

## ***Christ the King Now and Forevermore***

Is Christ Jesus now the anointed king, sitting upon his throne? If so, various doctrines of millennialism fail, for if Christ is reigning now, all that remains is his final victory with the resurrection of the saints from the dead. In brief, the scriptures are clear: Christ arose from the dead and ascended to rule over his kingdom—a kingdom composed of the faithful Christians, past, present, and future, which will last forever in this world and the eternity to follow.

### **The Old Testament Prophets**

The Old Testament prophets spoke only of an eternal king and his eternal kingdom. In 2 Samuel 7:11-14 at the anointing of David, the Lord declared that while David was in the tomb, God would raise up his son, an offspring of David, establish his kingdom, and establish his throne forever:

"The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: 12 When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

The specific time for the establishment of this eternal kingdom was to be in the days of the fourth kingdom from Daniel's time, or in the days of the Roman Empire. Daniel 2:44-45 also states the eternal nature of this kingdom which God will set up and which will endure forever:

44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. 45 This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands — a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

Zechariah 6:12-13 agrees with Daniel and Samuel:

Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: and he shall grow up out of his place; and he shall build the temple of Jehovah; even he shall build the temple of Jehovah; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne; and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.

### **The New Testament Fulfillment**

The New Testament asserts from its beginning to its end the truth of these Old Testament prophecies. The King, Christ Jesus, came in the days of the Romans, of David's lineage, to sit on David's throne, forever in this world and the one to come. The angel Gabriel spoke to Mary in Luke 1:32-33: "32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

Jesus affirmed the coming of his Kingdom and its eternal nature in Matthew 16:17-20:

17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost after the resurrection and ascension of the Christ, and affirmed the fulfillment of the promise to David that the Christ would sit on David's throne:

30 But he [David] was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the

resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. . . . 36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." Acts 2:30-36

As Peter asserted, the when of Christ sitting on his throne was at his resurrection and exaltation about which Paul spoke in Ephesians 1:19-23:

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

That Christ is now and forever King, sitting upon his throne, reigning over his kingdom, the church, is a truth without contradiction in the entire Bible. The Revelation offers these concluding images:

They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings – and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers." Revelation 17:14.

16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Revelation 19:16

## Conclusion

Are you a called, chosen, and faithful follower of King of Kings and Lord of Lords? As the king reigns forever from his exaltation in resurrection from the dead, so does his kingdom continue from that exaltation forever and forever. Paul and John stated the case for all time:

12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:12-14

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Revelation 1:5-6

## Study Questions

1. In whose lineage would Christ the King be from? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In the days for which kings would he come? \_\_\_\_\_
3. On whose throne did Gabriel say Christ would sit? \_\_\_\_\_
4. When did Peter say that Christ sat on his throne? \_\_\_\_\_
5. To what and to where did God by his power raise Jesus (Ephesians 1:19-23)? \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. Who are in this kingdom over which Christ reigns (Colossians 1:12-14)? \_\_\_\_\_  
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