

“Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’” —Mt 25:34-36

In the Early Church

“These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has received them; and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.” —Acts 17:6-7

“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! . . . the name by which he is called is The Word of God. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, King of kings and Lord of lords.” —Rev 19:11-16 (also 1:4-5; 17:14)

Our Share in Christ’s Kingship

“Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be the slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” -Mk 10:43-45

“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should so as I have done to you.” —Jn 13:14-15

“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.” —Rev 2:10

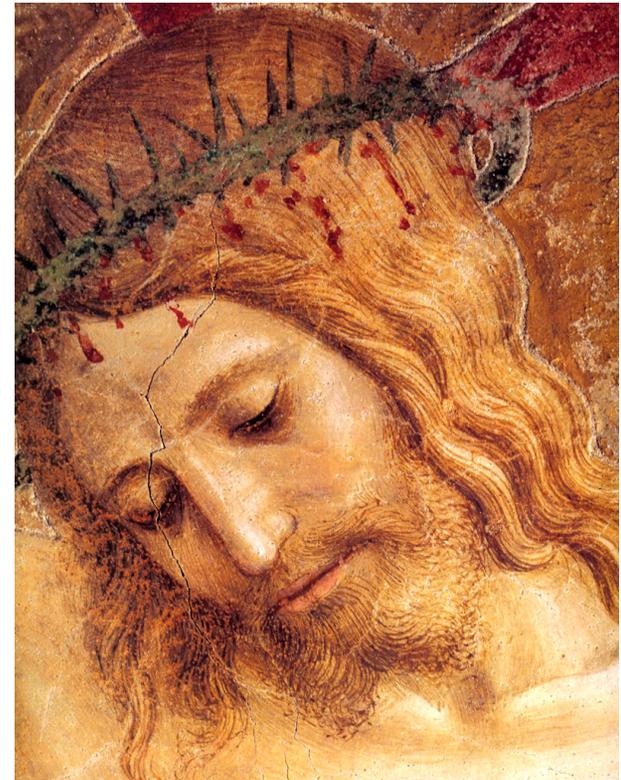
“He who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.” —Rev 3:21

“And the night shall be no more; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they shall reign forever and ever.” —Rev 22:5

Discussion Questions

1. What are the characteristics of an earthly king?
2. How is Christ a king? What is curious about His kingship?
3. How is Christ *our* king? How can we better serve Him?
4. How do we share in Christ’s kingship and kingly mission?

CHRIST THE KING



Old Testament Background

Starting with Saul, God ruled His people through kings. Saul, however, was unfaithful. So, God replaced him with David. David was considered a shepherd after God's heart (1 Sam 13:14) who ruled prudently and justly. David at times sinned seriously, but he turned back in sincere and thorough repentance. Because of God's covenant with David, God promised to be with those descendants of his who would succeed David on his throne (2 Sam 7). The Davidic dynasty ended with the Babylonian Exile. However, many prophecies in the Old Testament foretell that God would one day raise up a descendent of David to shepherd His people (Is 9:7; Jer 23:5; 30:9; 33:15; Ezk 34:23-24; 37:25; Amos 9:11; Zech 13:1). These prophecies all point to Christ, who is of David's line and was born in David's city, Bethlehem (Mic 5:2).

In the Old Testament, God is also referred to as a King (Ps 24, 47; Mal 1:14). God also refers to Himself as a Shepherd Who, one day, would personally come to shepherd His people (Ezk 34:11-16). Since Jesus is God and man, He is both the Divine King and the human, Davidic king who was foretold. He is God Himself Who has personally come to shepherd His people and gather the nations.

New Testament

Where do we see Jesus exercising His role as King?

- When He is born as Son of David and King of the Jews (Mt 1:1; 2:2)
- When He manifests the kingdom of God through His preaching and healing, and through giving the keys of the kingdom to Peter (Mt 16:19)
- When, as the Good Shepherd, he brings back the lost sheep (Lk 15)
- When He washes the feet of His disciples (Jn 13)
- When He lays down His life for His people (Jn 10:18)
- When His grace is victorious and overcomes sin within us (Phil 4:13)
- When He will come to judge the living and the dead (Mt 25:31-46)
- When all will be handed over to Him at the end of time (1 Cor 15:28)

At the Birth of Jesus

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, Wise Men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.'" —Mt 2:1-2

In Christ's Public Ministry

"Nathanael answered him, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!'" —Jn 1:49

"Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the hills by himself." —Jn 6:15

At the Time of the Passion

"This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" —Mt 21:4-5

"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" —Lk 19:37-38 (see also Jn 12:13-15)

"Jesus answered, 'My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from this world.' Pilate said to him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice.' Pilate said to him, 'What is truth?'" —Jn 18:36-38

"Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' And they spat upon him, and took the reed and struck him on the head." —Mt 27:27-30

"He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." —Mk 15:31-32

"There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put in on the cross; it read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, 'Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but 'This man said, I am the King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.'" —Jn 19:17-22

At the End of Time

"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come." —Mt 22:2-3