



SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

The Kingdom of God, Pt. 5: Christ the Reigning King

Pastor John Riggs

Summary:

This powerful exploration of God's kingdom reveals a truth that transforms how we see ourselves as believers: we are citizens of an eternal kingdom ruled by the King of glory. Drawing from Daniel's prophecies and the New Testament revelation, we discover that Jesus Christ possesses all authority in heaven and on earth right now. The message confronts a common misconception among Christians—that we're somehow still under the dominion of darkness, struggling against an enemy who maintains power over us. Scripture makes clear that through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, Satan was completely stripped of his authority over believers. We've been delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God's beloved Son. This isn't just theological theory; it has profound implications for how we live daily. When we grasp that our King reigns supreme, that He created all things visible and invisible, and that He holds all power and dominion, we can walk in genuine victory. The world around us may seem chaotic, and the kingdom of darkness may appear to be advancing, but we must remember: the gates of hell will not prevail against the kingdom of God. Our citizenship is in heaven, and we serve a King whose kingdom will stand forever while all earthly kingdoms crumble. This understanding should radically change how we approach our purpose—we're not here to retreat from darkness but to boldly proclaim the gospel that destroys its power.

Video Breakdown:

- Chapter 1: Baptism and Our New Identity in Christ 0:00 - 11:35
 - We begin with baptism testimonies that illustrate the gospel message of death, burial, and resurrection, demonstrating our union with Christ and deliverance from the domain of darkness.
- Chapter 2: The Coming Kingdom and God's Eternal Plan. 11:35 - 27:00
 - We explore Daniel's prophecies about the succession of world empires and God's promise to establish an everlasting kingdom that will destroy all earthly kingdoms.
- Chapter 3: The Eternal Glory and Authority of Christ the King 27:00 - 51:07
 - We discover the preeminence of Christ as the eternal King of Glory who created all things, possesses all authority, and reigns supreme over heaven and earth.

Scripture References from the Sermon:

Directly Referenced or Read:

1. Romans 6 (general reference to baptism and death to sin)
2. Ephesians 2:1-3 (dead in trespasses and sins)
3. Romans 6:1-8 (baptism into Christ's death, burial, and resurrection)
4. 1 Corinthians 15 (implied - gospel definition as death, burial, resurrection)
5. Daniel 2:44-45 (God's eternal kingdom)
6. Daniel 7:17-18 (four beasts and saints possessing the kingdom)
7. Daniel 7:21-22 (little horn making war with saints)
8. Daniel 7:25-27 (time, times, and half a time)
9. Daniel 7:13-14 (Son of Man coming to Ancient of Days)
10. 1 John 2:15-17 (do not love the world)
11. Ephesians 1:15-21 (especially verses 19-21 - Christ's power and authority)
12. Colossians 1:15-20 (Christ as creator and reconciler)
13. John 1:1-3 (the Word was God)
14. John 1:14 (the Word became flesh)
15. Philippians 2:5-11 (Christ's humiliation and exaltation)
16. John 17:4-5 (Christ's high priestly prayer)
17. Isaiah 6:1-5 (Isaiah's vision of the Lord on the throne)
18. John 12:36-41 (Isaiah saw Christ's glory)
19. Mark 1:15 (kingdom of God is at hand)
20. Matthew 10:7 (proclaim the kingdom of heaven)
21. John 18:33-37 (Jesus before Pilate - "My kingdom is not of this world")
22. Matthew 28:18-20 (Great Commission - all authority)
23. Philippians 3:20-21 (citizenship in heaven)
24. Revelation 1:4-8 (made us a kingdom and priests)

Alluded to but Not Directly Cited:

25. Genesis 3:15 (seed of the woman crushing serpent's head)
26. Isaiah 53:1 (quoted in John 12:38)
27. Isaiah 6:10 (quoted in John 12:40)
28. Ezekiel (mentioned as important for understanding Revelation)
29. Zechariah (mentioned as important for understanding Revelation)
30. Jeremiah (mentioned as important for understanding Revelation)
31. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (He who knew no sin became sin)
32. Matthew 16:28 (some will not taste death until they see the kingdom - Transfiguration reference)
33. Luke 8:26-39 (implied - demons and the pigs)
34. Ephesians 2:6 (seated with Christ in heavenly places)

Key Points:

