

Who is the King of the Jews?

John 15:16—16:8

Have you ever thought how America and Israel were similar in that they started with out a king?

A government without royalty—without a king, queen, prince, or lord—was crafted by America’s founding fathers.

Israel was unlike any nation before or since; No other country was chosen and governed directly by God himself.

But throughout Israel's history, there was a persistent desire to be like other countries, especially to have a king.

God ultimately fulfilled their request and gave them Saul as a king.

However, there is more to this king's story in the Bible.

What Does The Bible Say?

10 The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor. (Genesis 49:10 NLT)

25 In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes. (Judges 21:25 NLT)

11 For when you die and join your ancestors, I will raise up one of your descendants, one of your sons, and I will make his kingdom strong. 12 He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for me. And I will secure his throne forever. 13 I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my favor from him as I took it from the one who ruled before you. 14 I will confirm him as king over my house and my kingdom for all time, and his throne will be secure forever.' ” (1 Chronicles 17:11–14 NLT)

49 Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!” (John 1:49 NLT)

33 Then Pilate went back into his headquarters and called for Jesus to be brought to him. “Are you the king of the Jews?” he asked him. (John 18:33 NLT)

What Does The Bible Say?

Pilate publicly refers to Jesus as the “King of the Jews.”

39 But you have a custom of asking me to release one prisoner each year at Passover. Would you like me to release this ‘King of the Jews’?” (John 18:39 NLT)

14 It was now about noon on the day of preparation for the Passover. And Pilate said to the people, “Look, here is your

king!” (John 19:14 NLT) God has communicated His love to us by walking among us as Jesus.

15 “Away with him,” they yelled. “Away with him! Crucify him!” “What? Crucify your king?” Pilate asked. (John 19:15 NLT)

19 And Pilate posted a sign on the cross that read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” 20 The place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, so that many people could read it. (John 19:19–20 NLT)

God uses Pilate's pen to proclaim that Jesus is King to the entire world.

Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip. 2 The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they put a purple robe on him. 3 “Hail! King of the Jews!” they mocked, as they slapped him across the face. 4 Pilate went

outside again and said to the people, “I am going to bring him out to you now, but understand clearly that I find him not guilty.”

5 Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said, “Look, here is the man!” (John 19:1–5 NLT)

35 “Am I a Jew?” Pilate retorted. “Your own people and their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?” (John 18:35 NLT)

9 “Would you like me to release to you this ‘King of the Jews’?” Pilate asked. 10 (For he realized by now that the leading priests had arrested Jesus out of envy.) (Mark 15:9–10 NLT)

36 Jesus answered, “My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.” (John 18:36 NLT)

What Does The Bible Say?

24 One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. 25 They told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.” 26 Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!” 28 “My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed. (John 20:24–28 NLT)

We must make a personal declaration! My Lord and My God!

Thomas became a missionary to Parthia (An empire east of the Roman Empire that existed from around 247 bc to ad 224), or India.

How Can You Obey?

29 Then Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”³⁰ The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book.³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name. (John 20:29-31 NLT)

Confess Christ is Lord.

Commit to Following Christ as Lord.

Additional Notes:

If you would like to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at www.crosswaveschurch.com/host. Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you how to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

Additional Notes:

Tough Questions:

His son Saul was the most handsome man in Israel—head and shoulders taller than anyone else in the land. (1 Samuel 9:2 NLT)

There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. (Isaiah 53:2b NLT)

Explore:

KEY TRUTHS:

- 1. Jesus Was Mocked, Beaten, Crucified, and Buried to Make Our Salvation Possible (Mark 15:16-47)**
- 2. Jesus Was Raised From the Dead to Guarantee Our Salvation (Mark 16:1-8)**

HOW IT FITS: Where This Lesson Fits in the Story of the

Bible: Mark wrote his account of the life of Christ between AD 55-59 based on the eyewitness testimony of Peter. The events of these chapters took place in AD 33.

Explore:

For three and a half years, Jesus was engaged in preaching, teaching, discipling, and working miracles. When the time was right to fulfill God's plan, Jesus set out for Jerusalem where He knew He would be tried and convicted. Now, the time had come for Him to offer up His life on behalf of sinful mankind.

Jesus Was Mocked, Beaten, Crucified, and Buried to Make Our Salvation Possible (Mark 15:16-47)

After His betrayal and arrest in the garden (Mark 14:43-50), Jesus was taken before the religious and political leaders (Mark 14:51—15:15). Pontius Pilate was a Roman prefect (governor) of Judea from AD 26-36 and was a harsh ruler who despised the Jews. Although Pilate typically lived and ruled in Caesarea, 35 miles from Jerusalem, he resided in Jerusalem during festivals and holidays. Being the time of Passover, Pilate was nearby and available to hear the case of the Jewish Leaders vs. Jesus.

