

Messiah: A King Like David

We as Americans tend not to look favorably upon kings and queens—unless they rule in some other national realm. One only needs to remember the remarks made in the Declaration of Independence to observe the attitudes of our countrymen. At the same time, most people long for a king who will both exercise social justice within the realm, and also protect the nation from external adversaries. Such was the case in the Old Testament Israel. We can read in 1 Samuel 8 how the people clamored for a king, and in 1 Samuel 11 we can read how Israel's first king rescued them from one of their adversaries. We can also see in Judges 21:25 how Israel needed a king in order to bring internal order to the nation. All of us need a king. We have adversaries we cannot defeat: sin, the devil, and the grave.

Gloriously, when Gabriel makes his announcement to Mary of the coming Child she shall bear, he tells her that he will be God's anointed King.

Luke 1: 26-38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30** And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. **36** And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God." **38** And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

In verses 32-33, we see something of the royal nature of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is a King indeed!

I. He is a great King; therefore, we must fear Him. (vs. 32)

There had been many weak kings in history, but Jesus Christ is not one of them. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Gabriel said, "he will be great..."

II. He is a divine King; therefore, we must worship Him. (vs. 32)

There are many wicked kings in human history, but we are told of Jesus that He "will be called the Son of the Most High." He is not an impostor or a fraud, but God Himself come to earth. We can see what sort of response we should give Him when we observe the wise men who saw Him as the divine King and bowed to worship Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Our worship, as well, must be sincere and heartfelt.

III. He is a promised King; therefore, we must receive Him. (vs. 32)

Gabriel makes it clear that it is the Lord Himself who will give Jesus to us in order to ascend to "the throne of his father David." This was predicted in 2 Samuel 7:12-16. Since He is the one promised to us we must enthusiastically receive Him. One can see this sort of attitude in the very

life of Mary when she responded to Gabriel in verse 38, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

IV. He is our King; therefore, we must trust Him. (vs. 33)

Gabriel says that Jesus will "reign over the house of Jacob." This means that Jesus will especially rule over His Church. We can see in the Westminster Short Catechism, question 26, the nature of His ministry as King: "Christ executeth the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies."

Since He is specifically our King, we must trust Him with our whole hearts.

V. He is the eternal King; therefore, we must proclaim Him. (vs. 33)

How long shall He reign? "Forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." We proclaim Jesus Christ as the eternal King. In 1 Corinthians 15:25, the Apostle Paul says, "For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet." We see in the book of Revelation that our Lord will reign forever and ever and ever. Because of His great reign, we proclaim Him as eternal here and around the world.

Discussion Questions

1. How is Jesus a "great" King (vs. 32)? How ought His greatness affect your response to Him?
2. What does it mean for Jesus to be the "Son of the Most High?" What did Mary learn from this announcement about how this would happen? Why is the virgin birth of Christ important to us?
3. What did God promise King David in 2 Samuel 7: 12-16? What then, does Gabriel's announcement tell us about the character of God?
4. How does Jesus today exercise His reign over "the house of Jacob?"
5. Why are we so greatly encouraged by the unending duration of Jesus' reign as King?

Going Deeper

1. How would you like to grow as a "subject" of Jesus?
2. How can you more aggressively seek the expansion of Christ's Kingdom?