

“King of the Jews”

Summary

In this powerful exploration of Jesus' identity, we're confronted with a truth that shapes everything about our faith: Jesus was Jewish. This isn't merely a historical footnote—it's central to understanding God's eternal plan for humanity. Drawing from Mark 4's account of Jesus calming the storm, we're invited to see Jesus 'as He is,' not as religious tradition has sometimes portrayed Him. The message challenges us to examine the relationship between the Church, Israel, and God's unfolding purposes in our generation. Through Romans 11, we discover that God has not cast away His covenant people, despite their rejection of Messiah. Instead, a 'partial hardening' has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in. This isn't replacement—it's expansion. We who were once far off have been grafted into the promises through grace, but the natural branches remain precious to God. The call is clear: we must extend the same mercy we've received to the Jewish people, recognizing that 'the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable.' As anti-Semitism rises globally, mirroring patterns from history's darkest chapters, we're challenged to stand as peacemakers and bridge-builders. The question isn't whether Jews are 'better' or Gentiles are 'superior'—it's about recognizing the unique roles God has assigned and walking in mutual honor and respect, just as men and women have distinct yet equally valued callings in God's design.

Main Points – King of the Jews

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the Jewish identity of Jesus and the ongoing significance of Israel and the Jewish people in God's redemptive plan. Pastor Rob addresses the rising tide of anti-Semitism and replacement theology, arguing that God has not abandoned His covenant with Israel. Through careful examination of Scripture, particularly Romans 9-11, the message reveals that while the church is a new creation in Jesus, God's promises to the Jewish people remain valid. The sermon emphasizes that both Jews and Gentiles are saved by grace, that a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in, and that believers should honor and bless Israel as part of their Christian witness. Pastor Rob calls the congregation to understand their role as peacemakers and gospel carriers to both Jews and Gentiles in this pivotal moment of history.

Key Points:

- Jesus was born as a Jewish man under Mosaic law to redeem those under the law
- Humanity is divided into three groups: Jews, Gentiles, and the Church of God

- In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, but this doesn't mean God has eliminated these distinctions or their unique roles
- Men and women have equal value but different roles; similarly, Jews and Gentiles have equal value with unique purposes
- Replacement theology falsely claims God is done with the Jewish people and Israel
- God promised to scatter Israel for their sin but also promised to regather them, fulfilled in 1948
- A partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in
- The "time of Jacob's trouble" is coming when all nations will gather against Israel
- During this time, the veil will be lifted and Jewish people will recognize their Messiah
- Christians are called to be peacekeepers and show mercy to Israel, representing Jesus to them
- The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable - His covenant with Israel stands
- Honoring Israel brings blessing; dishonoring brings consequences
- We must take Jesus "as He is" - including His Jewish identity and heritage

Scripture Reference:

- Mark 4:35-41 (The calming of the storm and the question "What manner of man is this?")
- Romans 11:1-29 (God has not cast away His people; the mystery of Israel's partial hardening)
- Galatians 3:26-29 (In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek)
- Galatians 4:4 (Jesus born under the law)
- 1 Corinthians 10:32 (Three groups: Jews, Gentiles, and the Church of God)
- Genesis 12:1-3 (God's covenant with Abraham; blessing those who bless Israel)
- Deuteronomy 4:23-27 (Warning of scattering for disobedience)
- Jeremiah 30:3-7 (The time of Jacob's trouble)
- Matthew 24:21 (The great tribulation)
- Matthew 25:40 (Doing unto the least of these)
- Acts 17:26-27 (God determines boundaries that people might seek Him)
- Zechariah 12:10 (They will look on Him whom they pierced)
- John 19:19-22 (Pilate's inscription: King of the Jews)
- Ephesians 6:1-3 (Honor your father and mother)
- Isaiah 33:22 (Foundation of American government structure)

Small Group Study Guide – King of the Jews

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: What comes to mind when you think about Israel? Has your understanding changed over time?

Sermon Summary

Pastor Rob explored the Jewish identity of Jesus and God's ongoing covenant with Israel and the Jewish people. He addressed replacement theology, examined Romans 9-11, and challenged believers to honor Israel while understanding our unique role as the Church in this pivotal moment in history.

Key Scripture References

- Mark 4:35-41 - "What manner of man is this?"
- Romans 11:1 - "Has God cast away His people? God forbid."
- Galatians 3:28 - Unity in Christ while maintaining unique roles
- Genesis 12:1-3 - God's covenant with Abraham
- Zechariah 12:10 - Future awakening of Israel

Discussion Questions

Understanding Jesus' Jewish Identity

1. Why does it matter that Jesus was Jewish? How does this impact your understanding of who He is and the gospel message?
2. Read Galatians 3:26-29. How do we balance the truth that "there is neither Jew nor Greek in Christ" with the reality that God still has a distinct plan for the Jewish people?

