

King and Warrior

I. Jesus is our king

- The OT prophesies a coming king of the line of David:
 - Num 24:17: “a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel”
 - Jer 23:5: “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.”
 - Ezek 37:24: “My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd.”
- On the one hand, the divine Son has always reigned over the world.
- But as a man, Jesus *began* to reign at his ascension to the throne of his Father
 - Luke 1:32: “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God *will give to him the throne* of his father David...”
 - Luke 23:42: the thief asks, “remember me when you *come into your kingdom.*”
 - Rev 2:26–27: [Jesus speaking]: The one who overcomes “will rule them [the nations] a rod of iron ... even as I myself have received authority from my Father.”
- Hence Jesus is simultaneously “the root *and* the descendant of David” (Rev 22:16):
 - The root: he is David’s lord, the one from whom David derives his authority (Ps 110:1)
 - The descendant: he is David’s son, the one who reigns in fulfillment of God’s promise to the line of David (2 Sam 7:14)
- Jesus became king *by dying*.
 - Zech 9:9: “Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”
 - Phil 2:8 “...he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”
 - Acts 2:36: “know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”
- “Lord of all” (Acts 10:36): The scope of Jesus’ kingship is nothing less than the entire cosmos, both the visible, material realm, and the invisible, spiritual realm (1 Tim 6:15; Rev 19:16: “the King of kings, and Lord of lords”; Heb 1:2: “heir of all things”; Eph 1:22: “head over all things”)

II. What Jesus does as our king

- Subdues the enemies of God
 - He triumphed over the spiritual powers through his cross (Col 2:15)
 - He has bound “the strong man” (Satan) and plundered his house (of souls, namely us) (Matt 12:29)
 - He will return in power, leading the host of heaven and destroying all who oppose him (Rev 19:11–21)
 - He establishes peace (Isa 9:6: “prince of peace”)
- Builds the ultimate temple (namely, the church)

- 2 Sam 7:13: the son of David will build the house for God's name; reiterated as a future hope in Zech 6:13
- John 2:19: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."
- Matt 16:18: "on this rock I will build my church"
- 1 Pet 2:6: "you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house"
- Rules with wisdom and uprightness on God's behalf
 - Key metaphor for this rule: shepherding (John 10; 1 Pet 2:25)
 - At this very moment, Jesus rules us:
 - Through Scripture, which gives the king's commands (2 Tim 3:16-17)
 - Through his church, with his officers having charge over the household of God (1 Pet 5:1-4)
 - God has always intended to rule the world *through a man*, a "vicegerent"
- Judges the world in righteousness (Matt 25:31; John 5:27)
 - After the judgment, when all things that oppose God are subdued, and everything is rightly ordered for God's glory, then Jesus will render the kingdom up to the Father in holy love: 1 Cor 15:24: "Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power."
- Reigns forever in splendid majesty and glory (Rev 5:12)
 - Col 1:15: Jesus is "the firstborn [i.e., preeminent one] of all creation"

III. Implications for us

- A good king is a source of great joy and blessing and prosperity!
 - Prov 21:15 "When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous"
 - The new creation will be well-run.
 - Even now, Jesus is exercising his sovereignty for our good (Rom 8:28)
- Our king has triumphed; therefore we are "more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Rom 8:37). We are on the winning side of history.
- We must obey our king! Confessing "Jesus is Lord" is not only good news, it is also an obligation to obey him even when others (e.g., a persecuting government) tell us not to.
- We will reign with Christ!
 - Rev 3:21: "The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne."
 - Matt 19:28; 1 Cor 6:3: we will even judge with Christ.
 - But this promise is only if we are willing to suffer with him. If the master attained his throne through suffering, so also will the servants (Matt 10:24)