

**Date** : 22 December 2024

**Theme** : Kingship of Jesus

**Topic** : The King is coming

**Passage** : Matthew 2:1-11

**Key Verse** : ***“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:2***

## Introduction

The Magi from the east asked, 'Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship Him' (*Matthew 2:2*). This question, made centuries ago, marks the arrival of the long-awaited King. But who is this King? The prophet Micah, hundreds of years earlier, had announced His coming stating that He is the Eternal One, with no beginning and no end. He was there at the beginning, as the Word who became flesh (*John 1:1-14*). That He would be called the King of the Jews because He would take on the lineage of Judah.

As we reflect on the majesty and glory of our King, we are compelled to ask: What are we to do about it? How should we respond to the revelation of Jesus Christ as our King? Should we, like the Magi, worship Him and bring gifts to Him? Herod chose to eliminate Him. Let us explore the significance of Jesus' Kingship and discover how we can respond in worship, obedience, and devotion just as the wise men from the east did.

## 1. Kingship of Jesus

### a) Jesus is the Creator God (*Genesis 1:1-2*)

The Creator is also Owner of all created beings and things.

- The Owner is King because the earth and its fulness are His. (*Psalms 24:1*)

- He is the Sovereign and Supreme Ruler
  - A King must have authority. Jesus alone has ALL authority in heaven and on earth. This places Him as the highest authority. He has authority over all creation and rules with divine authority
  - He is all knowing and all powerful, and comes under no other.
- Jesus pre-existed and He is Eternal
  - He was there before the beginning (*John 1:1-3*).
  - For Him to start the beginning, He had to exist before all things are created.
  - His Kingship lasts forever, and *“His kingdom will never end.”* (*Luke 1:33*)

### b) Jesus came to earth from heaven

- The 'newborn' King is of royal lineage in the line of King David (*John 7:42*).
  - *Matthew 1:1-17* traces His legal lineage from Abraham to King David to Joseph, and *Luke 3:23-38* lays down His biological lineage from Adam to King David to Mary.
- On that 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas day - Jesus took upon His human form.
  - He shall be called Immanuel – God with us! (*Isaiah 7:14*).
  - His identity was verified: Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed Ruler or King of the Jews who brings salvation. [*Messiah (Mashiach in Hebrew) means God-anointed Ruler or King*].

- When the Magi enquired where they could find the King of the Jews, Herod called the scribes and “asked them where the Messiah was to be born.” (Matthew 2:4). They quoted from scriptures as to where the Messiah would be “born”.

- It was also the title given to Him at the crucifixion.

“Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.” (Matthew 27:37)

• Jesus came to be our Lord and Saviour

“...He is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2:11) – the Saviour God.

- He came to restore His Lordship over our lives as the Saviour God.

- He gives us eternal life through His death on a cross (John 17:3-6).

[We are justified freely by grace and declared righteous through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus redeemed us from slavery to sin by paying the full price for our redemption. His death on the Cross satisfies God’s wrath against sin (Propitiation).]

c) With such evidences of the King’s 1<sup>st</sup> coming, why didn’t the Pharisees recognise Him?

• Misconceptions about the Messiah

- They did not grasp Jesus’ divine nature and mission, expecting instead someone in the glorious attire, not a lowly Servant.

- The Lord said they knew not the scriptures.

## 2. What is the significance of Jesus’ coming?

a) At His 1<sup>st</sup> coming:

Jesus made a huge sacrifice in order to come into the world as King.

- His sacrifice in coming from heaven to be born as a human is the ultimate act of love, demonstrating God’s willingness to go to the extreme to reconcile humanity to Himself.

• The King made a huge sacrifice to redeem His people.

- He left behind His divine glory and the majesty of heaven to take on human form and experienced human emotions (joy, sorrow, anger, rejection) and was tempted in every way; yet remained sinless.

- He suffered and died on the cross, bearing the weight of humanity’s sins.

- He suffered separation from God the Father. (Matthew 27:46)

• The Good News

- After His death on the cross, Jesus rose again to be the first of the resurrection and the life and as a result, we rest our hope in Him: “The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die;<sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die.” (John 11:25-26)

b) His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming:

Jesus declares He is coming again. (Revelations 22:7,12)

- In His first coming, He came as the lowly Servant King. At His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, He will come with great glory. Jesus returns as the mighty warrior King, and the righteous Judge.

