

His Name

“His Name is King of the Jews”

Introduction: Final message in this series: His Name

- Wonderful
- Jesus
- Immanuel

Today—His Name is the King of the Jews

To underscore this truth we turn to Matthew’s Gospel

I. Jesus—King of the Jews by Prophecy

Review of Text Matthew 2 (several strands of prophetic fulfillment)

A. **Visit of the Wise Men** (Magi—learned men and priests who specialized in astrology and dream interpretation; sometimes magical arts)—all over the Roman world, specifically in Babylon—likely here since—“from the East”.

1. Royal note—recalls the story of Queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10:1-10) who visited Solomon and brought “gold and great quantity of spices”.
2. Psalmists prophesied it would happen to the Messiah

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles Will bring presents; The kings of Sheba and Seba Will offer gifts. 11 Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him. Psalms 72:10-11 NKJV

And He shall live; And the gold of Sheba will be given to Him; Prayer also will be made for Him continually, And daily He shall be praised. Psalms 72:15 NKJV

1000 years before the birth of Christ

B. Star plays a prominent role in the narrative

Balaam prophesied

“I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult. Numbers 24:17 NKJV

NOTE: 1500 years before the birth of Christ

(Star/Scepter)

C. Focus on Jewish KING (but also Messiah)

Note inquiry of Magi by Herod

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. Matthew 2:4 NKJV

1. Christ—Christos—anoointed one
2. Referenced Messiah
3. Messiah (ma-she-a) Old Testament anoointed

D. Herod's crucial role in story

(Call for infanticide)

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Matthew 2:16 NKJV

Reminiscent of Exodus narrative

So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive." Exodus 1:22 NKJV

(Moses would be Israel's deliverer)

E. Born in Bethlehem

1. 1 Samuel 16:1—God tells Samuel to go to Bethlehem to anoint next King—home of Jesse—David anoointed
2. Luke says Joseph and Mary were there to register for census

So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. Luke 2:3-5 NKJV

3. Matthew says he was born there

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem. Matthew 2:1 NKJV

4. God promised David an everlasting throne

"And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." 2 Samuel 7:16 NKJV

(1000 years before the birth of Christ)

5. Prophet Micah 700 years before the birth of Christ

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting." Micah 5:2 NKJV

Jesus was the long awaited Messiah—the King of the Jews

"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." Matthew 2:2 NKJV

II. Jesus—King of the Jews by Force

After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. 2 Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. 3 And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. 4 Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. 5 Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" 6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. 7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." 8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, 9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" 10 Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. 11 And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." 13 Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. 14 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." 15 Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. John 6:1-15 NKJV

A. Jews wanted a King—one to overcome the Roman empire—liberate them from this horrific tyranny.

1. Believed he would be a strong and glorious King—ruler and warrior
2. Herod was obviously afraid of Jesus
3. Saw Him as Son of David

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" Matthew 9:27 NKJV

And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." Matthew 15:22 NKJV

And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" Matthew 20:30 NKJV

Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" Matthew 21:9 NKJV

4. David was a warrior King
5. Jesus' miracles led people to believe He was the one

And many of the people believed in Him, and said, "When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?" John 7:31 NKJV

B. So, when He fed the multitude they tried to make Him King by force

1. It's what the Church has done
2. Political attempts
3. Big rallies
4. Legislative

C. Jesus has His own way

And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples. John 6:11a NKJV

(Side by side with John 6:11)

1. A hidden hint of what was coming
2. At last supper

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Matthew 26:26 NKJV

If Jesus was to become King it would happen through self-sacrifice

III. Jesus—King of the Jews by the Cross

Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" 15 But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" 16 Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led Him away. 17 And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, 18 where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center. 19 Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. 20 Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. 21 Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews.'"" 22 Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." John 19:14-22 NKJV

A. Describes the crucifixion

1. Pilate yields to pressures and sentences Him to death
2. Romans carry it out (carried cross, stripped, nailed, 2 thieves—9 a.m.—for 6 hours excruciating agony)
3. Most despicable death (pirates, slaves, worst criminals)—Exposed to sun, breathing so hard—public traffic—insults

B. Imagine you were there

1. Ugliness of insults—make you think his crime was horrible
2. Draw closer to see what He did
3. Roman sign board overhead stated crime

Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. John 19:19 NKJV

4. Why is that a crime? Why don't Jews give Him the honor He deserves?

C. Three truths

1. The Jews wanted a sign to depict their charge against Jesus

Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews. John 19:21 NKJV

- a. Jews had accused Jesus of trying to subvert Caesar—knew Romans would not tolerate
- b. Pilate examined Jesus and found it was not true

Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" 35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." 37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." 38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all. John 18:33-38 NKJV

- c. They hoped the sign in all three languages would relieve them of guilt
- d. Pilate emitted words, "He said He was"
- e. Instead of an accusation, it was a PROCLAMATION!

2. Pilate tried to use the sign to get back at the Jews

- a. He made no excuse
- b. He ordered no explanation
- c. Hated the Jews and showed His contempt for them

3. God used the sign to declare Christ's Lordship to the world

- a. In Hebrew (Jews) Greek (international language) Latin (language of Roman Empire)
- b. Meant to be understood by all men
- c. Through dying a humiliating death—He was in reality the Almighty King dying for His people. Giving His life as a sacrifice.

Conclusion: Jesus was a King like no other King

1. Most expect to be served and defended
2. Most claim allegiance by force or intimidation
3. He came to serve and claims us by becoming sin for us

FF Bruce—“The crucified One is the true King, the Kingliest King of all; because it is He who is stretched on the cross, he turns an obscure instrument of torture into a throne of glory and reigns from the tree.”

(ILL)

- 1 person got the point
- Thief beside Him
- No accusation
- Maybe knew the Psalm

They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots. Psalms 22:18 NKJV

All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the Lord, And all the families of the nations. Shall worship before You. 28 For the kingdom is the Lord's, And He rules over the nations. Psalms 22:27, 28 NKJV

- Message on the plague was loud and clear
- Jesus, King of the Jews