Pilate, at the will of the people, had Jesus scourged and given over to the Romans to be crucified (15:15). First, He was mocked and beaten by the soldiers (verses 16-19), an experience similar to that suffered at the hands of the high priest (14:65). The cohort or battalion referred to one-tenth of a Roman legion, which was made up of approximately 600-1,000 men. Jesus was then led out to be crucified (verse 20).

This entire scene was intended to be one of ridicule and humiliation as they clothed Jesus in a purple cloak, the color of royalty, and placed a crown of thorns on His head. This crown likely consisted of small branches broken off of thorny plants and woven together, containing thorns that were long and sharp, intended to create a festering wound (verses 17-18).

Along with the humiliation, Jesus experienced abuse as the soldiers struck Him over the head repeatedly with a reed or staff, as they spit upon Him, and as they knelt down in fake adoration

of Him. They then led Jesus out for the act of crucifixion proper (verses 19-20).

The Lord was again taunted and reviled in verses 21-32. When a criminal was condemned to death by the Romans in those days, he was expected to carry his own crossbeam to the place of execution (John 19:17). Most scholars believe that because Jesus had already endured such mistreatment, torture, and loss of blood, He was unable to carry His cross all the way to the place of crucifixion (although there is no statement in Scripture that Jesus fell during the procession), so Simon of Cyrene was compelled to do so on the Lord's behalf (verse 21). At this point, the Lord was led to a place called Golgotha, a name that simply meant "a skull." While the exact location of Golgotha is unknown, historians describe the area as a rounded, rocky knoll that resembled the shape of a human skull.

At Golgotha, the place of crucifixion, Jesus was nailed to a cross with a criminal on each side, and His clothing was divided among the soldiers, another incidental event that fulfilled prophecy (Psalm 22:18). In order to add insult to injury and to continue the farce, an inscription declaring Jesus to be The King of the Jews was placed above His head (verses 22-26). The repetition of the word mockery or mocked used throughout the crucifixion event, along with the word reviled, indicates the atmosphere surrounding the Lord's death (verses 27-32).

After three hours on the cross, darkness came over the land and lasted for three more hours (verse 33; compare with verse 25).

While scholars give various possible explanations for this darkness, we are simply not told exactly how it came about.

What is certain is that the darkness was significant and that it pictured God's wrath and judgment upon sin.

Jesus, who for the first time in all of eternity had been separated from the Father because of our sin, cried out to ask why the Father had forsaken Him (verse 34). This cry was both a fulfillment of Psalm 22:1 and a cry of mourning as a result of abandonment by the Father in Heaven. Jesus had taken on the guilt of our sins, which He bore on the cross, prohibiting the Father from even looking with approval upon His Son. Jesus then took His last breath and gave up His spirit (verse 37).

At that moment the thick curtain in the Temple separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place tore from top to bottom (verse 38). The passive verb and the direction of the tear both indicated that this was an action performed by an “outside” force, by God Himself. This tearing of the curtain signified that, through Christ’s death on the cross, the barrier of sin that separated us from God had been removed. We can come into God’s presence covered by the blood of Jesus.

The crucifixion events, especially His last cry before breathing His last breath, caused the centurion (non-Jew) to declare that Jesus surely was the Son of God (verse 39). This centurion was likely the Roman officer in charge of the execution squad, and although these words do not necessarily mean that he became a believer that day, his confession stood in stark contrast to the other officials who were participating in Jesus' crucifixion. Some of the women who followed and served Christ were looking on as these events unfolded (verses 40-41). A few of them would soon play a role in sharing the news of His resurrection.

When evening came, Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Jewish ruling counsel and a follower of Jesus, went to Pilate and asked to take down the dead body of Jesus and bury Him (verse 42). At this point, Pilate was surprised to hear that Jesus had already died. Often, a crucifixion could last for several days, but Jesus was dead within six hours. Pilate contacted the centurion,

a trusted source and an expert in crucifixion, to verify the report (verses 44-45). Being assured of Jesus' death, Pilate granted Joseph's request and Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in a linen shroud and laid Him in a tomb, rolling a large stone against the opening (verse 46).

In verse 47, Mark spoke of the fact that two of the women who witnessed the crucifixion (Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus) also saw where Jesus was buried. There would be no mistake made by going to the wrong tomb on Resurrection morning!

In summary, Jesus endured awful emotional and physical pain to pay the penalty for our sins. Many of the details of these events fulfilled Old Testament prophecy (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53) and Christ's own words (Matthew 16:21; Luke 9:21-22; 18:31-34), proving that the suffering Jesus endured was necessary.