God's Covenant with Israel

1. Discuss Genesis 12:1-3. What does it mean to "bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you" in practical terms today?
2. Read Romans 11:1-2, 25-29. What does Paul mean when he says "the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable"? How does this challenge or confirm your previous understanding?

The Church's Role

1. What is "replacement theology" and why is it dangerous? Have you encountered this teaching before?
2. Read Matthew 25:40. Who are "the least of these, my brethren"? How might this apply to our responsibility toward Jewish people in times of trouble?

3. What does it mean to be a "peacekeeper" or carry the "gospel of peace" to both Jews and Muslims?

Current Events & Prophecy

1. How do current events in Israel relate to biblical prophecy? What is "Jacob's trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7)?

2. Pastor Rob mentioned that boundaries are often set through war (Acts 17:26-27). How does God use even difficult circumstances to draw people to seek Him?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Jesus was Jewish - This is not incidental but central to understanding God's redemptive plan
- ✓ God has not rejected Israel - Romans 11 makes clear that God's covenant with the Jewish people remains
- ✓ Three categories of humanity - Jews, Gentiles, and the Church of God (1 Corinthians 10:32)
- ✓ Honor matters to God - We're called to honor what God honors, including His covenant people
- ✓ A time of awakening is coming - The veil will be lifted and many Jewish people will recognize their Messiah
- ✓ We carry mercy for them - Just as we received mercy through their temporary blindness, we're called to extend mercy to them

Practical Applications

This Week:

1. Study Romans 9-11 - Read these chapters slowly and prayerfully, asking God to reveal His heart for Israel
2. Examine your heart - Are there any anti-Semitic attitudes or replacement theology beliefs you need to repent of?
3. Learn about Israel's history - Research the miracle of 1948 and Israel's modern history

4. Pray for Israel - Pray for peace in Jerusalem, for Jewish people to recognize their Messiah, and for the Church to fulfill its role

This Month:

1. Read a testimony - Get "The Hiding Place" by Corrie ten Boom or watch the movie to understand Christian responsibility toward Jewish people
2. Educate yourself - Research what's happening in Israel and the Middle East from a biblical perspective

Reflection Questions for Personal Time

- Am I willing to risk comfort, reputation, or even safety to bless Jewish people if needed?
- How can I be a voice of truth and balance in conversations about Israel, avoiding extremes on either side?
- What does it mean for me personally that Jesus is the "King of the Jews"?
- How can I carry the "spirit of the evangelist" into difficult places and situations?

Prayer Focus

Pray for:

- The peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6)
- Jewish people to have the veil removed and recognize Jesus as Messiah
- Protection for Israel during "Jacob's trouble"
- The Church to understand and fulfill its role as peacemaker
- Open doors for the gospel in the Middle East, including Gaza
- Wisdom to honor what God honors and avoid pride
- Muslims and all people groups to encounter the true Jesus

Closing Challenge

Pastor Christie asked: "Would you risk your life to feed a Jewish family or bring them into your home if it gets really risky?"

Take time this week to honestly answer this question. Ask God to prepare your heart for whatever He may call you to do in this pivotal moment in history.

Additional Resources

- Read: Romans 9-11 (multiple times)

- Read: "The Hiding Place" by Corrie ten Boom
- Study: The history of Israel's re-establishment in 1948

Memory Verse: *"For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." - Romans 11:29*

Discussion Questions – King of the Jews

How does understanding Jesus as a Jewish man change or deepen your perspective on His identity and mission?

In what ways might the church today be guilty of creating a 'man-made version' of Jesus rather than seeing Him as He truly is?

What does it mean practically to 'give honor where honor is due' when it comes to the Jewish people and the nation of Israel?

How can we balance recognizing Israel's unique covenant role while also acknowledging that salvation comes only through Jesus Christ for all people?

What parallels exist between the honor children owe their parents and the honor believers should extend toward Israel as a spiritual 'parent' to Christianity?

How should the church respond to the rising tide of anti-Semitism globally, and what biblical principles should guide our stance?

In what ways might replacement theology lead Christians to miss God's ongoing purposes and inadvertently oppose what He is building?

How does Romans 11's warning against pride apply to both Jewish and Gentile believers, and what does true humility look like in this context?

What does it mean for the church to be 'peacekeepers' and carriers of the gospel of peace to both Jews and Muslims in the Middle East today?

Would you be willing to risk your life to shelter or help a Jewish family if persecution intensified, and what does your answer reveal about your convictions?

