



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

What Kind of King is this? November 24, 2019

Colossians 1:13-20

13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by 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.

1. Did you ever daydream as a kid about being king? What were the things you would've done with all your power as king?
2. Now that you're older and you've experienced what it's like to have sinful human beings that govern our land, what are the most important qualities of a leader, ruler, or king?

No one enjoys having to suffer through the impeachment proceedings that are going on right now. It's hard to know who's lying and who you can trust. What a contrast there is between the sinful rulers of the Old Testament, the rulers we have today, and between Christ our Magnificent King.

3. Like Simba wandering off to the elephant graveyard, for what reasons are we constantly drawn to the "dominion of darkness"?

That's the kingdom into which we were born as sinners. There's something about the kingdom of darkness that appeals to our nature- sin. Our "Old Adam" craves sin, whatever vice it may be, secret or public. The things that lie in darkness always beckon to us, promising what they can't deliver, and when we stumble into the darkness, we can't find our own way out. We truly need a Savior!

4. Compare Colossians 1:15-17 with John 1:1-5, Hebrews 1:1-4. How do these sections paint a picture of Jesus, the image of the invisible God?

John 1:1-5 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. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^[a] it.

Hebrews 1:1-4 1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. 4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

5. Compare Colossians 1:18 with Ephesians 1:19-23. Why is the resurrection such a crucial part of Christ's kingship over all things?

That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

When Christ was raised from the dead, he conquered sin and death forever. He was not the first person ever raised from the dead, but as the firstborn from the dead he is the most prominent one. He rises from the dead all those who believe follow after him. Death had to be conquered, and Christ did that with his own death and resurrection. So he is the firstborn of creation and also from the dead.

6. The job of the Old Testament kings was to govern the people and lead them in fighting the battles. The Old Testament often prophesied about the coming king. See Jeremiah 23:5-6, Micah 5:2, Psalm 2. How does Jesus fulfill all those roles as king?

Jeremiah 23 "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up for David^[a] a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

⁶ In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety.

This is the name by which he will be called:
The Lord Our Righteous Savior.

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans^[b] of Judah, out of you will come for me

one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Psalm 2 Why do the nations conspire^[a] and the peoples plot in vain?

² The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together

against the Lord and against his anointed, saying,

³ "Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles."

⁴ The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

⁵ He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,

⁶ "I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain."

⁷ I will proclaim the Lord's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father.

⁸ Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

⁹ You will break them with a rod of iron^[b]; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

¹⁰ Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.

¹¹ Serve the Lord with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling.

¹² Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Jesus was the descendant of David, the righteous Branch, born in Bethlehem. He is the one who brings spiritual safety. He rules a kingdom not of this world, the kingdom of heaven. He fought the battle against sin, death, and the devil, for us and rose from the dead.

7. Agree or Disagree: When Jesus died on the cross, God died.

Jesus was fully God and fully man in one person-the God-man. People might answer things like, "Well only his human nature died." The natures of Jesus cannot be divided. When he dies on the cross, we can truly say God died. Yet we also recognize that the Father and the Holy Spirit are distinct persons. They did not die on the cross. So at the same time God died, God was still alive. That's one of those mysteries of the Trinity we just can't comprehend.