

Christ Rules Over His Kingdom Today

INTRODUCTION:

1. At this time of year, we hear a lot of songs that talk of how “Christ is born in Bethlehem” and “the herald Angels sing, Glory to the **newborn King**” or of that “O holy night, ... the night of our dear Savior’s birth” and how “the **King of kings** lay thus in lowly manger.”
2. Yet for the world, even the religious world that claims to believe these words, most think that the Messiah’s birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension to the Father have yet to produce His kingdom or kingship/rule that were prophesied in connection with His birth.
 - A. This view is unfortunate because it stands in contradiction to N.T. teaching—teaching that clearly shows Christ to be king now, that He sits on heaven’s throne and rules over His established kingdom, which is the **world**, and includes the **church**.
 - B. For, the Old and New Testaments clearly teach that the coming of the Messiah and salvation into the world are directly connected to the establishment of Christ’s kingdom and rulership as king.
- 3. So, what I want to do is to talk about how Christ rules over His kingdom today.
4. To do that I want to consider a few O.T. prophecies of the kingdom and look at their fulfillment as spelled out for us in the N.T. in hopes of having a greater appreciation for the position of Christ in this world and in our lives.

BODY:

- **I. The promise of the Messiah and His kingdom:**
 - A. God prophesied He would **establish David’s house, kingdom, and throne forever** (2 Sam. 7:11b-13, 16 – “...The LORD also declares to you [David] that the LORD will make a house for you. ¹² When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever... ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”)!
 - 1. Though David was not allowed to build a house/temple for God, his descendant would.
 - 2. God would instead build David a house, establishing his house, kingdom, and throne forever!
 - B. God promised to establish David’s “forever” house/kingdom/throne **through the Messiah** (Isa. 9:2-3, 6-7 – “The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them. ³ You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness; They will be glad in Your presence as with the gladness of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil... ⁶ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.”).
 - 1. The nations would have **God’s light of salvation** shine on them and be glad in **God’s presence** through the **Messiah**.
 - 2. This would happen through a child, a son given us, one called Mighty God, upon whose shoulders God’s government/rule/dominion would rest and always increase.
 - 3. This government is the very throne and kingdom of David, which is established forever!
 - C. God prophesied that the Messiah’s kingdom **would be established in the last days** (Isa. 2:2-4 – “Now it will come about that **in the last days** the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. ³ And many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.”).

- 1. The *time* was *the last days* in which the mountain [i.e., power, dominion, rule] of the house of the Lord, the house God promised David He would build him, would be established as the chief [supreme, most powerful] of the mountains.
- 2. This kingdom would be entered by choice, not coercion.
- 3. Being a worldwide kingdom, **all nations shall stream into it**, and **God's law and word** would go forth into the world from Zion and Jerusalem, and the Lord would **judge between the nations** as their king [has authority], and will bring an end to war between them.
- 4. Many mistakenly see this verse as teaching that when Christ establishes His kingdom He will return to earth and physically defeat the nations, ending war, etc., but that is a false view (John 18:36-37 – “Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, **My kingdom is not of this realm.**”³⁷ Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that **I am a king**. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the **truth**. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”).
 - a. Rather than a physical rule on earth, Jesus' kingship involved the revelation of truth, the gospel of salvation, and people choosing to submit to it.
 - b. You may question this but there is more to consider.
- D. God revealed to Daniel that David's forever throne/kingdom would be ruled by the Christ **in heaven**, not on the earth (Dan. 7:13-14 – ESV – “I **saw** in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came **one like a son of man**, and **he came to the Ancient of Days** and **was presented before him**.¹⁴ And to him was **given dominion and glory and a kingdom**, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; **his dominion is an everlasting** dominion, which shall **not pass away**, and **his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.**”).
 - 1. That this involved “one like the son of man” indicates this is Jesus, who described himself or is called “the son of man” some 81 times in the gospels.
 - 2. Also note that this vision concerns what **takes place in heaven**.
 - a. For, the son of man “**came up to the ancient of days,**” or **to the Father**, as Jesus said He would do (Jn. 12:28), “**and was presented before Him.**”
 - b. When presented before the Ancient of Days, the Father in heaven, Christ was given everlasting dominion, glory, and an indestructible kingdom, which fits directly with Jesus' words in John 18:36-37 concerning his kingdom not being of this realm.
- E. So, what we have learned from O.T. prophecy is that God promised to establish:
 - 1. David's throne **forever**.
 - 2. David's throne forever **through the Messiah**.
 - 3. David's throne forever through the Messiah **in the last days**.
 - 4. David's throne forever through the Messiah in the last days **in heaven**.
- **II. N.T. fulfillment:**
 - A. The kingdom and the birth of Jesus:
 - 1. The angel told Joseph that the birth of Jesus would bring salvation by God becoming flesh (Matt. 1:20-23 – “But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.²¹ She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”²² Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.”).
 - a. Mary was with child by the **Holy Spirit** for the purpose of our **salvation** from sin.
 - b. Being a child of the Holy Spirit, He would be called Immanuel, or “God with us,” **fulfilling Isaiah 9** promise of a child being born called “Mighty God.”
 - 2. The angel Gabriel tells Mary that Jesus's birth meant the fulfillment of David's kingdom being established forever (Luke 1:26-33 – “Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was

sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the **descendants of David**; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and **bear a son**, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the **Son of the Most High**; and the Lord God will **give Him the throne of His father David**; ³³ and **He will reign** over the house of Jacob **forever**, and **His kingdom will have no end**."").

