

# THE KING'S STORY (15)<sup>1</sup>

## The King Reigns

### A. Introduction

1. The Bible is a story of a King, God, who makes His glory known in His Son Jesus Christ.

Two prominent themes in this story are that this King:

- a) saves His people through judgment;
- b) establishes kingdoms and rules over them by means of covenants.

2. The first two kingdoms God established were the kingdom of creation and the kingdom of Israel<sup>2</sup>.

The kingdom of creation, established and ruled over by the covenant of works and the Noahic covenant, is cursed and destined for destruction, but has been preserved, while God keeps the promise He made to send a Saviour.

The kingdom of Israel, within the kingdom of creation, established and ruled over by the Abrahamic, Mosaic and Davidic covenant, was concerned with the inheritance and enjoyment of the Promised Land by Abraham's offspring, of which one would be the Saviour promised. The kingdom ended with exile from the land because Israel's king and the people with them were unfaithful.

But God's promise of a Saviour remained, and so He preserved a remnant from the people of Israel, from whom He would come, who returned to the Promised Land after exile to wait for His arrival. This remnant was encouraged by the words of the prophets that spoke of a new King that would bring salvation to His people by establishing a new kingdom, the kingdom of Christ, and by ruling over it by means of a new covenant.

3. In this new covenant, God promises to give His people a new heart, a new relationship, and a new forgiveness.

A new heart that will enable them to obey God's law which they had not been able to do.

A new relationship so that this new kingdom will now only be made up of people whose trust in the new King.

A new forgiveness where sin will be fully and finally dealt with.

But how will God forgive His people's sin and change their hearts?

This new King will atone for their sins, and also put His Spirit in them so that they can obey God's law.

4. In Jesus Christ, the new King and new kingdom, God promised, arrived.

But for sinful people to be part of this new kingdom ruled over by Christ, a new covenant needs to be established.

How will this happen?

Jesus' death initiated the new covenant bringing forgiveness for sinners as He took the punishment His people deserve on the cross.

After Jesus died and rose from the dead, He ascended to God's right hand and from there He kept His promise and given His people His Spirit.

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<sup>1</sup> The titles for this series are taken from Biblical Theology by Nick Roark & Robert Cline

<sup>2</sup> Throughout this series I will refer to 3 kingdoms, the kingdom of creation, Israel, Christ, which is an idea taken from The Mystery of Christ by Samuel Renihan.

5. The presence of the Spirit enables believers to live faithfully as followers of Jesus.

Living faithfully as followers of Jesus means also being sent out on a mission by the King to proclaim the gospel and make disciples.

“He also said to them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead the third day, and repentance for forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And look, I am sending you what my Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are empowered from on high.” (Luke 24:46-49)

As the King sends His followers out empowered by the Spirit and disciples are made, His church is being built, and the Kingdom which Christ rules over grows.

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” (Matthew 16:18)

“So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.” (Acts 16:5)

“But I have other sheep that are not from this sheep pen; I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd.” (John 10:16)

What it looks like when Jesus’ followers live faithfully under His rule is described in the New Testament letters.

**B. Living under Christ’s rule now involves submission to Him**

1. Living under the rule of King Jesus means listening to His words and obeying them.

“My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:27)

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

“But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:22)

“For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.” (James 2:26)

2. Living under the rule of King Jesus means living lives worthy of the gospel.

“Don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

“Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:1-3)

“Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.” (Colossians 3:12-14)

“Additionally then, brothers and sisters, we ask and encourage you in the Lord Jesus, that as you have received instruction from us on how you should live and please God—as you are doing—do this even more. For you know what commands we gave you through the Lord Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 4:1-2)

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; you had not received

mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honourably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits." (1 Peter 2:9-12)

### 3. Living under the rule of King Jesus means living as citizens of heaven.

"Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:20)

"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ: To those chosen, living as exiles dispersed abroad in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient and to be sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ. May grace and peace be multiplied to you." (1 Peter 1:1-2)

"Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honoured as holy. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:9-10)

"By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and set out for a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he stayed as a foreigner in the land of promise, living in tents as did Isaac and Jacob, coheirs of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God." (Hebrews 11:8-10)

### 4. Living under the rule of King Jesus is a response to God's grace.

"Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery. Do not have other gods besides me." (Exodus 20:1-3)

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:1-2)

"So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude." (Colossians 2:6-7)

### 5. Living under the rule of King Jesus won't be easy.

It will feel like a war as we fight against sin with the help of the Holy Spirit.

"Therefore, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, so now, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose." (Philippians 2:12-13)

"But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." (Romans 8:13)

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7)

"Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

"I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want." (Galatians 5:16-17)

It will feel frustrating as we continue to struggle with sin.

"Now if I do what I do not want to do, I agree with the law that it is good. So now I am no longer the one doing it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do what is good is with me, but there is no ability to do it. For I do not do the good that I want to do, but I practice the evil that I do not want to do. Now if I do what I do not want, I am no longer the one that does it, but it is the sin that lives in me." (Romans 7:16-20)

### **C. Living under Christ's rule now involves suffering for Him**

#### 1. Jesus suffered and then entered glory.

"Wasn't it necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and enter into his glory?" (Luke 24:26)

His suffering came from inside His people and from outside His people.

"For, in fact, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, assembled together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, to do whatever your hand and your will had predestined to take place." (Acts 4:27-28)

#### 2. Jesus' followers can expect to suffer before entering glory too.

"For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps." (1 Peter 1:21)

"Dear friends, don't be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes among you to test you, as if something unusual were happening to you. Instead, rejoice as you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may also rejoice with great joy when his glory is revealed. If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you." (1 Peter 4:12-14)

"But know this: Hard times will come in the last days." (2 Timothy 3:1)

"You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials so that the proven character of your faith—more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:6-7)

"Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing." (James 1:2-4)

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. "You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:10-12)

"In fact, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." (2 Timothy 3:12)

Our suffering, like His, comes from inside His people (false teachers) and from outside His people (the world).

"A disciple is not above his teacher, or a slave above his master." (Matthew 10:24)

But one day the struggle and the suffering will be over.