- Jesus is coming again as the King of Glory.
- The King “*will sit on His throne in heavenly glory*”. (*Matthew 25:31*)
  - This emphasises His majesty (for only a King sits on the throne) and He is surrounded by “all the angels”.
- His name is King of kings and Lord of lords.
  - In *Revelation 22:13*, Jesus declares Himself as the Great I AM – the title for the King of Glory: “*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.*” (*Revelation 22:13*)
  - He will judge the nations (*Revelations 19:11,15*), and establish His reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. (*Revelations 19:16*)
- Jesus has the power and authority to be the Highest Judge.
  - For the Father “*has entrusted all judgment to the Son*” (*John 5:22*).
  - He has the authority over all in heaven and earth (*Matthew 28:18*).
    - God raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, and “*God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything*”. (*Ephesians 1:20-22*)
    - He will judge believers’ works after salvation to determine rewards or loss of reward (*1 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Corinthians 5:10*).

### 3. How should we prepare for His coming again?

#### a) Who will the King be looking for at His return?

- Those who have received Him as Lord and Saviour (*John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10*).
  - If you’ve yet to receive Him as Lord and Saviour, how wonderful a Gift to receive Him this Christmastime.
- Those whose hearts are prepared to meet Him (*2 Peter 3:14*)
  - They have lived according to His teachings and commandments.
  - They are His faithful servants. (*1 Thessalonians 5:8-10; Matthew 25:21*).
  - They have obeyed His commands and lived according to His will (*Matthew 7:21*).
  - They are good stewards (*Matthew 25:14-30*).

#### b) How then should we respond to Jesus ‘here and now’?

- Crown Him as King in our life by doing the following:

#### **C** – Cultivate a heart of worship and watchfulness.

This means being fully present, attentive, and sincere in our worship. It involves

- (i) Being mindful of God’s presence and majesty, and rendering our worship of Him with praises and adoration. With a sense of awe, we revere His Majesty with humility
  - Like the Magi who fell on bended knees and offered precious gifts (*vs 11*), we worship God with reverence and humility, and offer gifts of the heart (by sacrificially offering our time, talents and resources for God purpose) which demonstrate our love for Him and His people. This is a spiritual act of worship – offering ourselves as living sacrifices (*Romans 12:1*). We Surrender our thoughts, emotions, and will to Him.

(ii) Focusing on His character, (He is full of grace and mercy), we express our heartfelt gratitude and thanksgiving.

- Like the woman with the alabaster jar who anointed Jesus' feet with expensive perfume (*Matthew 26:6-13*). She demonstrated extravagant love, humility, and devotion pouring her heart and resource in worship.

**R** – Renewing our mind to focus on eternal values and priorities.

- Concentrate on doing things that count for eternity
  - “*Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things*” (*Colossians 3:2*)
- In so doing, we cultivate a heavenly perspective on life challenges and circumstances and live life in submission to the will of God.

**O** – Obedience to the Word and enthrone Him as King.

- By obeying His commands, we are worshipping God through our obedience.
- We submit to His Lordship by placing Christ at the ‘throne seat of our heart’. It is an act of surrendering self to Him as a living sacrifice - this is pleasing to God for it is an act of our spiritual worship (*Romans 12:1*).
- Remove obstacles that would prevent us from putting Him first.  
eg the pride of life; love of materialistic things; having self to rule our heart rather than having King Jesus at the ‘throne of our heart’.

**W** – Witness to others.

- This is an aspect of our worship of God. When we share the gospel, we’re proclaiming God’s glory, majesty and love to others. We declare His love and we also declare our love for Him. When we share the Good News, we touch the heart of the Saviour God for He desires that none should perish.

**N** – Nurture our covenant relationship with the Lord.

- Deepening our personal relationship with Jesus.
  - through regular and heartfelt prayer – worshipping Him in spirit and in truth.
  - it requires setting aside dedicated time for prayer, listening and communion with Him.
- Being engaged in regular worship and praise – privately, with accountability prayer partners, and corporately as a body in Christ.  
Note: An accountability prayer partner can be our spouse, mentor, or trusted friend with whom there can be support, encouragement and accountability in our spiritual journey.

## Application

As we celebrate Christmas, remember that God gave what none could give: “*The Gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” (*Romans 6:23*). Jesus came to the world to save us. He gave His life as a sacrifice to redeem us. His blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. He died on the cross in our place so that we might live. All who believe in Jesus and accept Him as Saviour and Lord receive salvation, and will not perish but have eternal life (*John 3:16*). Will you pray to receive Jesus today?

1. I have just prayed to receive Jesus as my personal Saviour and Lord.

2. I have now placed Jesus at the seat of my heart throne. He is King in my life.  
[“Lord Jesus, take the throne seat of my heart”]. I will worship Jesus as King of my life.