Scriptures – King of the Jews

Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. Mark 4:35-41 - The storm on the sea and "What manner of man is this?"
2. 1 John 3:2 - "We shall see him as he is"
3. Galatians 4:4 - Born of a woman, born under the law
4. Luke 2 - Jesus celebrating Passover
5. 1 Corinthians 10:32 - Give no offense to Jews, Gentiles, or the church of God
6. Galatians 3:26-29 - Neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female
7. Ephesians 5 - Husbands and wives, Christ and the church
8. Ephesians 6:1-3 - Honor your father and mother
9. Romans 13:7 - Pay to all what is owed; give honor where honor is due
10. Isaiah 33:22 - The Lord is our judge, lawgiver, and king
11. Genesis 12:1-3 - God's covenant with Abraham regarding the land and blessing
12. Romans 11:1-5 - God has not cast away His people
13. Deuteronomy 4:23-27 - Warning about scattering among the nations
14. Acts 17:26-27 - God determines boundaries and dwelling places
15. Jeremiah 30:3-7 - The time of Jacob's trouble
16. Matthew 24:21 - The great tribulation
17. Matthew 25:40 - "When you did it to the least of these, my brethren"
18. Romans 11:25-29 - Partial hardening of Israel; gifts and calling are irrevocable
19. John 19:19-22 - "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews"
20. Zechariah 12:10 - "They will look on me whom they have pierced"
21. Philippians 3 - "That I might know him" (alluded to)
22. 2 Timothy 2:15 - Study to show yourself approved, rightly dividing the word
23. Acts 8 - Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch in Gaza (referenced)

Devotional – King of the Jews

Day 1: Jesus the Jewish Messiah

Reading: Galatians 3:26-29; 4:4-5

Devotional: Jesus was born as a Jewish man under the Mosaic law to redeem all humanity. This truth matters profoundly because it connects us to God's eternal covenant and reminds us that our Savior came through a specific people with a specific purpose. When we see Jesus as He truly is—not a sanitized religious version, but the Jewish Messiah—we encounter the fullness of God's redemptive plan. In Christ, there is neither Jew nor Gentile, yet both identities remain significant in God's unfolding story. Today, ask yourself: Do I see Jesus as He really is, or have I created Him in my own image? Let His true identity transform your understanding of salvation history and your place within it.

Day 2: The Mystery of Israel's Calling

Reading: Romans 11:1-2, 25-29

Devotional: God has not cast away His people Israel. Despite their stumbling, despite centuries of hardship, God's gifts and calling are irrevocable. This mystery reveals God's faithfulness even when we are faithless. The partial hardening of Israel allowed the gospel to reach the Gentiles, but God's ultimate plan includes the salvation of all Israel. This should humble us and eliminate any spiritual pride. We stand by grace alone, grafted into promises made to Abraham. As you reflect today, consider: Am I grateful for the mercy shown to me? Do I extend that same mercy to others, especially to those God has called beloved? Let gratitude replace judgment, and let mercy flow from your life as it has flowed to you.

Day 3: Honor and the Blessing

Reading: Genesis 12:1-3; Ephesians 6:1-3

Devotional: God promised Abraham, "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse." This principle of honor carries profound consequences. Just as children are called to honor parents—not because parents are perfect, but because of the position God has given them—so we honor Israel for God's sake, not based on human merit. Honor unlocks blessing; dishonor invites trouble. Throughout history, nations that have blessed the Jewish people have been blessed, while those who persecuted them have fallen. Today, examine your heart: Where do I need to cultivate honor? Am I quick to criticize or slow to bless? Choose honor today, trusting that God sees and rewards those who align with His heart.

Day 4: Carriers of the Gospel of Peace

Reading: Isaiah 52:7; Acts 17:26-27

Devotional: God has determined the boundaries of nations and the times in which we live—all so that people might seek Him and find Him. In times of conflict and war, hearts are softened toward God, and the harvest becomes ripe. We are called to be carriers of the gospel of peace into the darkest places, including the Middle East where both Jews and Muslims desperately need to encounter Jesus. The same grace that saved us is meant to flow through us to others. God is raising up a generation of peacemakers who will stand in the gap during Jacob's trouble. Ask yourself today: Am I willing to be sent? Will I carry mercy to those who don't yet know the Messiah? Pray for open doors and a courageous heart.

Day 5: When They Look on Him Whom They Pierced

Reading: Zechariah 12:10; Matthew 25:31-40

Devotional: A day is coming when the veil will be lifted from Israel's eyes, and they will look upon Jesus, the One they pierced, and mourn with deep repentance. This prophetic moment will usher in revival and the return of Christ. But how will they see Him? Through people like us who demonstrate His love in their darkest hour. When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit the imprisoned—especially "the least of these, My brethren"—we reveal Jesus to a watching world. The time of Jacob's trouble is approaching, and God is positioning His church to be a witness. Today, commit to being His hands and feet. Let your life be a living testimony that points others to the Jewish Messiah who died for all humanity.

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!"

Romans 11:33
