

THE KING OF THE JEWS  
UNIT 27 • SESSION 4

# THE CONQUERING KING

DOCTRINE SESSION

MAIN POINT

**Jesus is King, ruling over all of creation and guiding and directing His people, the church.**



## ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE **CHRIST AS KING**

God has always been King over His creation, whether in heaven or on earth. Yet some of His creatures in both realms have rebelled against Him, leaving destruction in their wake. To restore His broken world, God promised a King who would deliver His people and restore all of creation. The promise of a coming King finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ and looks forward to its perfection when Jesus returns for His bride, the church.

## ESSENTIAL **CONNECTION**

In this unit, we studied Christ's crucifixion and the miraculous resurrection. Only the Son of God had authority over His own death, even offering forgiveness to those who persecuted Him. And only Christ could be raised by God to give us the gift of eternal life. He is the King of kings, who is worthy of our praise.

## SCRIPTURE **READING**

**HEBREWS 1:5-9** • JESUS IS THE ETERNAL KING, RULING THE UNIVERSE

**COLOSSIANS 1:18-20** • JESUS IS THE RESURRECTED KING, DIRECTING THE CHURCH

**REVELATION 22:12-13** • JESUS IS THE RETURNING KING, REWARDING THE FAITHFUL



## DOCTRINE VIDEO

(Videos available for purchase at [gospelproject.com/students](http://gospelproject.com/students))

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Throughout history, there have been good kings and bad kings—really bad kings. We see this over and over in almost every land. Kings and leaders promise to lead the people in fairness and justice, but they wind up making selfish decisions based on corruption. The people look to a king, or any leader, to do what’s best for them. But so many times, kings do the opposite.

The only example of a perfect king is found in Jesus. The author of Hebrews said He “established the earth” (1:10). The heavens are the work of His hands, which means He not only reigns forever, but He also reigns over everything—the sun, the moon, the stars, the planets, the galaxy, the universe, and us.

Here’s the best part: our King is good and fair. He rewards our faithfulness. Our King, unlike every other king in history, didn’t stay dead. Jesus was resurrected, ascended to His throne in heaven, and one day He will return and reward those who are faithful to Him.

### SUMMARY

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- Earthly kings will always disappoint us because they aren’t perfect.
- We can look to Jesus as the One perfect King.
- Our King is good, and He is the head of the church.
- Jesus, the King of kings, shares His inheritance and rewards the faithful.

### WATCH & DISCUSS

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**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER JESUS IS THE ONE TRUE KING?**

**WHY IS IT DANGEROUS TO PUT OUR TRUST IN EARTHLY LEADERS?**

**WHAT DOES IT REVEAL ABOUT JESUS THAT HE WANTS TO SHARE HIS INHERITANCE WITH US? IS THIS LIKE MOST KINGS? EXPLAIN.**



## SCRIPTURE READING

### MAIN POINT

Jesus is King, ruling over all of creation and guiding and directing His people, the church.

### 1. JESUS IS THE ETERNAL KING, RULING THE UNIVERSE

## READ HEBREWS 1:5-9

Many people have a false understanding of angels, elevating them to a higher status than the Bible teaches. Jesus isn't just higher than the angels. He commands them. He rules over them. He existed before them and created them with the Father. The angels bow down in worship to Jesus—along with all creation—acknowledging Him as the King of kings. Jesus sits at the right hand of God, ruling over the entire universe for all eternity.

**WHAT DO YOU USUALLY THINK OF WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD ANGELS? WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TELL YOU ABOUT THEM?**

Our culture has the wrong idea about angels in many ways, and they often show up in music and movies. One of the biggest misunderstandings is that people become angels when they die, acting as guardians over loved ones on earth. Although this might be comforting, we don't find it in Scripture. This passage shows us that angels are beneath Jesus in every way, bowing to Him as the King of kings. Jesus has always existed, but angels are created beings.

**WHEN HAS A LEADER LET YOU DOWN, AND WHY CAN KNOWING JESUS'S THRONE LASTS FOREVER GIVE US COMFORT (SEE V. 8)?**

We look to leaders to guide us, protect us, and care for us. Earthly leaders—even our parents or family members—can't perfectly fulfill this role. There has never been a perfect earthly leader, and this can crush us when someone we look up to lets us down. But Jesus's throne lasts forever—His righteous rule never ends, and He never lets us down. He guides, protects, and cares for us completely, forever.



