

004 King of Kings

As we continue our development of the Kingdom of God we come closer to home in its relationship to us and our relationship to it. Or should I say – to Him.

Rev 19:11-16

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.

Here is one of the most majestic and graphic pictures of the ascended Christ standing on the threshold of heaven ready for war. But notice, the Lord himself is called, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

John 18:36-37

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."

37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

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In reading this verse we need to be very careful. Jesus didn't say he was born to be come King.

He said to Pilate "I am a King" and I was born and came into this world to testify to the truth of the fact that I Am a King:

Rev 17:14

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."

Here we see that Jesus himself declared his Kingship, albeit of a Kingdom not of this world – not an earthly kingdom.

We see the heavenly recognition of Jesus being King of kings.

It is in that regard we shall look at the Kingdom of God and the Lords role within that Kingdom as the King. Remember study #2 and 3 'Kingdom Eternal'. It is one Eternal Kingdom.

Lets look at an important verse right now.

Matt 6:9-13

9 "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

10 your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us today our daily bread.

12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

Obviously this is recognized as "The Lords Prayer". As an aside here. John 17 is the Lords prayer. This in Matthew 6 is an outline or example of **how** we should pray, - not what we should pray. The trouble is, we stand and recite this as a prayer – which it really is not – with little or no understanding of what we are saying.

Jesus is saying here, look when you pray, honor the Father and honor his Kingdom. Seek that his Kingdom come into everyone's lives that the Fathers will, will be carried out and fulfilled down here on the earth the same way it is being carried out and fulfilled in heaven itself. Let that Eternal Kingdom find full expression in this postage stamp "Time Zone" the same as it is expressed in the glass ball - Eternity.

In other words, that part of eternity that is in my life through the Holy Spirit, I desire to be expressed in my everyday life and conduct whilst I walk this earthly journey.

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Now if we truly mean what this example prayer is teaching us, then we have to face two conditions.

- 1 Authority
- 2 Submission

I am not talking about the shepherding movement of the 70's and 80's and the wild and over exaduated teaching on authority and submission to church leaders. (However there was much new and wonderful revelation brought to the 'Church' through that time. It was disappointing that some used it wrongfully to their own personal advantage).

I am talking about the Rule of Christ's Kingly authority and our submission to Him as willing subjects of the Kingdom.

It's all about government and control.

I mentioned being a Brit (hence the name British Bob) and Queen Elizabeth on the British throne. However, even using the monarchy as an example is inadequate. In Britain over the last 1,100 years the authority of the king has been slowly challenged and curtailed. The monarchy has been slowly stripped of its absolute authority to a point where it is now almost a symbolic monarchy.

We now have parliament wherein lies most of the power and control. Yet even that is not the final word. As the oldest democracy in the world, the people actually have the final say. Although as yet we cannot remove the monarchy, -and please don't read anything into that, I'm not advocating we should in any way, - we can however through the power of the vote, change our Prime Minister and government every four years – at least that's the theory!!

The USA has a similar situation without the monarchy part. They elect local, state, federal and Presidential people to govern. If after 4 years they don't like what the President is doing, they can vote in a different one. That's the same with most true democracies around the world. We have free speech and are able to demonstrate on anything we like from saving the worms, to saving the world. That is our entitlement because "We the people..."

Our difficulty really comes to the forefront in our approach to Jesus the King of kings. God is not a republican or conservative nor is he a democrat or labor nor is he an independent or a green.

He does not administer a democracy nor is He a president that can be voted out.

He is the absolute Master and Ruler of the entire Universe and is answerable to no one.

He maintains His Holy standards and will not move on them one inch or one centimeter to accommodate you or me. If we don't humbly come to Him through the shed blood of Jesus, and confess our sin and repent of our independence, as He commands...

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Acts 17:30

*30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he **commands** all people everywhere to repent*

...then He alone as the Righteous Judge will banish from His presence in hell for eternity all who disobey.

There is no USA wishy-washy Supreme Court, faint hearted House of Lords in Britain or International Court of Human Rights to appeal to of whom the majority of its members has little idea of God's Righteous standards and justice and don't have the guts to do what is right.

Acts 10:42

*42 He (Jesus) **commanded** us to preach to the people and to testify that he (Jesus) is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.*

Acts 17:31

31 For he (God) has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed (Jesus).

2 Tim 4:1

4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his Kingdom, I give you this charge:

2 Tim 4:8

8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day — and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Ah you say, we as Christians will not be judged. - Excuse me!

We have just read what the apostle Paul said, that the Righteous Judge will award him a crown on that day. Note it is Jesus Christ the Judge here that makes the award.

Rom 2:1-8

2:1 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

2 Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.

