

# LENEXA EDIFIER

*"and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."*  
(John 8:32)

October 10, 2021

## WHO IS YOUR KING?

*Jim Stauffer*

Most of us have lived our entire lives in a nation ruled by the three separate and equal branches of government. We do not think in terms of a King.

However, the definition of King in the common Greek of the original language of the New Testament, the term King refers to reigning over someone or something. The words king, kingdom and reign all come from the same root and have reference to what has power over us or rules over us.

The history of Israel and its relationship with God is a tutor for us (**Gal. 3:24**) to learn about a King and the effect He should have on our lives. Israel had the ultimate King in a beneficent Monarch, Jehovah. But we know how they responded to Him. First, the golden calf, then rejecting the spies, Caleb and Joshua all while grumbling about life on the way to the promised land. Then when God allowed them to enter the land, they failed to execute the plan to drive out the inhabitants that was offered for their welfare. Summed up we can say they refused to submit to God's reign over them. Israel had the perfect King but rejected Him in favor of a king like the nations around them. Samuel was saddened but God reminded him, *"And the LORD told him: 'Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.'"* (**1 Samuel 8:7**) Subsequently, they followed the lifestyle of the nations around them and turned to idolatry. God then punished them with the conquest of the Northern Tribes by Assyria and Judah by Babylon. The action of Israel and God is reflected in this passage: *"'Woe to the rebellious children,' declares the LORD, 'Who execute a plan, but not Mine, And make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, In order to add sin to sin; Who proceed down to Egypt Without consulting Me, To take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh And to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!'"* (**Isaiah 30:1-2**)

During this time the prophets spoke of a Messiah who would come to rescue God's people from their enemies (**Isa. 9:6,7; Micah 5:5:2**).

A child was born to Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem as promised (**Matthew 2 and Luke 2**)

He was the Son of God Who was destined to reign on the throne of David (**Luke 1:31-33**), which is the throne of God (**1 Kings 1:29,30; Heb. 1:8**).

Christ is the Messiah, the promised One, Anointed by God to be the Redeemer of men (**John 1:41; 4:25,26**). He reigns in the lives of those who have been redeemed by His saving blood (**Col. 1:13,14; 1 Pet. 1:18,19**). He is the Giver of life Who replaces the sentence of death we are under while in sin (**Rom. 5:17**).

Jesus taught men to make the choice of life over death and He used many metaphors to illustrate this principle. He makes the comparison of material values to spiritual values in **Matthew 6:19-21**. This is the consistent message of God through His Son and the inspired writers of the New Testament. Jesus tells us to give up our lives and accept the life He offers (**Mat. 16:24,25**). By that, He means we should cede control over our lives to Him and His message rather than trusting in what we can do for ourselves in the years we live on earth. Moses tells us in **Psalms 90** we may live 70 or even 80 years here. But Jesus is preparing us for eternity. Men who trust in the material things of this life spend the majority of their time accumulating those things they desire and have a small portion of those 70-80 years left to enjoy them in the old age and feeble health.

Then, like all men they must stand in judgment to give an account of their lives here as they prepare for an eternity in the presence of Satan or the Lord. As did the servants in the parable of the talents. Those who devoted effort to the service of the Master were rewarded when He said, *...enter into the joy of your*

*master. (Mat. 25:21)* In the same chapter of Matthew Jesus offers a portrait of the judgment scene. He gives a contrast between the sheep and the goats. The sheep served their Lord by doing as He requested. The goats did not. Jesus then said to the goats, *“These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”* (Mat. 25:46). The question; Who is your King? (Read Mat. 7:21-23)

## THE KINGDOM EMPHASIS IN ACTS

*by Shane Scott*

The Book of Acts begins and ends with the kingdom of God. The book starts with Jesus appearing to the disciples to instruct them *“about the kingdom of God”* (1:3). And it ends with the apostle Paul in the heart of the capital city of the Roman Empire, *“proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance”* (28:31). In this article we are going to look at the emphasis on the kingdom in Acts. But first, some background about the meaning and significance of the term.

The word *kingdom* in the original language primarily refers to God’s *reign*, and secondarily to God’s *realm*. When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, *“Your kingdom come,”* he was teaching them to pray for God’s royal power to be exerted and acknowledged, as the parallel expression clarifies – *“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”* (Matthew 6:10). The entire world is under the royal authority of the Lord and his Anointed (Matthew 28:18), but not everyone submits to this authority. Those who do, *“enter the kingdom,”* and comprise the church (see Matthew 16:16-18).

The Old Testament prophets longed for the day when God’s kingdom would be established (Daniel 2:44). This was in keeping with the promise God made to David to establish his lineage as a royal dynasty. *“I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever”* (2 Samuel 7:13). These royal prospects were deeply intertwined with Israel’s national prospects. By the end of Second Kings, the nation was carried off into exile and Israel’s king was in chains. But the prophets saw a glorious future in which the nation and the royal lineage would be restored (as in Isaiah 9:6-7; 55:3).

Thus, when the apostles asked Jesus at the start of Acts, *“Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel”* (Acts 1:6), the Lord did not rebuke them for asking about his kingdom plans regarding Israel, but

for their impudence regarding the timing of those plans. God all along intended to restore the nation, and to use it to draw all peoples to him (Isaiah 2:2-4).

A short time later, Peter proclaimed that the outpouring of the Spirit signaled the long-awaited plan of God had commenced (Acts 2:14-21). But contrary to the expectation of many Jews, this plan was fulfilled through Jesus of Nazareth (Acts 2:22-23). In his death and resurrection, God fulfilled his promise to David *“that he would set one of his descendants on his throne”* (2:29-36).

