

Joshua 5:13-15

The Warrior-King

Jesus Christ is changeless in His person. Hebrews 13.8 tells us:

"Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever."

This means (among other things) that everything that Christ came to be or do in His pre-incarnate appearances was indicative of what He was coming to be or do in His incarnation. Because His mission, His intention, His role in all things, His place in the council of eternity is itself unchanging and eternal. Therefore, by this consideration of Jesus in His pre-incarnate visitations, we can learn much about who He is and what He came to do. By increasing our understanding, we increase our ability to consciously glorify Him with our words, actions and lives.

This Christophany introduces the Warrior-King.

I. WARRIOR-KING

a. The man identifies Himself as the commander of the armies of the Lord. Captain. The Hebrew is Lord Sabaoth, or Lord of Hosts, this is both a given name of God over 200 times in the Old Testament, AND a specific description of the role of Jesus Christ in Heaven...

Revelation 19:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

b. Captain of our host –

i. both human and the angelic, all will bow down to Him

ii. Remember from last week the camp called Mahanaim – (two hosts), the place where Jacob camped and saw also there the hosts of heaven spread out. All of the hosts of God's people follow Him, He leads all His own

c. Captain of our salvation –

Hebrews 2:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

d. Leader and commander –

Isaiah 55:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Indeed I have given him *as* a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people.

II. KING AND WARRIOR –

a. The Warrior-King is the active commander of His hosts...

i. Over and over in the OT the title of Commander was given to those who would be king, the best kings were those who led their nations in battle themselves. When this did not happen, bad things took place...

1. The condition of Israel when Saul was hiding in his tent from Goliath
 2. The failure of David when he stayed home instead of leading His armies to war
 3. The fact that nearly every major dynastic change in the kingdom of Israel (even its birth as an independent nation) began as God giving rule of the army to someone besides the king...
- ii. Ironically, every society understands this basic truth, with the leader assuming the role of commander-in-chief... so even as they defy God in every way possible, they cling to that which gives them their hold on power. Seeking to disarm their own people out of fear, seeking to bolster up their control of the people by the use of that fear against them.
- b. Fearless King
- i. However, Christ empowers His people, and His sub-commanders by comforting them and encouraging them NOT to fear.

- ii. Remember the condition of Joshua at the opening of the book –

Joshua 1.6-9

1. 5 times in 3 verses God tells Joshua to NOT be afraid, to be strong and courageous, to NOT be dismayed.
2. Fear has no place in those who belong to God
3. When we fear God, we need fear nothing else. Fear God, dread nothing!
4. There is no call for fear because God is the one who is ultimately fighting all of our fights and all of our battles.

c. Commander of all our battles

- i. Has the plan that will defeat the enemy
- ii. Has the resources to defeat the enemy
- iii. Has the power to defeat the enemy
- iv. Gives these things to us
- v. Promises victory

- vi. Not just the victory that is on our agenda, but victory for Himself
- vii. Not for you or against the enemy, but FOR Himself –

Ezekiel 36.22-23,

(Echoed in Romans 3 and Ephesians 3)

- viii. He is promoting that which He has decreed and making sure that His promises are fulfilled
 - d. The kings of Israel were commanders over the inheritance of Israel, they stood as representatives of this One –

1 Samuel 10:1 (NKJV)

¹ Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured *it* on his head, and kissed him and said: “*Is it not because the Lord has anointed you commander over His inheritance?*”

1 Samuel 13:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him *to be*

commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”

III. KING OF KINGS

a. In point of fact, not just Israel but ALL the kings of the earth rule under His ultimate authority. He does not share His own right with anyone, but He does delegate to those He appoints to rule under Him... Christ is King over all

2 Chronicles 20:6 (NKJV)

⁶ and said: “O Lord God of our fathers, *are* You not God in heaven, and do You *not* rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand *is there not* power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?

Revelation 19:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

- b. The kings and nations seek to rebel, they will not succeed

Psalm 2.2-11

Psalm 22:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ For the kingdom *is* the Lord's, And He rules over the nations.

Psalm 103:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ The Lord has established His throne in heaven,
And His kingdom rules over all.

- c. The Messiah, IS the King of Glory who is the King and Captain of God's people

Psalm 110

Psalm 24.7-10

IV. KING WITH AUTHORITY

- a. He rules with authority, it cannot be faked and cannot be ignored. He does not bluster and

prate, but simply states what is to be done, and it will be so!

Ecclesiastes 9:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Words of the wise, *spoken quietly, should be heard* Rather than the shout of a ruler of fools.

Matthew 8:9 (NKJV)

⁹ For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this *one*, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does *it*."

b. conversely; when we are in rebellion against our God, we are subjected to terrible rulers...

Isaiah 3.4-12

Proverbs 28.15-16

c. Recognize this as judgement from God and repent, rather than curse, for the fault is our own...

Exodus 22:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ “You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people.

d. In the end, God will establish the righteous One as King and Lord over all –

Isaiah 40.10-11

this One will be the Messiah who is to rule forever...

Micah 5:2 (NKJV)

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting.”

e. However, the rule of His Kingdom is not yet honored by the rulers of men –

1 Corinthians 2.6-8

V. KING AND PRIEST –

a. This combination of King and Priest is an absolutely unheard of union. When Saul tried to be a priest and offer sacrifices to God himself, it cost him his kingdom.

1Samuel 13.5-14

b. But Christ as the overall King of Kings is also the chief priest for His people -

Zechariah 6.12-13

Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

VI. A HOLY KING.

a. He is holy in His person

- b. Accepts worship
- c. Invokes the formula that God Himself gave when He spoke to Moses from the burning bush. Take off your sandal, this is holy ground (you are being made holy...)
- d. Nothing profoundly special about barefoot people
 - i. Shows us that the things of this world are not to be allowed to stand between us and God
 - ii. Shows us that we are vulnerable, strips us of our pretensions, demands our attention.

VII. KING ETERNAL

He is commander in chief, He is King.
In this role, He IS the victor in Himself... and see this echoed in Revelation...

Revelation 19.11-21

THIS is our God, THIS is our Christ, THIS is our King!!!