## ENGAGE OPTION

Place students in pairs and give each pair a sheet of paper and drawing utensils. Ask them to come up with something that symbolizes royalty. Allow each pair to share their drawings.

Then ask them to flip over the paper and draw a symbol that represents Jesus. Invite each pair to share one at a time.

Ask if any of the symbols were the same. Then, explain that Jesus is not the kind of King anyone expected—He is greater than any king we could imagine. He is the true ruler over everything.



## HEBREWS 1:5-9

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**1:5.** “The historical context of Ps 2:7 is a royal psalm about the Hebrew monarchy and reflects a kingly coronation liturgy in the Davidic dynasty. But it is clear that neither Solomon nor any other king in the Davidic line completely fulfilled this Psalm. When it became apparent that none of the kings of the Davidic line was capable of fulfilling this prophecy due to their increasing moral and spiritual failure, postexilic and Second Temple Judaism transferred their fulfillment to the future Messiah who would arise from David’s line.”<sup>20</sup>

**1:8-9.** “These words tell us three facts about the role of the Son. Each fact proclaimed his superiority to angels. First, the Son has a throne and is a ruler. No one could say this of an angel. Second, this throne will last for ever and ever. It is eternal. Angels are not eternal, for God created them at a point in time (Ps. 148:2, 5). Third, the Son loves righteousness. Nothing delights God more than for someone to love his righteousness (Ps. 1:1–6; Matt. 5:6).”<sup>21</sup>

## COLOSSIANS 1:18-20

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**1:18.** “While the preexistent Son is the firstborn over all creation and is therefore Lord over all things created, his lordship over the church began only after he became firstborn from among the dead at his exaltation (see Rom 1:3).”<sup>22</sup>



## ENGAGE OPTION

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Place students in groups and invite them to come up with their own kingdom. They should provide a name, tell what the climate is like, what the people are like, and a list of five laws for their land.

Invite each group to share the details of their kingdom. Discuss which kingdoms students would actually like to be part of and why. Connect to the fact that kingdoms we read of in fairytales and history are all flawed, as would be any kingdoms we come up with.

Thankfully, Jesus is the perfect King who is building up a kingdom of people who love and follow Him. One day, He will establish His kingdom fully with the new heaven and earth.





## SCRIPTURE READING

### MAIN POINT

**Jesus is King, ruling over all of creation and guiding and directing His people, the church.**

### 2. JESUS IS THE RESURRECTED KING, DIRECTING THE CHURCH

## READ COLOSSIANS 1:18-20

When Christ rose from the grave, the church as we know it began. This church, made up of Jewish and Gentile believers, would carry on Jesus's teachings and reach the world with the gospel. Scripture says Christ is the head of the church, meaning He directs it. Our heads (or brains) direct everything we do—our thoughts, our emotions, and our movements. If Christ is the head of the church, then every move it makes flows from His guidance and direction.

### WHAT DO WE SOMETIMES ALLOW TO DIRECT OUR LIVES OTHER THAN JESUS?

God loves the church. Jesus's death helped establish the church. Scripture gives us a clear idea of what the early church looked like in Acts. When Christ is the head of the church, it can do mighty works in His name and reach people with the gospel. But because the church is made up of sinful humans, we sometimes make the mistake of allowing other things to guide our actions in the church—things like money, reputation, jealousy, and fear. The church isn't perfect, but God is merciful to work within us when we allow Him to direct us.

### WHAT STEPS CAN WE TAKE IN OUR GROUP TO MAKE SURE CHRIST IS LEADING US?

There are many questions we can ask as we make decisions in the church and in our group. Does this decision line up with God's Word? Does it help us reach people for the gospel? Are we reflecting Jesus in how we act toward each other and toward outsiders? When we pray for God to guide our churches and stop to consider these questions, it can help us make sure Jesus is truly directing us.

### 3. JESUS IS THE RETURNING KING, REWARDING THE FAITHFUL

## READ REVELATION 22:12-13

### WHAT SORT OF ACTIONS DO YOU THINK GOD WILL REWARD?

Jesus says He will repay us for our works, and we can look to the rest of Scripture to know what these works are: loving others, obeying God's Word, going the extra mile, caring for the poor and needy, standing strong against temptation, and so on. God will reward us, and though we don't know yet what this reward will be, we can trust it will be worth it because He is a good Father.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT JESUS IS COMING "SOON"?