As the Book of Acts unfolds, God’s plan that *“whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* takes many more unexpected turns. After the murder of Stephen, the disciples scatter, preaching everywhere they went – even Samaria! *Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ...But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women* (Acts 8:5, 12).

But the most shocking turn of events occurred in the city of Caesarea, where the Holy Spirit fell upon a Gentile, Cornelius, and he and his household were baptized (Acts 10:44-48). The admission of Gentiles into the kingdom without circumcision stirred up such dissension among certain Jewish Christians that eventually Peter, James, Paul, and Barnabas had to confront this issue directly in a conference in Jerusalem. James explained to those in attendance that the ingathering of the Gentiles was not a novel departure from God’s plan, but was exactly what God had promised would happen when the kingdom was restored.

*And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written,*

*“ ‘After this I will return,*

*and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen;*

*I will rebuild its ruins,*

*and I will restore it,*

*that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord,*

*and all the Gentiles who are called by my name,*

*says the Lord, who makes these things*

*known from of old.”*

(Acts 15:15-18, citing Amos 9:11-12).

Yes, God restored Israel. But that restoration was no longer defined on the same terms as the old covenant. Inclusion in the kingdom now centered on Jesus, and anyone – Jew or Gentile – who acknowledged the lordship of Jesus could be part of that kingdom.

This is the message of the gospel, and it saturates

the Book of Acts. It is the story of the proclamation that the world's true king is not Caesar but Christ, and that the citizenship that counts is not identity as a Roman, but as a Christian. The pagans at Thessalonica got the point as they complained about the subversive message that *"there is another king, Jesus"* (17:7). And the Jews in Ephesus understood it as well as they heard Paul speak and reason for three months *"about the kingdom of God"* (19:8).

This emphasis on the kingdom reminds us of three important lessons for our own time.

**First, the kingship of Jesus is central to the gospel.** The vast majority of Americans identify as "Christian," but how many are serious about submitting to the sovereignty of Christ? It is clear that for many people, "Christian" is a label, but not an allegiance. The gospel that the apostles preached focused on the lordship of Christ and summoned people to follow him.

**Second, the kingdom of God will overcome the kingdoms of the world.** The gospel faced enormous obstacles in Acts. This sometimes involved officials from worldly kingdoms who attempted to thwart its spread, like Herod in **Acts 12**. But Herod came to a grisly end, while *"the word of God increased and multiplied"* (**Acts 12:24**). None of the kings or kingdoms in Acts remain today, except for Jesus and his kingdom! Our world is turbulent, and it is easy to lose faith in the power of the gospel. But with its emphasis on the enduring strength of God's kingdom in the face of opposition, Acts reminds us that God's will indeed will be done.

**Third, the kingdom of God is for everyone.** Jews, Samaritans, proselytes, Gentiles – everyone is eligible for the kingdom. Sometimes, the people of God were hesitant to proclaim this invitation as broadly as Jesus intended (such as those described in **Acts 11:19**). Who is it that we hesitate to share the gospel with? Who is on our list of people we (perhaps subconsciously) think are off-limits to God's kingdom? Even in his imprisonment at the end of the book Paul was still laboring at every opportunity, *"testifying to the kingdom of God"* (**28:23**).

When the apostles first encountered opposition to their preaching, some Christians in Jerusalem prayed: *Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,*

*"Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?"*

*The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together,*

*against the Lord and against his Anointed" – for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness* (**Acts 4:24-29**).

Take this prayer to heart, and be emboldened as a follower of the Lord and his Anointed to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom.

## The First Thing You Need for a Kingdom is a King!

We are looking at the Kingdom of God and last week I asked you to think about what is needed for a Kingdom. Well, the first thing you need for a kingdom is a King! After all, Kingdoms aren't governed by Committees or by Presidents serving out a term. Whoever heard of a Kingdom without a King? The Kingdom of Heaven is no different!

The Prophets told us to expect a King. Isaiah said, *"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this."* (**9:6f**) Herod was upset at the request of the wise men, *"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?"* in **Matthew 2:2** and asked the priests where this King was to be born to which they replied *"In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:*

*6 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL'"* citing **Micah 5:2**. It is even made clearer in **Zechariah 9:9** *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey."* This verse was cited at the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem just a few days before his Crucifixion.

During his Crucifixion we are told, *"And Pilate*



wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, **JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS**" (John 19:19).

After his Resurrection and just before his Ascension into heaven he told the Apostles in **Matthew 28:18**, "*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*" That sounds like a King to me! From here to the end of scripture Jesus is presented to believers as the "*King of Kings and Lord of Lords*" by both Paul and John, **1 Timothy 6:15** and **Revelation 19:16**.

Jesus is the "*King of Kings and Lord of Lords*" and will be so forever!

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***We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.***

***Things people do not believe that are taught in the Bible!***

***Did you know Jesus' Kingdom came during the lives of His contemporaries - Mark 9:1; Colossians 1:13,14***

***Please call us to study the Bible. It is refreshing.***

***Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the***

*righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

## **HOURS OF WORSHIP**

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

## **OUR ADDRESS IS:**

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[facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist](https://facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist)

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## ***What Must I Do To Be Saved?***

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10

## **News and Notes:**

### **Those in need of prayers:**

Alma Baumgartner, Jan Patrick, Denese Goring, Brooklyn Boyer, Tracy Richardson, Don Craig, Tina Brofft, Ken Green, Matt Bassford and Tim Young.

**Bible Classes:** Sunday Morning - **Hebrews** - Jim Stauffer

Wednesday Evening - **1&2 Peter and Jude** - Ron Peck

**Sunday Sermon:** Bill Miller

## ***Best Advice for the Soul***

*It doesn't matter how far you live from the church building, it matters how close you live to the Lord!*