Explore:

Jesus Was Raised From the Dead to Guarantee Our Salvation (Mark 16:1-8)

Early in the morning after the Sabbath ended, the women came to the tomb intending to anoint Jesus' body for burial (verse 1). There had not been time to complete the ceremonial anointing when Jesus was taken down off the cross shortly before the Sabbath began. Consider the traditional timeline: Jesus died and was buried before sunset on Friday. The Sabbath that followed extended from sunset on Friday until sunset on Saturday. After that, the women bought the spices needed to anoint the body of Jesus. Early the next morning (Sunday) they started for the tomb (verse 2).

On the way to the tomb, the concern was how they could possibly get into the tomb with such a large stone rolled against the opening (verse 3). These women were evidently not aware of the official sealing of the tomb and the posting of a guard there

as recorded in Matthew's gospel (Matthew 27:62-66), a fact that would have made it virtually impossible for anyone to get near the tomb, much less to enter it.

Upon arrival at the tomb, the women found the stone rolled away from the entrance (verse 4). Mark emphasized the fact that the stone was large, making it visible from a distance, but again indicating the impossibility of a small group of women's moving it. Upon entering the tomb, they were greeted by a young man who announced that Jesus was not there. He had risen! The messenger instructed them to go tell Jesus' disciples what they had found (verses 5-7). Considering the unique circumstances around this event—the revelatory message and the vivid description—Mark viewed the young man as an angelic messenger. This idea is further verified by the white robe he was wearing and the fact that they were alarmed when they saw him.

The Lord's resurrection could be empirically verified. But it was much more than a fact in history. It proved He was truly God's Son and that death had been conquered for Jesus and for all who believe in Him.

One of the most intriguing results of the Resurrection is the life change affected in Jesus' followers. These men, cowardly and timid during the trial and crucifixion, became bold and courageous after the Resurrection. If that happened for these early disciples, the same should happen for us. When we truly understand the power of the Resurrection, it will change our lives. There will be a boldness and courage that can only be explained as one comprehends the Resurrection and its effects.

Explore:

Jesus suffered, died, and rose again to bring us salvation. God offers salvation and forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ.

Explore:

There has been much debate and speculation over the years regarding Jesus' resurrection. In spite of all the skepticism, however, there is much in the Scriptures to affirm the truth of the resurrection. Consider the following examples:

- Matthew 27:62-66. Strict orders were given regarding the tomb of Jesus. It was guarded by a Roman guard unit and was sealed in such a way that anyone guilty of breaking the seal could be put to death. It would have been virtually impossible for a person or group of people to remove the body without being noticed.
- Acts 5:27-33. The same men that just days before were afraid to even admit knowing Jesus were now willing to put their lives at risk.

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-6. More than 500 people saw the resurrected Christ, many of whom were still alive at the time of Paul's writing of this epistle and could verify the account.

Explore:

Christianity is about more than going to church and living a good moral life. Being a Christian is about having a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Every Sunday School teacher or Bible study leader should want to see each of his or her learners enter into this relationship—their eternal destiny depends on it. As you work toward this goal, keep the following in mind:

Following Christ is about more than a mere decision; it is about a lifelong relationship. Jesus called us to make disciples, not mere decision-makers. Aim for long-term faith, not momentary

emotion.

Salvation is a matter of grace, not works. Our works do not save us (Ephesians 2:8-9), nor do they keep us (Galatians 3:2-6).

Good works are a product of salvation, not a prerequisite to it.

Don't confuse sanctification with salvation. Holiness follows salvation; it doesn't precede it. Don't try to impose "Christian" expectations on men and women who don't know Christ.

- Keep it simple. Being born again is not complicated. Here's a simple way to explain it:

- Acknowledge your sinfulness and your need for a Savior (Romans 3:10, 23).

- Trust in Christ's sacrifice for your sins and in His resurrection (Romans 10:9-10).

Surrender your life to God's transforming power (Romans 12:1-2).

Most of all, remember that your job is to tell the truth in a way others can understand, answer their questions, and give them an opportunity to respond. If you do that faithfully, some will respond and join the band of Christ-followers. When they do, Heaven will rejoice!

Question 1 of 5

What did Jesus look like, such as height and features?

Question 2 of 5

How is Jesus's kingdom different from earthly kingdoms?

Question 3 of 5

How would you explain that Jesus is the prophesied king in the Old Testament?

Question 4 of 5

Why do most people not want Jesus to be the actual King of their lives?

Question 5 of 5

Is faith in Jesus dependent on acceptance without evidence?

Why or why not?