- Baptism symbolizes our union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, representing our deliverance from the old life of sin into new life in Christ
- The foundation of biblical eschatology must be laid in the Old Testament (particularly Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah) and then clarified by the New Testament
- Daniel's prophecies reveal successive Gentile empires culminating in a final ten-king federation under the Antichrist, which God's eternal kingdom will ultimately destroy
- Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who created all things, has always existed with the Father, and is the King of Glory who has always reigned
- Through the incarnation, Christ emptied Himself of His divine glory but never ceased being fully God while becoming fully man
- The cross was not defeat but the greatest victory in history, where Christ stripped Satan of all power and authority over believers
- Christians have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God and are now citizens of heaven
- Christ currently possesses all authority in heaven and on earth, and believers operate under His power when sharing the gospel
- The church is called to be the kingdom on earth, advancing God's kingdom by proclaiming the gospel to those still lost in darkness
- Believers must understand their true identity in Christ to live victoriously and fulfill their purpose of making disciples
- The world and its desires are passing away, but whoever does the will of God abides forever
- Christians should not love the world or live as though they belong to earthly kingdoms, but rather live for the glory of their King

NOTES:

Discussion Questions:

How does understanding that we were once 'dead in trespasses and sins' and 'children of wrath' deepen your appreciation for the salvation Christ has provided?

In what ways does believer's baptism symbolize our union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, and how should this reality impact our daily walk?

The sermon emphasizes that Satan has been stripped of power and authority over believers through the cross. How does this truth change the way you face spiritual battles and temptations?

Daniel's visions reveal that God's kingdom will ultimately destroy all earthly kingdoms and stand forever. How should this prophetic certainty shape our engagement with current political and social issues?

The pastor warns against loving the world, explaining it consists of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. What specific areas in your life might reflect a love for the world rather than love for the Father?

Isaiah saw the glory of the King in his vision, and John reveals this was Christ before His incarnation. How does recognizing Jesus as the eternal King of Glory affect your worship and reverence for Him?

Jesus declared that His kingdom is 'not of this world.' What does it mean practically for Christians to live as citizens of heaven while still residing on earth?

The Great Commission states that Jesus has 'all authority in heaven and on earth.' How should this truth embolden our witness and evangelism in a culture that seems increasingly hostile to the gospel?

The sermon challenges the notion that Jesus came primarily to fix social problems, asserting He came to save us from sin. How does this distinction affect our understanding of the church's mission in society?

Revelation declares that Christ has made us 'a kingdom and priests to His God and Father.' What does it mean for you personally to be part of God's kingdom, and how should this identity influence your priorities and purpose?

NOTES:

Small Group Guide: The Kingdom of God

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by thanking God for His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and understanding of His kingdom.

Ice Breaker

Share one thing that challenged or encouraged you from this week's sermon.

Key Takeaways

1. Our Identity in Christ

- We have been delivered from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of God's Son
- We were once dead in sin, but have been made alive in Christ
- Our old nature died with Christ; we've been raised to walk in newness of life

2. The Authority of Our King

- Jesus has ALL authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18)
- Christ is seated far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion
- Satan has been stripped of his power over believers through the cross

3. The Nature of God's Kingdom

- Christ's kingdom is "not of this world" (currently)
- The kingdom is advancing; the gates of hell will not prevail against it
- We are citizens of heaven, awaiting Christ's return
- A future physical kingdom will be established that will last forever

4. Our Mission as Kingdom People

- We are called to proclaim the gospel to those in the kingdom of darkness
- We have been made "a kingdom and priests" to serve God
- Our purpose is to live for the glory of our King and share the hope of salvation

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Kingdom (20-25 minutes)

1. **Read Ephesians 2:1-10.** What does this passage reveal about where we were before Christ and where we are now? How should this transformation affect how we view ourselves?
2. **Read Daniel 2:44-45 and Daniel 7:17-18.** What do these prophecies tell us about God's ultimate plan for His kingdom? How does knowing the end of the story impact how we live today?
3. The sermon emphasized that "Satan has been stripped of all his power and authority over all who believe the gospel." Why do you think many Christians still live as though Satan has power over them? What would change if we truly believed this?

The King's Authority (15-20 minutes)

4. **Read Matthew 28:18-20.** Jesus said He has "all authority in heaven and on earth" before commissioning His disciples. How does understanding Christ's complete authority change the way we approach sharing the gospel?
5. **Read Colossians 1:15-20.** What does this passage reveal about who Jesus is? How does this description of Christ compare to how you typically think about Him in your daily life?
6. The sermon stated: "We have such a pathetic view of Christ." Do you agree or disagree? What contributes to having a limited view of who Jesus really is?

