

## The True King

Happy Easter VC! We are here today to make much of JESUS! Today we celebrate more than just the DEATH, BURIAL, and RESURRECTION! Yes, these events are absolutely essential to our salvation and forgiveness of sin. But even more than that I want us to celebrate the fact that we have a KING who really is like no other and because of His DEATH, BURIAL, and RESURRECTION we now have unhindered access to His throne! My prayer is that after we are done here today that we would WORSHIP Him with more PASSION than ever before! SERVE Him more FAITHFULLY than ever before! PURSUE His presence that we would be more HOLY than ever before. When we consider the nature of His PREEMINENCE (the fact that He is far superior than any other) it really should place us in awe of Him and it definitely should move us to turn from our sin and shame and embrace Him as KING over every aspect of our lives! SO TODAY I want us to make much of KING JESUS! This message isn't about 3 reasons why I love Easter. It's not about 3 ways you can experience peace this Easter. It is all about THE KING and the fact that He is KING of Israel and He is KING over this world.

(Let's PRAY)

From the very beginning **it was God's desire that JESUS would rule as KING over Israel.** Listen to God's job description for the King of Israel.

**Deuteronomy 17:14-20 (NIV) 14** When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, "Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us," **15** be sure to appoint over you a king the LORD your God chooses. He must be from among your fellow Israelites. Do not place a foreigner over you, one who is not an Israelite. **16** The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, "You are not to go back that way again." **17** He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.

**18** When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the Levitical priests. **19** It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees **20** and not consider himself better than his fellow Israelites and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel.

I want you to see that Jesus exceeds everyone of these criteria laid out in **Deuteronomy 17**

### 1) The Lord must chose The KING

**Luke 4:18 (NIV)** "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

2) The KING must be of the Jewish people

**Matthew 1:1 (NIV)** This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: The genealogy of Jesus ties Him all the way back to Abraham the father of the nation of Israel.

3) The KING's power and authority is not from military might

**John 12:49 (NIV)** For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. Jesus received his authority from the Father.

4) The KING is not to rely on many wives for His pleasure

**Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. His pleasure was in providing us salvation through the cross.

5) The KING is not to rely on wealth for His position

**Matthew 11:27 (NIV)** "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. His position comes from the Father.

6) The KING is to uphold and adhere to the Law of God

**John 1:1-2 (NIV)** 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning.

**John 1:14 (NIV)** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. He is the Law of God

7) The KING is to be a humble servant watching over and protecting the people

**Matthew 20:27-28 (NIV)** 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." He is the model of a humble servant

**No one! And I mean NO ONE is more qualified to be KING of Israel than Jesus!!**

Not only is it God's desire that JESUS would rule as KING over Israel but **His reign as KING of Israel is to be forever.** Listen to the birth announcement given to Mary when Gabriel told her she was going to give birth to the Messiah.

**Luke 1:31 (NIV)** You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32** 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, **33** and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Up to this point there had never been a KING like Jesus!! But the real question is, how would He be received by His own people? How will the world receive Him? The real question is how will you and I receive Him?

On the last week prior to His arrest in the garden and what would eventually lead to His death on the cross, notice what the Bible says about how the people received Him as He made His way into Jerusalem one last time.

**Luke 19:29-34 (NIV)** **29** As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, **30** "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. **31** If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'" **32** Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. **33** As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" **34** They replied, "The Lord needs it."

It was not uncommon in times of peace for kings to make their way into a city riding on a donkey. In times of war they would ride on a horse, but if it was a time of peace they would ride in a more humble fashion by doing so on an unassuming donkey. When Jesus comes again, as is described for us in **Revelation 19**, He will do so by riding on a white horse for it will be a time of war as He brings an end to the nations that will rise up in rebellion against God at the end of the age. But for this occasion Jesus is coming not for war but to bring and establish peace. After all, who doesn't long for PEACE. In fact, Jesus riding on a donkey was the fulfillment of the prophecy given by the prophet Zechariah.

**Zechariah 9:9 (NIV)** Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

This whole episode was an exercise by Jesus to demonstrate that He was in complete control and that He was a sovereign KING! This situation was a display of His sovereign power. He knew the donkey was there. He knew the owner would let them use it. And He knew it had never been ridden before. He also knew the symbolic gesture He was displaying.

