

The prophecies about Christ's birth, and the events of his birth, are saturated with a sense of joy. But it might surprise you that the main reason for this joy is that Jesus is coming as King! Even our Christmas hymns reflect this truth: "Joy to the world, the Lord is come, Let earth receive her KING!". "Joy to the world, the Savior REIGNS!" The rule of Jesus, as King, is cause for unrestrained celebration and joy!

We desperately need Jesus as our king! Most all of our problems, and the troubles of our soul, come from being under bad management! We are broken from from bad decisions, bad choices, bad thinking, from living under the dominion of sin, and things, and influences, that wage war against our souls! The gloom and darkness of life come from having no good king over us.

In Jesus we finally have a wonderful and compassionate king! In Jesus we have a King who loves and cares for us, who heals our wounds, lifts us up out of our sad, broken, sin-damaged lives. It is pure joy and happiness to have him come and rule over us. Peter said, "you were like sheep who have gone astray but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls". Under the shepherding of King Jesus, our souls are safe again and we find peace and protection and prosperity for our soul! With Jesus as our king, we lack nothing, we fear nothing! Joy to the world!!

Anthony Carter with Ligonier Ministries, said, "In the Old Testament, the monarchy was established for the peace, prosperity, and welfare of the nation. The prototype king was David. No king was ever as beloved as he was.... With David on the throne, the nation of Israel could say, "All is well." Few things comfort a nation

more than having a ruler of righteousness and strength sitting on the throne of power.”

As David was a good king and the people prospered under his rule, Jesus is the ultimate good king, sitting on the throne of power! Under his rule, we can say, “All is well”.

The Old Testament prophets told of a king who would come and would satisfy the deepest needs and longings of his people! The prophecy in Isaiah 40 says, “Get up on a high mountain”, “Lift up your voice with strength” and “Say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God”. “He comes with power and he rules with might”. And it goes on to say, “He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.” God is coming to rule over his people with the same tender care and protection and attention to our needs, which a shepherd shows for his flock! THAT is the kind of ruler we desperately need! THAT King is Jesus!

Micah 5:2, 4 "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 shepherd my people Israel." “He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth”. That is talking about Jesus! Living in security comes from Jesus.

The song “O Little Town of Bethlehem” proclaims: “The hopes and fears of all our years are met in Thee tonight!” Jesus comes as king to fulfill all the hopes you’ve ever dared to have, and to solve all the fears that have ever tormented your heart.

This theme that Jesus is king is at the core of the Christmas story. The wise men from the East came to worship Jesus as a king! When they “saw the child with his mother Mary, they fell down and worshiped him as king. They opened their treasure sacks and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” These were gifts for a king!

The angel said to Mary, “Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God”. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” The angel emphasized the greatness of Jesus, the throne of Jesus, the reign of Jesus, the kingdom of Jesus, and that his kingdom will never end!

The main point of Micah’s prophecy is that out from Bethlehem shall come a Ruler who will shepherd my people!

Again and again, “Jesus is coming to rule”! If our hearts are not fully awake to Jesus as king, we have a limited Jesus, maybe a false Jesus! And we won’t know this unspeakable joy of his coming!

When Isaiah gave the most well known prophecy about Jesus birth, the people of Israel were broken, and defeated, and their land was desolate. The people were depressed and “walking in darkness”. But Isaiah 9 begins, “There will be NO MORE GLOOM for those who were in anguish.” “The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on

them.” “You will increase their joy; they will rejoice in your presence”.

The reason for this joy is given in verse 7 “FOR unto us a child is born, to us a son is given”; God's answer to our sin, to our darkness, to our gloom, to our oppressors, is a child, a son, who will rule and reign! “The government will be on his shoulders”, and “Of the growth of his government and peace there will be no end... He will RULE over his kingdom, SITTING ON THE THRONE of David, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time onward and forevermore”. (ISV)

And there is great happiness because of the KIND of king he will be: He will be called “Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”.

Jesus is a Wonderful king. That word means incomprehensible, or inconceivable! His glory and power are so awesome, his love for us is so deep, and his mercies toward us so tender, that we cannot comprehend them!

