

Finding Soul Rest in the Strangest Places—part 4

The Kingship of Jesus

December 20, 2020

Everyone looks for soul rest, that “missing something,” which satisfies the deepest parts of the soul. We frantically look everywhere except in the one place we should look—at Jesus Christ. In the past three weeks we’ve found that rest in the “strangest places”: in the genealogy of Jesus, the deity of Jesus and the humanity of Jesus. This week we find rest in the kingship of Jesus.

DAY 1: Jesus, the coming king

1. Ever since man’s fall in the Garden of Eden, God has promised a Messiah, a savior, a king who would bring salvation for fallen man, and usher in a new kingdom, a new heaven and earth. Here are a few of my favorite prophecies of a coming king and kingdom.

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

2. Micah prophesizes about the one to come.

a. How does Micah identify him? _____

b. What does Micah say about this ruler’s age? _____

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

3. Isaiah succinctly identifies both the humanity and deity of this son in his first twelve words!

4. Beyond His identity is His ministry. What strikes you about His “government”?

Jeremiah 23:5 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

5. Jeremiah also prophesizes about the coming King. What strikes you about His rule?

Daniel 7:13 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

6. What strikes you about the coming King?

DAY 2: A king has come

1. A familiar decorative manger scene include three wise men. Actually, the wise men arrived after the birth of Jesus. But before they visited Bethlehem they arrived in Jerusalem

Matthew 2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

2. We aren't told how they knew that the king of the Jews was born. Was it through the ancient prophecies handed down over generations? Did they receive a vision? But one thing is certain. This was no biblical surprise nor historical surprise!

Matthew 2:3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born.

3. This came as a shock to King Herod, who was threatened by the presence of another king.

a. How does Herod respond?

b. Do you think he had ever studied the ancient scripture for himself? Why now?

Matthew 2:5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."

4. The prophecies of Messiah were well known to the scholars of the Old Testament.

Matthew 2:7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

5. Why do you think Herod inquired about the timing of the star and its message?

Matthew 2:8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

6. Herod postures himself also as a worshipper. His real intent was to murder this king.

Matthew 2:9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

7. What conclusion do the wise men draw after their long journey, stop in Jerusalem and in Bethlehem?

8. Lawyers talk about corroborative evidence. This historical event serves as corroborative evidence of Jesus as king. How does this narrative add to your understanding of Jesus as king?

DAY 3: The kingdom of God

1. The kingdom of God is not a place, not a country, not a territory. You'll never see it on a map.

John 18:36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

The kingdom of God is God's rule in the hearts of people.

2. The kingdom of God will be complete in heaven, where God will rule in every heart of those who follow Him. But in this life, the kingdom of God is slowly growing, quietly, worldwide, just as Jesus predicted as more and more people allow Him to rule their heart.

Matthew 13:31 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

Matthew 13:33 He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

3. In each of the verses below, jot down what strikes you.

1 Corinthians 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

John 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Acts 14:22 ...strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

James 2:5 Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

4. One of the thieves that was crucified alongside Jesus repented of His sin, and realized that Jesus was his savior. Here is his prayer to Jesus, and Jesus' response.

*Luke 23:42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."
⁴³ Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."*

5. Jesus equates His coming kingdom with the coming paradise.

6. What strikes you about Jesus' kingdom?

DAY 4: King of kings

1. Ever since the fall of man, we live in a fallen world. It's messed up. There is something wrong with people. Sin makes messes of people, relationships, institutions, and governments.
2. Even the best of kings have contributed to the mess of life. But the scriptures point to a day when all this corruption will be over, and a very different kind of king will rule!
3. In the verses below, jot down what strikes you about this King of Kings.

1 Timothy 6:13 In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which God will bring about in his own time--God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

Revelation 1:5...and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. 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 17:14 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 19:16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

4. The King of Kings will rule His kingdom perfectly.

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

5. What strikes you about this King of Kings?

DAY 5: The kingdom in glory

1. The scriptures declare that God “will make all things new.” He will usher in a “new heavens and a new earth.” His kingdom will reign forever in heaven.

2. Jot down your thoughts in the verses below.

Matthew 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

Daniel 2:44 "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.

Luke 22:25 Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors.

²⁶ But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.

²⁷ For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. ²⁸ You are those who have stood by me in my trials.

Luke 22:29 And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, ³⁰ so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Revelation 11:17 ...saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

Revelation 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

3. What strikes you about the eternal kingdom?

4. Jesus is king. What is your biggest take away from this week?