

Jesus Christ as King  
Studies in Christology  
Class 4

The kingship of Christ is part of the Bible's teaching on Christ. In what sense is Jesus king? And, how does His kingship relate to the Father's redemptive plan?

Ulrich Zwingli – “Christ is the head of the believers; without the head the body is dead.”

1689 London Confession – “Christ, and Christ alone, is fitted to be mediator between God and man. He is the prophet, priest, and king of the church of God.”

Heidelberg Catechism Q/A 31 – “Christ is our eternal king who governs us by His Word and Spirit, and who defends and preserves us in the enjoyment of that salvation, which He purchased for us.”

John Calvin – “We may patiently pass through this life with its misery, cold, contempt, reproaches, and troubles – content with this one thing: that our king will never leave us destitute, but will provide for our needs until, our warfare ended, we are called to triumph.”

Scripture:

Isaiah 9:6 “The government will be on His shoulders”

Micah 5:2 “One will come forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.”

John 12:15 (12:13-15) “Do not fear, daughter of Zion; behold your King is coming.”

1 Timothy 6:15 “King of kings and Lord of lords”

Revelation 15:3 “Lord God, the Almighty...king of the nations”

Revelation 17:14 “These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them because He is the Lord of lords and King of kings.”

Revelation 19:15-16 “From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that He might 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. And on His robe and on His thigh, He has a name written: ‘King of kings and Lord of lords.’”

Hebrews 1:8 “Regarding the Son He says, ‘Your throne, God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of His kingdom.’”

John 18:37 “Pilate said to Him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, “you say correctly that I am a king. For this purpose, I have been born.”

Jesus' Kingship and His Birth

Luke 1:32-33 “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; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”

Matthew 2:2, 11 “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him...They fell down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

Jesus' Kingship and Old Testament Promises regarding Israel

1. Israel of the Old Testament was temporary and typological (type of the church) in relation to covenantal redemption.
2. Israel of the OT was the means by which God brought His revelation of His Law and Messiah into the world.

3. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament promise to the “obedient son.”
4. Paul addresses the new Israel as being all who believe in Him.

#### Jesus’ Kingship and the Cross

John 12:31 “Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.”

Colossians 2:15 “Having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

Hebrews 2:14 “So that by His death He might break the power of him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil.”

1 John 3:8 “For this purpose the Son of God appeared, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

#### Jesus’ Kingship and the Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:25-27 “He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For He has put everything under His feet.”

Matthew 28:18 “All authority is given unto Me in heaven and on earth”

#### Kingship, Authority, and Power

Acts 2:33 “Exalted to the right hand of God”

Philippians 2:9-11 “God highly exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

#### Characteristics of Jesus’ Kingly Authority:

- 1) Jesus’ authority is established through the cross and the resurrection.
- 2) Jesus’ authority applies to the salvation of believers.
- 3) Jesus’ authority is shown in His defeat of the devil.
- 4) Jesus’ authority establishes the kingdom of God in human experience and in the eschatos.

Revelation 19:16 “On His robe and on His thigh He has the name written: King of kings and Lord of lords.”

#### Jesus’ Kingship and the Kingdom

1. Jesus’ kingdom is spiritual – John 18 “not of this world”
2. Jesus’ kingdom forms the church – Ephesians 4:7-8; Acts 1:6-8; 2:32-33
3. Jesus’ kingdom gives life – John 10:10; 11:25; 14:6; Revelation 1:18
4. Jesus’ kingdom gives regeneration – John 3:3-8
5. Jesus’ kingdom is victorious – Colossians 1:13; Ephesians 5:8
6. Jesus’ kingdom is the Father’s will accomplished on earth – Matthew 6:10
7. Jesus’ kingdom is presently dual in time frame
  - 1) Present
  - 2) Future

### Final Thoughts (Daniel 7:13-14)

1. The kingship of Jesus is a finished and secured fact.  
Jesus' kingship can never diminish or end.
2. The kingship of Jesus is a comprehensive fact that cannot be ultimately ignored.  
Sooner or later, every person will face Jesus, as King. This experience may be characterized by grace (for the saved) or judgment (for the unsaved).
3. The kingship of Jesus fulfills and completes God's redemptive work:
  - 1) The kingship of Jesus fulfills God's promise to David in the covenant of redemption.
  - 2) The kingship of Jesus is seen in the cross and the resurrection, extended to God's people in salvation.
  - 3) The kingship of Jesus assures heaven for God's people, making heaven the real promised land.
4. The kingship of Jesus gives victory and hope:
  - 1) Over sin,
  - 2) Over death,
  - 3) Over hell, and
  - 4) Over Satan.
5. Practical implications:
  - 1) Exaltation of Jesus in everything
  - 2) Gives peace in life and death
  - 3) Demands our loyalty
  - 4) Brings people together
  - 5) Establishes future accountability of all people everywhere
  - 6) Establishes hope for the suffering people of God and the world