

## Right Division Soundbites # 3

### King of Israel / Head of the Church

Years ago a list of contrasts, prepared by a 'mid-Acts' dean, was made available for distribution. It was titled 'Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth', and suggested as soundbites to create teaching situations. There were 26 separate issues listed. We plan to deal with one topic on Sunday mornings.

**For your information, the titles and verses (listed directly below in the box) are exactly as they appear on the dean's chart.**

3. Jesus Christ is <b>the King of Israel</b> Isa 9:1-7; Dan 7:13,14; Zech 14:9,16; Matt 2:2; John 1:49, Luke 1:31-33	Jesus Christ is <b>the Head of the Church, the Body of Christ</b>  Eph 1:22,23; Col 1:18
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We will begin this study with a familiar 'Christmas card' passage about the birth of Jesus the Christ, written to Israel by the prophet Isaiah. The verse does not specifically mention '**KING**' as it does '**PRINCE**' -- however, it implies rulership, as He is described as having a **throne** and a **kingdom**:

**Isa 9:6-7** For unto us a child is born,

unto us a son is given:

and **the government** shall be upon his shoulder:

and his name shall be called

- Wonderful,
- Counsellor, (FYI, some people make an issue over whether there should be a comma between 'Wonderful' and 'Counsellor', thus making each word be a title in itself .... or whether it should read 'Wonderful Counsellor' with no comma, together as one title.)

- The mighty God,
- The everlasting Father,
- The **Prince** of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon **the throne of David**, and upon **his kingdom**, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Daniel also prophesied about One like the Son of Man, Who will come with the clouds and receive a kingdom, obviously speaking of Jesus Christ:

**Dan 7:13-14** I saw in the night visions, and, behold, **one like the Son of man** came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

14 And **there was given him** dominion, and glory, and **a kingdom**, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and **his kingdom** that which shall not be destroyed.

In His day, the LORD will be king of the world, ruling from Jerusalem:

**Zec 14:9** And **the LORD shall be king** over all the earth: in that day shall there be **one LORD**, and his name one.

**Zec 14:16** And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship **the King, the LORD of hosts**, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

The angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would be the virgin through whom the Christ child would be born. Gabriel referred Mary to the scripture we read in Isaiah 9:6-7, as he informed her of her pregnancy:

**Luke 1:31-33** And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him **the throne of his father David**:

33 And **he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever**; and of **his kingdom there shall be no end**.

Without question, even at His birth, Jesus was recognized as King of Israel:

**Matt 2:2** Saying, Where is he that is born **King of the Jews**? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Nathanael was a disciple of the Lord, and knew Him for Who He was:

**John 1:49** Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; **thou art the King of Israel**. (also see John 21:1-2)

Thus were the verses that made the dean's list regarding Jesus Christ being the King of Israel. I am in full agreement with the scriptures.

There is another issue - in **connection** with Jesus being Israel's King - that the dean, being a 'mid-Acts-er' chose to ignore. Jesus Himself testified about it to Pilate during His trial, and it will **tie in** with what Paul wrote:

**John 18:37** Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou **a king** then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that **I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.**

The purpose of Jesus Christ, the King, coming to the earth .... was to show that HE was the 'TRUTH' men must believe to be saved:

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, **I am** the way, **the truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

The purpose of Jesus Christ, the King, coming to the earth .... was to **save lost sinners**. He repeatedly said this was His purpose:

**Luke 19:10** For **the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.**

Jesus clearly stated the reason He came was to call sinners:

**Luke 5:32** **I came** not **to call** the righteous, but **sinners** to **repentance**.

Paul taught this principle .... for sinners to repent and have faith in Christ:

**Acts 20:21** Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, **repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Just as **John 3:16** presented the love of God toward the world through Jesus Christ .... so also did Paul in his epistles:

**Rom 5:8** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet **sinners**, Christ died for us.

Notice how PAUL connected these two truths ....

