



January 4, 2026

K.N.O.W. Series: KING

Acts 5:30–32 (ESV) 30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Which came first, the resurrection of Jesus, or the written accounts that document the resurrection of Jesus? Well that’s easy: The resurrection.

- Documents of history don’t create an event. Neither do they sustain an event.
- Our New Testament, the Christian scriptures that record for us the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They document the birth of the church, and why it was birthed.
- The first believers believed and followed Jesus because *they saw* a resurrected Jesus with their own eyes, *and touched* a resurrected Jesus with their own hands.
- The documents that were written to describe all that are helpful and super important to us, they ground us in what to believe, but *but they are not why we believe... or the reason we follow.*
- It was the event itself, not the record of the event, that birthed the church.
- *“The Bible did not create Christianity, Christianity created the Bible.”*

- In the beginning Christians were killed at every turn so that Christianity would be stamped out, but less than 300 years later, Christians would run the very empire that carried out the genocide in the beginning. A complete reversal.
- *What caused this reversal?* There was an **event**, an historical happening, that changed everything. The resurrection of a man named Jesus.

We can **KNOW** this man named Jesus.

- What would the message about Jesus be if, like the first believers, we didn't have a book we called "*The Bible*?"
- *If no one had ever taken the time to write down what happened, it still wouldn't change what happened.*
- We have examples of what was shared about Jesus before anything was written about Jesus.
- KNOW will be an Acronym. Each letter will stand for a part of the essential message that was preached about Jesus:

King: Every message about Jesus declares that he was chosen, sent and exalted by God himself.

Nailed: Every message makes clear that Jesus was nailed to a Roman cross, where he was hung until he died, then he was buried in a tomb.

Overcame/Offers: Every message proclaims that Jesus didn't stay in the grave, but that he rose again to life. Every message offers this victory over death to everyone who will trust in Jesus.

Worship: Every time people tell about Jesus, without fail, there is also a call to action. The call is to accept, and worship, Jesus as Lord and Savior, and live a life devoted to him.

See if you can isolate the first bullet point we just talked about: **King**.

Acts 2:22 (ESV) 22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—

Acts 3:13 (ESV) 13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.

Acts 3:15 (ESV) 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

Acts 3:20 (ESV) 20 and that he may send the Christ, appointed for you—Jesus.

Acts 5:31 (ESV) 31 God exalted him at his own right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 10:37–38 (ESV) 37 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Acts 10:42 (ESV) 42 And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.

Acts 13:23 (ESV) 23 Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.

Acts 17:31 (ESV) 31 because he (God) has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Did you see it? It's an idea in every message about Jesus.

- God chose/anointed Jesus, God sent/commissioned/appointed Jesus, God exalted/glorified Jesus to the point that he gets to judge everyone and call the shots. That's the idea.
- We'll just say it this way: **God made Jesus King**. He is the prince, the author of life, the judge, the appointed and anointed
- And that's how the first believers introduced Jesus to people. They made clear, when they told the story of Jesus, that Jesus was the KING, sent and commissioned by God himself.
- **KING is about credibility**. As the first believers talked about Jesus, they first had to establish that he was someone worth paying attention to.
- The story of Jesus absolutely deserves a hearing by every person on the planet.
- If someone says, why should I care about Jesus? What make him so special? These reasons are your way to answer. They're the big ones.

Why this KING?

His birth...is unlike any other birth in history.

His death...not just the way he died, but what happened after...he didn't stay dead!

His miracles...Jesus did things that can't be explained by natural explanations.

His friends...Jesus' friends actually affirmed that he was the Son of God.

His enemies...even his enemies believed that he was who he said he was. The Son of God

Two more incredibly compelling ideas we can throw out to establish the credibility of the greatest King:

His command.

- Kings command. That's what they do.
- Jesus is a King. So what did Jesus command? **It's this: to love.**
- James says: The Royal law is to love your neighbor as you would yourself. (James 2)
- Jesus himself says: The Royal law is to love one another and by this all men will know that you are my disciples. (John 13)
- Paul says: The Royal law replaces every other law that has ever been laid down with one word: love. (Galatians 5)
- John says: the Royal law might seem new, but it's as old as time...we've heard it from the beginning, that we should love one another. (1 John 3).
- The King who laid down the Royal law didn't just command it, **he lived it.** *"In this is love"* John writes, *"not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a propitiation....it means he died in our place to take away our sins."* (1 John 4)
- The first believers weren't just dispensing advice on how to live, they were giving a gospel, the good news, about what had been done in history for us.
- Jesus, the KING of heaven, has come to earth and lived and died in such a way that the way to God has been earned for you. He lived his command to love.
- The story of Jesus is *good, joyful, life-changing news.*
- Here's the question to ask people when they question why Jesus should matter to them: ***What other King has died for you, so that you could be free?*** That's why you need to listen to this King.

Our hope.

- Jesus is the King we're all hoping for.
- Chapter 3 of Acts says this King who is the author of life, will come again one day, at the time God wants, ***and will restore everything.*** (3:20-21)
- God, through King Jesus, will put everything back into order. Every wrong will be righted. All the brokenness will be fixed. And that's what we all long for.
- Every corner of our hearts wants a King who will come back and put everything right, who will renew and restore and realign the world to the way it always should have been.
- Jesus is that true King. He left everything in heaven for us, to come and make it all right again.
- He stretched his arms out on a cross, erasing our sin, so that God could embrace us with his.
- Jesus is the King we're all hoping for.

If there was no book called "the Bible," that would still be way the message starts. Over the next weeks we'll see the rest of that message, but the question today is, have you made Jesus your King?

- There's no in between. He can't just be a good guy, or a wise teacher.
- Either He is King. He is Lord. Or he's not. And if he is King, then your whole life has to revolve around him.
- Is that scary? Yes! Because as the children in Narnia learned, Aslan isn't safe. He's never safe. He'll lead you where you never thought you'd have to go.
- But he's good. Jesus is a good King, that loves you.