- a. Jesus' birth would be the fulfillment of Isaiah 9 concerning a son being given us, a child born to us, one called Mighty God.
- b. Jesus' birth would fulfill God's promise in 2 Samuel 7 to establish David's house/throne/reign/kingdom forever, which is also mentioned in Daniel 9.
- B. The kingdom and Jesus' message:
 - 1. From the beginning of His ministry Jesus preached that the *time* of the coming of the kingdom was *fulfilled* (Mark 1:14-15 – "Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "**The time is fulfilled**, and the **kingdom of God is at hand**; repent and believe in the gospel."").
 - a. Note the connection between the kingdom and salvation by the gospel.
 - 2. He also gave specifics concerning the time of its coming (Mk. 9:1 – "And Jesus was saying to them, "Truly I say to you, there are some of **those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power**."")!
 - 3. Jesus taught that His ability to cast out demons, members of Satan's kingdom, meant the power of God's kingdom over Satan's was upon them (Mt. 12:28-29 – "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house."").
 - 4. The Lord said the 1) time of the coming Kingdom was **fulfilled** and, therefore, at hand/near, 2) that some alive at that time would see the kingdom come with power, and 3) because He could cast out demons shows God's kingdom and power over Satan was already before them.
 - 5. Either Jesus' kingdom has been established, and He rules now, or He is a false prophet.
- C. The kingdom and the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).
 - 1. Pentecost showed that the *last days* prophesied of in the O.T. had come.
 - a. For, when the apostle were filled with the Spirit, had tongue of fire on their heads, and spoke in tongues, Peter said this signaled the coming of *last days* spoken of by Joel (Acts 2:14-17 – "But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. ¹⁵ For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day; ¹⁶ **but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel**: ¹⁷ 'And it shall be in **the last days**,' God says, 'that I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind...").
 - b. Thus, the **last days**, that last great time of God's working among men, the time when God promised to establish his kingdom/mountain above all others, had come (Isa. 2).
 - c. This is confirmed by the Hebrew writer (Heb. 1:1-2 – "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² **in these last days** has spoken to us **in His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world."").
 - 2. It was also preached at Pentecost that being the last days God had also fulfilled the promise/oath made to David to establish his throne forever (Acts 2:29-36 – "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ And so, because he was a prophet and knew that **God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne**, ³¹ he looked

ahead and **spoke of the resurrection of the Christ**, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh suffer decay.³² This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.³³ Therefore having been **exalted to the right hand of God**, and having **received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit**, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.³⁴ For it was **not David who ascended into heaven**, but he himself says: ‘**The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”**’³⁵ Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that **God has made Him both Lord and Christ**—this Jesus whom you crucified.”).

- a. David’s prophecy about one whose soul was not left in Hades nor his flesh corrupted concerned the **resurrection of the Christ** and the **establishment of His throne** (2 Sam. 7).
- b. So, by Christ’s resurrection, ascension into heaven, and being “**exalted to the right hand of God**,” Jesus received the promise of the Spirit concerning Him fulfilling God’s promise to establish David’s house/kingdom/throne **forever in Heaven** (Dan. 9).
- c. Thus, Jesus is now Lord (kurios – sovereign, supreme in authority) and Christ (2:36).
- D. Jesus rules the world on His eternal throne in heaven today (Eph. 1:18-23 – “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the **working of the strength of His might**²⁰ which He **brought about in Christ**, when He **raised Him from the dead** and **seated Him at His right hand** in the **heavenly places**,²¹ **far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name** that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.²² And He **put all things in subjection under His feet**, and **gave Him as head over all things to the church**,²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”).
- 1. So, our hope and glory today are centered in Christ sitting on God’s throne at God’s right hand, far above all rule, authority, power, dominion, and ever name (which would include being above and having power over Satan).
- 2. When God seated Christ at this right hand, God **put all things in subjection under Christ’s feet**, including the church. Thus, Jesus rules all things—the world, Satan, church!
- E. Thus, as the redeemed in Christ, we...
 - 1. Are in Christ’s kingdom (Col. 1:13-14 – “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”).
 - 2. Benefit from Christ’s control over Satan (1 Cor. 10:13 – “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who **will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able**, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”).
 - 3. Can resist the devil’s power (Eph. 6:10-11 – “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”).
 - 4. Despite Satan/devil being called the “god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4), Christ rules Him and the world. And, He is patient now in hopes all will repent and be saved (2 Pet. 3:9)

CONCLUSION:

1. So, Christ’s kingdom and rule over the world is not something just to be sung about a Christmas, but the reality that exists today—a reality that puts us on the side of victory over the world and Satan.
2. Thus, Christ’s kingship now is something that calls for our praise and total submission to Christ. He is king right now. And one day every knee will bow, one way or the other (Phil. 2:9-10).
3. Don’t you want to be part of this kingdom ruled by a loving and sympathetic Savior and High Priest, Jesus Christ, a kingdom that offers eternal salvation? If so, will you come to Him in F-R-C-Bp?