because of what He did on the cross, God (the Father) highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name, which is above every name, so at His name every knee will bow..." (*Phil. 2:9-10*). There is no higher authority than Christ the King (*Matt. 28:19*).

What Child is this in the manger? The Child is the King of Kings, the great ruler of heaven and earth.

Ponder and Pray

Why does it matter that Christ was (and is) a King?

Knowing that Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, how should we pray?

**Have you missed some days?
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The reading plan and devotions were developed by Aaron Ferguson, one of our Elders and author of the *Study Guide and Daily Reflections for the One Year Chronological Reading of the Bible and the New Testament*. For more details, visit his website at BiAY.org.



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