**Luke 19:35-40 (NIV)** They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. **36** As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. **37** When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: **38** "Blessed is the king who comes

in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” **39** Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” **40** “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Jesus receives royal treatment and He does not rebuke those who treated Him this way. They put their clothes on the donkey for him to sit on. They placed their clothes on the road for Him to walk on. They began singing His praises so loudly that the Pharisees felt the need to rebuke them for doing so because by their actions they were acknowledging Him as the KING of Israel. What should be a great time of joyous celebration for the King actually becomes a sad moment for Him.

**Luke 19: 41 (NIV) 41** As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it

The Greek word used to describe Jesus’s weeping is the same word used to describe Peter after He denied Jesus 3 times! He is weeping with tears flowing from a broken heart. Why is the KING who is the rightful KING and who is about to take His throne weeping with a broken heart?

**Luke 19:42-44 (NIV) 42** and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. **43** The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. **44** They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

The REASON, when they really discover what Jesus came to do, they will reject the only one that could truly bring them PEACE! They in essence will be blinded by a lack of FAITH and by SELFISH AMBITIONS. When they come to realize that Jesus isn’t going to deliver them from Roman control and that He is not going to be a military king giving them what they want, they will turn their backs on Him and reject Him as their king. They were looking to an earthly king and they were fixed on an earthly kingdom. What they didn’t understand was that Jesus was the KING of all KINGS and the Kingdom He wants to establish is an eternal one. Before an eternal kingdom can be established our sin must be addressed. Unfortunately, they did not have ears to hear nor eyes to see who Jesus really was and so they rejected Him as their true King and they had Him crucified.

**Do you know who Jesus is? Do you know what He really is all about?** Do you realize that His throne was not an ornate oversized chair where he could rule a nation on this earth, but His throne was the cross and His kingdom is the kingdom above all kingdoms? A kingdom that will last forever. And in order for you and I to see His eternal kingdom and to worship at His eternal throne we must have our sins forgiven.

Listen to this description given to us by the Apostle Paul as recorded in his letter to the Colossians as to who Jesus really is and what it is He really came to accomplish as KING.

**Colossians 1:15-20 (NIV) 15** The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. (The Gr. word translated as “firstborn” can refer to one who was born first

chronologically, but most often it refers to one's preeminence in position or rank. Therefore, in this context Paul is saying that Jesus is the highest in rank) **16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.**

So superior is JESUS the KING that he:

- 1) He is the PHYSICAL IMAGE of God
- 2) He is the CREATOR of all things and w/o Him nothing is made
- 3) He holds ALL things together
- 4) He is the HEAD of the CHURCH
- 5) He is the RESURRECTION
- 6) He is the FULLNESS of GOD
- 7) He is the only ONE who could cancel our sin debt and reconcile us to God.

Pause for a second and let's soak that all in! He is a KING like no other!! Superior and 2nd to no one!! He is the KING that GOD always desired Israel to have! He is the King of all the earth! There is nowhere that He doesn't have jurisdiction! And **He wants to be the King of your life!**

How will you respond to the KING? Notice what happens when Jesus is not your KING.

**Luke 19:42 (NIV) 42** ..... "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. **You cannot have TRUE PEACE without the true King!** It is hidden from you because of a lack of FAITH in the true KING!

**Luke 19:43-44 (NIV) 43** The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. **44** They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you." **You cannot be PROTECTED without the true King** from your greatest enemy Satan because you have not allowed the KING to be the Lord who fights for you!

What is your response to the true KING? Is it ALL WORDS with no ACTION? Is it ALL HEAD KNOWLEDGE with no HEART RESPONSE? Is it ALL ABOUT YOU or is it ALL ABOUT HIM?

Would you bow to the KING today? Would you let Him be LORD and KING of your LIFE?

**Worship Comes Back Up**

**Invitation:**

**What are the things in your life that are keeping you from yielding your life to the KING?**

Do you have PEACE? If not, will you trust your life to the KING?

Does your life feel like it is unraveling at every turn? If not, will you turn your life over to the King for PROTECTION?

Remember, HE is the ONE who holds all things together!

He is the RESURRECTION! He brings dead situations back to life!

Do you feel distant from God? He is the ONE who cancels your sin debt so you can now draw near to HIM.

Would you bow to the KING today? Would you let Him be LORD and KING of your LIFE?