

Jesus Is Our Mighty King

Q. How is Christ a king?

A. As a king, Christ brings us under His power, rules and defends us, and restrains and conquers all His and all our enemies.

(Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A #26)

“Pilate therefore said to Him, ‘Are You a king then?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

(John 18:37)

For the past few days we have been learning that Jesus Christ, as our savior has been anointed by God to hold three offices: the office of Prophet, Priest and King. And in holding each of these three offices, Jesus has certain tasks or duties that He faithfully carries out on behalf of His people. So far we’ve taken a look at Jesus’ work as our Prophet and our great high Priest. Today we will learn more about what it means for Jesus to hold the office of a king.

For those who have grown up in the United States, the concept of a king and his duties may be a little foreign to us. The majority of us are used to being a part of a federation of states with a democratic form of government. As such, the notion of a kingdom or monarchy which exercises rule and sovereignty over the people is something most of us have only experienced when watching movies such as “*Robin Hood*” or “*Monty Python*”. However, when we read the New Testament we are well aware that Jesus didn’t say, “*The time is fulfilled, and the Federal Republic is at hand...*” No, instead we read in Mark 1:15 Jesus saying, “*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.*” When we think about the work of Christ we often think about His sinless life, His atoning death on the cross and His miraculous resurrection from the dead. But we sometimes skim over one of the most important events in Jesus’ life and ministry, that is, His glorious ascension into Heaven. In the book of Acts, we read these words, “*Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight...two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee...This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”*” (Acts 1:9-11)

What was the significance of Jesus’ ascension? What benefit is it for us that Jesus is now in Heaven seated at the right hand of the throne of God (Acts 7:55-56)? The Heidelberg Catechism answers by saying: “*Christ*

ascended to heaven to show there that He is head of His church, the one through whom the Father rules all things." (Heidelberg Catechism Q&A #50). Jesus' ascension day was in actuality His royal coronation. It marked the event when He was seated on the Heavenly throne as King and Monarch. It was at that moment when Jesus was crowned as "*KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS*" (Revelation 19:16).

So how does Christ exercise His "*kingship*" in our lives as Christians? First, we learn from our catechism that Christ our King, "*brings us under His power*" and "*rules and defends us*". In other words, one of the ways that Jesus acts as our King is by giving us His laws for our guidance and our safety. Jesus rules us and defends us with His Word. The Bible contains the "*marching orders*" of our sovereign King. His Word is the believer's ultimate authority for matters of faith and practice. Jesus as our King rules and defends us by His Word and Spirit. And Jesus' rule is not a burden to us as Christians, but on the contrary, it's our great delight to obey the One who gave His life for us. We obey King Jesus out of gratitude and love for all that He has done for us (John 14:15)!

Finally, our catechism tells us that Jesus exercises His kingship in our lives by "*restraining and conquering all His and all our enemies.*". That means that as our sovereign King, Jesus is fighting on our behalf. Not only did He conquer sin and Satan on the cross, but He is also preserving us and watching over us, and will one day bring us into His Heavenly Kingdom where our conquering King "*will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.*" (Revelation 21:4). Have you been following Christ as your King? In what areas of your life do you still need to "*bow the knee*" to King Jesus in humble obedience?

Dig Even Deeper into God's Word!

Psalm 2:6-9

Psalm 110:1-2

1 Corinthians 15:24-26