Jesus is a King who counsels his people. We can go to him with our problems, and we receive the counsel we are desperately need.

Spurgeon said, “You have gone to your Master in the day of trouble, and in the secret of your chamber you have poured out your heart before him. You have laid your case before him, with all its difficulties, and you have felt, that though Christ was not there in flesh and blood, yet he was there in spirit, and he counseled you....And...There was such a sweetness coming with his counsel, such a radiance of love, such a fullness of fellowship, that you said, ‘Christ is the Counselor whom I desire to consult every hour, and I

would that I could sit in his secret chamber all day and all night long...”

Jesus is Mighty God! He is no less than God! He will defeat all his enemies, he will win all battles. You can trust him to fight your battles, to help in your temptations, in your problems and needs. Jesus governs as “Everlasting Father”. He has a father's love and compassion for us. He provides, protects and cares for us as father.

Jesus is Prince of Peace. He is the kind of king who brings peace to our troubled hearts and lives. He calms our fears and our anxieties. He brings peace into our relationships. He alone has the power to bring peace on earth.

***This child that Isaiah told about was born 2000 years ago and Jesus IS King! There is a day coming when King Jesus will be revealed visibly in power and glory to the whole world, yet still Jesus IS King now. John said Jesus “is the ruler of the kings of the earth... and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father-- to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” Jesus is presently king! And we are in his kingdom.

Ephesians 1 says God raised him from the dead and placed him over all things, “far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet”. He is king, in the world to come, but in THIS age, as well!

Believers in the early church proclaimed Jesus as KING so clearly and boldly that they were charged with rebellion against Caesar! Acts 17:6 “These men who have caused trouble all over the world

have now come here...They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus."

The Roman Empire developed the idea of emperor worship and required everyone to say "Caesar is Lord". The Christians would pay taxes, and be good citizens but they would not say, "Caesar is Lord", because at the VERY HEART of their faith was the conviction that "Jesus is Lord". Many went to their death because they would not compromise their conviction that Jesus is King!
Oh how we need this same deep seated, heartfelt conviction that Jesus IS LORD, and KING in our hearts today!

***But we also need to realize that the full power and glory of Jesus, is YET to be revealed! It is not that Jesus will BECOME king sometime in the future (He is king now!) but the full visible display of his authority and power is yet to come. Paul said there is a time coming "when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire". There will be a time when "every knee will bow and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus is LORD".
Jesus is not ONLY our personal Lord! He is Lord of heaven and earth, the seen and the unseen, this world and the one to come!

Christ WILL take over the government of this world. Every promise that has ever been made about Christ defeating his enemies and ruling kings and nations will come to pass. He will put an end to death, and sin and sorrow. He will correct every injustice, and right every wrong. "The wrong shall fail, the right prevail". And he will reign as King forever and ever!

How should the truth that Jesus is King affect our lives?

*First: In an overall way.. it must affect our entire outlook on life! Our hearts desperately need to become saturated with the revelation that we are following the king of kings and Lord of Lords! We need a deep seated, heartfelt conviction that Jesus IS LORD, and KING You can talk to someone for just a few minutes and know if they see Jesus as King or not. Many see Jesus as a great teacher, someone who died on the cross, perhaps as a healer, a helper, friend (and he is all that) butwe need a revelation of him as KING!

*Second: The revelation that Jesus is King, leads to a life of worship! “Worship start with seeing you”. It start with seeing Jesus as Sovereign, Ruler, King! In the innermost part of your being you stand in awe of him and you bow in humble adoration. When the Bible says, “Come let us worship and bow down! Let us kneel before the Lord who made us”, you say, “Yes!”. You worship him as the king of your heart! You say, “I will extol you my God and King! I will bless your name forever and ever!”

Third: Seeing Jesus as King means we live life under his management! It means that from now on Jesus is King and you are not! It means you submit to him from the very core of your being because of who he is. Toward the end of his life, William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army was interviewed by the press. He said, “... from the day I had a vision of what God could do, I made up my mind that God would have all there was of William Booth.” We owe him our allegiance, our loyalty, all that we are. He is King!

