

King of the Jews

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Mark 15:1 And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. ² And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” ³ And the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ And Pilate again asked him, “Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.” ⁵ But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

⁶ Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked.

⁷ And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. ⁸ And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. ⁹ And he answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” ¹⁰ For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead.

¹² And Pilate again said to them, “Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” ¹³ And they cried out again, “Crucify him.” ¹⁴ And Pilate said to them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him.” ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

¹⁶ And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion.

¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

²¹ And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. ²² And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵ And it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶ And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."

²⁷ And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!” ³¹ So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.



**WHERE IS THE ONE WHO HAS BEEN BORN KING
OF THE JEWS? WE SAW HIS STAR IN THE EAST
AND HAVE COME TO WORSHIP HIM.**

King of the Jews

“Are you the King of the Jews?”

“Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”

“Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?”

“Hail, King of the Jews!”

The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.”

“Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.”

ישוע דכנוצלח בלכא דיחודיץ

REX IVDAEORVM

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΤΩΝ ΙΟΥΔΑΙΩΝ

King of the Jews

- Jesus' Jewishness
- Jesus' kingship

Jesus the Jew

- Born Jewish, raised Jewish, homeland
- Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth
- Circumcision, synagogue, temple
- Jewish Scriptures, prophecies, hopes
- Jewish rabbi, prophet, Messiah
- Jewish shepherds, apostles, women, early church, mission network
- Gospel is “first for the Jews”

A Jew for Jews

Mary: “He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.” (Luke 1:54-55)

Nathaniel: “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.” (John 1:49)

Did God reject his people? By no means!
(Romans 11:1)

“I am the way... No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

A Jew for Gentiles

“All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.” (Genesis 28:14).

“Salvation is from the Jews.” (John 4:22)

Jesus’ Jewishness matters for Gentiles:

- Relating to Jews: “Whoever touches you touches the apple of my eye.” (Zech 2:8)
- Relating to God
- Continuity of history
- Unity and value of both Testaments

King of the Jews

- Jesus' Jewishness
- Jesus' kingship

Kingdom comes near

Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” (Mark 1:14-15)

“If it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” (Luke 11:20)

Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. (John 6:15)



David and Solomon

- Victory over foreign powers
- Building God's temple



Judah The Hammer

- Led three-year campaign against foreign occupation
- Cleansed temple in 164 B.C.
- Still celebrated at Hanukkah



Herod The Great

- Declared King of Judea in 40 B.C.
- Led three year campaign against Parthian invaders
- Rebuilt the temple and dedicated it

Is Herod the desired ruler?

Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great, ruled during Jesus' ministry. Antipas's symbol was a reed that grows beside the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. (Matthew 11:7-9)

Supreme King and Son of God

Augustus Tiberius
Caesar, son of the
Divine Augustus.

Chief Priest
(Pontifex Maximus)



Accused of treason

They began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.” (Luke 23:2)

Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.” (John 19:12)

Different kind of kingship

“The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.” (Luke 17:20-21)

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” (John 18:36)

Different kind of kingship

- Jesus' main battle is not against Rome but against sin, death, and Satan.
- God is becoming king on earth as in heaven through Jesus.
- His kingship is active now in forgiving, healing, and transforming, not in forcing his reign upon people.
- When King Jesus comes again, he will come in glory and power.

Three figures predicted by the prophets

- A king, the Messiah, Son of David, will defeat enemies and rule wisely and well.
- Yahweh, the Lord himself, will come as ruler and shepherd of Israel.
- A humble, unimpressive servant will suffer rejection, torture, and death for sins that others have committed.

Nobody imagined that the king, the Lord, and the servant could be the same person.

King and Lord

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. 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.” (Jeremiah 23:5-7)

Arm of the Lord: Ruling king, suffering servant

The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God... Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed... He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering... He was pierced for our transgressions (Isaiah 52-53).

A ridiculous king?

- Pilate thinks Jesus has no power.
- Herod and his soldiers mock the king.
- Pilate's soldier's mock the king.
- The crowds and priests mock the king.
- The king dies in disgrace
- Is there anyone who doesn't think it's ridiculous to call Jesus king?

Sins may be wiped out

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed... Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. (Acts 3:13-20)