Considering John wrote this passage thousands of years ago, "soon" doesn't feel like soon, does it? But our lives are a vapor; they pass quickly (see James 4:14). We have a limited time to live fully for Jesus. Jesus urges us to make the most of every opportunity we have to know Him more and to help others know Him as well. We can take comfort that Jesus is coming soon, and we will spend eternity with Him.



**1:18.** “In the ancient world, the head was conceived to be the governing member of the body, that which both controlled it and provided for its life and sustenance. Christ is ‘the locus of the church’s unity and coherence, the source of the church’s sustenance and direction.’”<sup>23</sup>

### REVELATION 22:12-13

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**22:12.** “The One who gives assurance of his return also promises that the believer’s reward is with him and that when he comes, he will give to everyone according to what he has done. Salvation is not in view here because salvation is a matter of what God has done and not what a human can do. However, once people experience the grace of God in salvation, everything else they do is counted unto them as reward or else taken from them as loss (1 Cor. 3).”<sup>24</sup>

**22:13.** “Each of these three titles has appeared as a divine name earlier in Revelation; here is the only time all three occur together. They are close synonyms and show that Christ transcends all times and all places. He is the source of all and the goal of all; therefore, he has the power to judge all.”<sup>25</sup>



### BIG QUESTION

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#### WHAT IS OUR GREATEST REWARD?

We know God intends to reward those who are faithful to Him in heaven. Scripture mentions several different crowns in heaven: the Imperishable Crown, the Crown of Rejoicing, the Crown of Righteousness, the Crown of Glory, and the Crown of Life, all awarded by how we live on earth (see 1 Cor. 9:24-25; 1 Thess. 2:19; 2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 2:10). But the greatest reward every believer will receive is the honor of seeing God face-to-face. Because of our sin, we can’t see God’s face (see Ex. 33:20). But in heaven, we will be made perfect. We will share in Jesus’s inheritance as sons and daughters of God (see Rom. 8:17). We will finally see God in all of His glory without the barrier of our sin. This will be our greatest reward, earned through Jesus’s death on the cross.



## CHRIST CONNECTION

In the Old Testament, when God's people demanded a king like the nations around them, God warned them but gave into their demands. All of the kings of Israel failed to lead the people as they needed. Jesus is the King of kings, the One who rules perfectly over His people. One day King Jesus will return for His church and to establish His perfect, eternal kingdom.



HEAD



HEART



HANDS

### **HOW CAN REMEMBERING JESUS IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH HELP YOU SET A GOOD EXAMPLE IN YOUR CHURCH AND GROUP?**

There will be times when we may be asked to do something for the greater good of our group or church. In other words, we don't always get exactly what we want because we have to be willing to put others first. There is a temptation to make church all about us, but really, it's an opportunity to worship God and serve others. When we view church this way, we model Jesus, who came as a servant (see Phil. 2:7).

### **HOW CAN REMEMBERING GOD REWARDS HIS PEOPLE ENCOURAGE YOU TO LOVE HIM AND OTHERS WELL?**

When we call out to God to save us, He is faithful to do so. But then we have the amazing opportunity to live for Him and make a difference in our world. When we work for our reward in heaven, we aren't striving to earn salvation because Christ already accomplished it on the cross; instead, we are seeking to model Jesus out of our love for Him and out of obedience to the Father. Our heavenly Father wants to give us good gifts, but we often forget God wants to reward us for the things we do for Him. We get caught up in what's temporary and forget our focus should be on what's eternal. As we take part in the activities we love, we can use every opportunity to serve others and point them to Jesus.

### **ALL OF HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL WORSHIP JESUS AS KING ONE DAY (SEE PHIL. 2:10). HOW CAN YOU LIVE TO SHOW OTHERS YOU WORSHIP JESUS?**

Even if people don't bow in worship to Jesus now, they will one day. We all worship something or someone—God, social media, sports, music, friends, and so on. We are created to worship. If you're a believer, then your entire life is an act of worship to Jesus. Our worship isn't confined to a church service or to a song; it's a lifestyle. When you live obediently to God's Word, you are worshiping Jesus! Your love and obedience shows others who you worship.

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