Mark Connor wrote this in a blog, “Being a disciple of Jesus or a “Christian” is not just about having your sins forgiven and knowing that you will go to heaven when you die. It is about living life here

and now under new management – under the new leadership of King Jesus”.

Gayle Erwin wrote: “Whenever I see someone who miraculously leaves a life of drugs or alcohol and is restored to his family and work, I can see that he is now governed by God. Whenever I see loving Christians gently caring for orphans and those rejected by family, I know I am watching people governed by God. Whenever I see people eagerly learning the Bible and joyously praising, I know who the governor is.”

Sadly, we also see examples all around of people who are not governed by Jesus! We’ve seen instances in our own life when our tongue or attitude, were not governed by Jesus, and the chaos, and calamity and pain it caused! Life is so much better under King Jesus! He is the only one who can govern your life well!

There can only be one king in your life!! Jesus said, “No one can serve two masters”. There can only be one thing or person that everything revolves around. For some people work is king. Everything must fit around being the most successful at work. For some people personal pleasure is king, or travel or homes, or simply “what I feel like doing at this moment” is king! For some money is king. For some family is king, “family is first”. We can't be inconvenienced with other people's needs. For some anger is king, or insecurity is king, or an addiction is king. Jesus must be king without rival! He must be king over our stuff, over other people in our lives, over our minds and thoughts and our emotions.

Fourth: Seeing Jesus as king frees us from the self destructive reign of sin and self. He released us from the guilt of our sins at the cross. But he also released us from our practice of sinning by coming to

reign with the power of grace in our hearts! Romans 6:14 ESV says, “Sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace”. Anthony Carter said, “As our King, He has fought our battles and now rules in such a way that sin never can reign over us”. Sin Reigned over us, but now Christ reigns! “Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

Fifth: If Jesus is your king, you will yield everything to the reign and rule of the indwelling Spirit. Because that is how Jesus is with you today, by His Spirit!

Dr. Stephen Olford tells how he came to know Jesus Christ as absolute Lord of his life in a book called *My Most Memorable Encounter with God*. He had a degree in theology, he was a chaplain in WW2 but he hungered for the presence of God and the power of his Spirit. He cleared his calendar for 2 weeks, took two suitcases of books, writings of Calvin and John Owen. But the answers came to him from two brief passages of scripture.

As I examined the text (Eph. 5:18) within its context and compared Scripture with Scripture, I was struck with the sheer simplicity of it all. First, there was the initial acceptance of the Spirit’s control – “*Be filled in the Spirit and with the Spirit.*” . . . While the Holy Spirit is both contrasted and compared to wine, He is essentially a Person, and to be filled with Him is to be under His control. This led me to 2 Corinthians 3:17, where Paul tells us that “*the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty*”; or “Where the Spirit is Lord, there is liberty.” I had always accepted the deity of the Spirit, but I had never acknowledged His lordship. I knew Jesus was Lord, and had owned that Lordship in an objective sense, but now I saw that the lordship of Christ could only be real to me as the Holy

Spirit was made Lord in me. This was the crisis point in my search for freedom and fullness in my Christian life. Without reading further, I dropped to my knees and yielded everything to the reign and rule of the indwelling Spirit . . . I knew, there and then, that I was set free!” You live under Jesus as King by honoring, and yielding to and obeying the Holy Spirit, because that is how Jesus is with you now.

*Sixth: Living under Jesus as king is the life of happiness and joy you have always wanted. For Jesus to come as King over our lives is not surrendering ourselves to some heavy, dark and gloomy life!! No! His reign as king extinguishes gloom!! He is Wonderful, Counselor, Everlasting Father, Mighty God, Prince of Peace! The best thing about us is that he is our King!! The greatest thing any of us have going for us is that Jesus is our King! Our highest joy in life is to have him for our King. He is all our hearts ever longed for. He is only One who can satisfy our thirsts and our hungers. We find in him all that we were missing.

His coming to reign over us is the happiest news ever! “Joy to the world, the Lord his come. Let earth receive her KING!” That Hymn by Isaac Watts was based on Psalm 98, which I want read to you in closing: “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we are so glad to have you as our king! Our lives went so far astray without you. Our lives were so broken without you.

You are such a good and wonderful ruler. We love having you as our king! Amen!