3 So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?

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4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

6 God "will give to each person according to what he has done."

7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

Paul is writing to the church, the Christians in Rome and is making the point here that as Christians if we judge others, God will use that measure of judgment against us. But we will all be judged and awarded according to what we have done v 6 and 7.

Before you think I have gone off at a tangent into some side meadow somewhere, I want to bring this thinking back round to our response and obedience to the King of the Kingdom and the government of our own lives.

One of the most dangerous teaching methods of salvation today is: -

'If you want Jesus to save you, simply repeat this prayer after me. Lord Jesus I know I am a sinner please come into my life and save me amen'.

Matt 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'

23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Wow! These are some heavy-duty verses.

It boils down simply to trying to be saved from hell and you are applying for an insurance policy. God knows the heart and sees if there is true and real repentance and turning from sin and making Jesus King and Lord of your life.

Let me say it strait, just seeking for an insurance policy to save anyone from hell is insufficient – it won't cut it with the Judge.

God's salvation is about real sorrow and repentance from sin, a turning in the opposite direction and walking away from the old life and **ALL** that it was.

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2 Cor 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

The Message puts it this way

2 Cor 5:17

17 Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with Christ gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life begins! Look at it!

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Its about learning to bend the knee and submit to the will of the King in ALL things and obey His Word and His voice, seeking Him daily, loving Him unreservedly and being willing to get off the throne of your own life and let Him rule in your heart, and be willing to lay down your life for Him if necessary as He laid his life down for you.

Col 3:15-17

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Now for some this might be heavy thinking. Listen. We are talking about the Kings Eternal Kingdom with His Eternal Righteous standards. We **have** to raise our thoughts and standard up to line up with His.

However, He knows we cannot do any of this on our own and that is why He so lovingly sent the Holy Spirit to be our helper and teacher, so that we by the Holy Spirit can live a Holy Godly life.

We just have to keep Him on the throne of our life. He doesn't get us into any messes. When we want to be in control of our lives, we are the ones that make a major mess of things. Believe me – been there, done that.

Here are the words of a song that reflect so beautifully who the King of Glory is.

**WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY?
THAT PURSUES ME WITH HIS LOVE.
HAUNTS ME WITH EACH HEARING
OF HIS SOFTLY SPOKEN WORDS
MY CONSCIENCE A REMINDER
OF FORGIVENESS THAT I NEED
WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY?
WHO OFFERS IT TO ME**

**WHO IS THIS KING OF ANGELS?
OH BLESSED PRINCE OF PEACE
REVEALING THINGS OF HEAVEN
AND ALL ITS MYSTERIES
MY SPIRIT'S EVER LONGING
FOR HIS GRACE IN WHICH TO STAND
WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY?
SON OF GOD AND SON OF MAN**

**HIS NAME IS JESUS, PRECIOUS JESUS
THE LORD ALMIGHTY
THE KING OF MY HEART
THE KING OF GLORY**

**WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY?
WITH STRENGTH AND MAJESTY
AND WISDOM BEYOND MEASURE
THE GRACIOUS KING OF KINGS
THE LORD OF EARTH AND HEAVEN
THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS
WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY?
HE'S EVERYTHING TO ME.**

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Now we can see the amazing combination of Stunning Creator, Majestic King, Righteous Judge and Marvelous Lover – The King of Glory.

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This then begs the question, what kind of Citizens of this Eternal Kingdom we should be?

*Prov 9:10 The Message puts it this way;
10 Skilled living gets its start in the Fear-of-God, insight into life from knowing a Holy God.*

*Prov 19:23
23 The fear of the Lord leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.*

*Matt 10:28
28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One (God) who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
Brackets mine.*

The Greek word here for 'afraid' is *'phobeo'* from which we get the word 'phobia'. So don't have a phobia about any one or any thing that can kill the body. But it goes on with a slight change of emphasis on the word 'be in awe of' or 'reverence' the one, being The Lord, who can destroy both body and soul.

I certainly hope we are seeing more clearly the absolute Sovereignty of Almighty God and Ruler of the Heavenly Kingdom.

One last scripture for this study and I have copied it in 'The Message' as it so vividly describes such an exciting truth.

*Eph 1:1-14
1 I, Paul, am under God's plan as an apostle, a special agent of Christ Jesus, writing to you faithful Christians in Ephesus.*

2 I greet you with the grace and peace poured into our lives by God our Father and our Master, Jesus Christ.

3 The God of Glory How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him.

4 Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love.

5 Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!)

6 He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

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7 Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross-, we're a free people — free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free either, Abundantly free!

8 He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need,

9 letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ,

10 a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

11 Its in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living,

12 part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

13 It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free — signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit.

14 This signet from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

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Remember the glass ball? Although our life is a journey across our part of the postage stamp, everything is designed to leave that and find all the marvels that the Father through Christ, has in store for us in the eternal glass ball.

See you in the next study.