**1) Jesus came into the world .... to bring truth to sinners and save them with 2) Jesus, as the KING, deserves our thanks for providing eternal life:**

**1 Tim 1:15-17** This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;** of whom I am chief.

16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

17 Now unto **the King** eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The kingdom of God is taught in the 4 gospel records, the Acts of the Apostles, AND in Paul's epistles. Paul **EQUATED** the kingdom of GOD with the kingdom of CHRIST - not as 2 separate kingdoms, but 1 and the same:

**Eph 5:5** For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in **the kingdom of Christ and of God.**

When Jesus appears .... He will come with judgment and His kingdom:

**2 Tim 4:1** I charge thee therefore before God, and **the Lord Jesus Christ,** who shall **judge the quick and the dead** at **his appearing** and **his kingdom;**

At the last trump (1 Cor 15:52), Christ will establish His kingdom to judge:

**Rev 11:15, 18** And **the seventh angel sounded;** and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ;** and he shall reign for ever and ever.

18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and **the time of the dead, that they should be judged,** and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Paul encouraged Timothy to stay 'spotless' .... while waiting on the appearing of Christ .... for when Christ comes, He will be seen for Who He is .... in HIS day .... truly, **the KING** of all kings:

**1 Tim 6:13-16** I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until **the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:**

15 **Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings,** and Lord of lords;

16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

The apostle John, like Paul, also wrote about the Revelation of Jesus Christ (Rev 1:1) .... when He comes .... as KING of kings .... to judge:

**Rev 19:11-16** And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall **rule** them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS,** AND LORD OF LORDS.

So the prophets, including Paul (who was also a prophet - Acts 13:1), all testified that Jesus is the KING. But Paul's verses about Jesus being the KING were completely ignored and totally left out from the dean's list.

Initially, Jesus came as the King of Israel .... and for now, His kingdom is a spiritual kingdom that extends to everyone who believes:

**John 18:36** Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

When Jesus comes the 2nd time (Heb 9:28) and brings His 'visible' kingdom to earth .... He will be the KING over all the world then:

**Psa 47:2, 5-9** For the LORD most high is terrible;

**he is a great King over all the earth.**

5 God is gone up with a shout, **the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises:

sing praises unto **our King**, sing praises.

7 For **God is the King of all the earth:**

sing ye praises with understanding.

8 God reigneth over the heathen:

God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.

9 The princes of the people are gathered together, **even the people of the God of Abraham** (now, through PAUL's writings .... we understand that WE are also the children of Abraham - Rom 4:11,16; Gal 3:29):

for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is greatly exalted.

Now let's consider the other issue .... that Jesus is the **HEAD** of the church .... which the dean presented as being a '**CONTRAST**'. Again, I say that I am in full agreement with the scriptures. But I do NOT believe the dean's paradigm that this truth sets **in opposition** with Jesus being the King of Israel. 'The church' existed before Paul (Acts 2:47, 5:11, 7:38). Jesus spoke of 'the church' (Matt 16:18, 18:17). Paul himself persecuted 'the church' (Gal 1:13,23; Phil 3:6; 1 Cor 15:9, Acts 8:3):

**Col 1:18** And **he is the head of the body, the church:**

who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead;

that **in all things** he might have the preeminence.

Notice again that when Paul wrote about Christ being the head of the church .... it was in **connection** with Christ **ruling over ALL things:**

**Eph 1:22-23** And hath put all things under his feet, and gave **him to be the head over all things to the church,**  
23 **Which is his body,** the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Paul emphasized this truth about **'ALL THINGS'** repeatedly:

**Eph 4:15** But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him **in all things, which is the head, even Christ:**

Thus, we understand that Christ is **the HEAD of everything** .... certainly including 'the church' .... but, not limited to ONLY 'the church':

**Col 2:10** And ye are complete in him, **which is the head of all principality and power:**

The scriptures use the same Greek word <kephale> for 'head' .... saying that Christ is **the HEAD** of the corner:

**Acts 4:11** This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become **the head of the corner.** (also see Psalm 118:22, Matt 21:42, Mark 12:10, Luke 20:17)

**1 Peter 2:7** **Unto you therefore which believe he is precious:** but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made **the head of the corner,**

In summary, we have proven by verses that Jesus is not just the KING of Israel, but of us also, and He will be KING over all the earth .... AND .... Jesus is not just the HEAD of the church (which began BEFORE Paul), but He is also the HEAD of all things, including the corner. Thus we have seen that teaching # 3 on the dean's list of "Soundbites/Contrasts: To Create Teaching Situations" is WRONG!

*This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"*

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