Living as Kingdom Citizens (20-25 minutes)

7. **Read 1 John 2:15-17.** What does it mean to "not love the world"? How do we balance enjoying God's good gifts while not being attached to this passing world?
8. **Read John 18:33-37.** Jesus told Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world." What are the implications of this for how we engage with:
 - Politics and government?
 - Social issues and injustice?
 - Our careers and finances?
9. The sermon emphasized that our primary mission is sharing the gospel, not fixing social problems (which are symptoms of sin). How do we maintain this focus while still showing compassion and meeting practical needs?

Personal Application (15-20 minutes)

10. The pastor challenged: "Are you living for the glory and the honor of your great king?" How would you honestly answer this question? What needs to change?
11. The sermon stated: "So many of God's people are still living as if they belong to the kingdoms of this world." In what areas of your life are you most tempted to live according to worldly values rather than kingdom values?
12. **Read Philippians 3:20-21.** How does remembering that "our citizenship is in heaven" affect:
 - Your priorities?
 - Your response to difficulties?
 - Your investment of time and resources?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to put into practice this week:

Option 1: Gospel Clarity Write out the gospel message in your own words (death, burial, resurrection of Christ for our sins). Practice sharing it with someone in your group, then look for an opportunity to share it with an unbeliever this week.

Option 2: Kingdom Perspective Each day this week, when facing a decision or challenge, pause and ask: "How would a citizen of God's kingdom respond to this?" Journal about what changes when you view situations through this lens.

Option 3: Authority Reminder Memorize Matthew 28:18-20. When you feel intimidated, fearful, or powerless this week, recite this passage and remember that your King has ALL authority.

Option 4: Scripture Study Go back and read one of the passages mentioned in the sermon that was new to you or particularly impactful. Study it in depth and share what you learn with your group next week.

Accountability

Pair up with someone in your group to check in mid-week about how you're applying what you've learned.

Prayer Focus

Spend time praying together for:

1. **Gratitude** - Thank God for rescuing us from darkness and bringing us into His kingdom
2. **Bold Witness** - Ask for courage and opportunities to share the gospel this week
3. **Proper Perspective** - Pray for eyes to see Christ as He truly is—the King of Glory with all authority
4. **Kingdom Living** - Ask God to help each person live as a citizen of heaven rather than being conformed to this world
5. **The Lost** - Pray specifically for unsaved friends, family members, and coworkers by name

Looking Ahead

Next week's sermon will focus on the resurrection and what it means for believers in Christ. Come prepared to discuss what you're learning about the kingdom of God.

Closing Thought

"We are the kingdom. And we have a great king. Are you living for the glory and the honor of your great king? He's worthy of it."

Additional Resources

- Review the sermon: [Church website/podcast link]
- Read Daniel 2, 7 and Revelation 1 this week
- For those who missed previous weeks in this series, catch up on the foundational teachings about the kingdom

I want to read to you out of Romans chapter 6.

One of the reasons for doing that is I want to kind of set in your mind an understanding of the incredible nature of our salvation and our baptism.

In fact, what's really interesting, what Paul writes to us, and we'll actually go over this a little bit this morning in our study, but Paul mentions something very, very interesting about all of us at one time before we came to Christ were under the power of the evil one.

In fact, in Ephesians 2, Paul writes these things to remind these believers about who they were before they came to faith in Jesus Christ.

And he writes this, And you were dead in your trespass and sins, in which you once walked following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience,

Among, Paul says, whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and we were by nature, that is our fallen nature in Adam, the sinful nature, we were by nature children of wrath like the rest of mankind."

This incredible salvation that we have come to know in Christ Jesus is absolutely profound in what it's really done for you and for me.

That's where we were at one time.

And that's the testimony of these men that have come here today, that at one time they were in that position, that they were without God, without hope in this world.

They were by their very nature and the sin that they had commit.

They were at odds with God.

They were at enmity with God and they were destined for the wrath of God.

But God, who is rich in mercy, did something for us.

He came and He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God.

God the Son came in order that He might provide a means of reconciliation for us that have been separated by God by our sin

and He might reconcile us to God through His atoning sacrificial offering on the cross of Calvary that we might have our sin debt paid in full by Christ who bore our sin and God crushed in wrath in order that we would receive the mercy and the righteousness of Christ placed on our behalf.

And what we're looking at this morning is a picture of this death, burial, and resurrection because that's what the gospel is.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 5 that the gospel, what?

We're looking at the gospel.

The gospel is the death, the burial, and the resurrection.

All of these together.

That is the gospel.

And we get here to Romans 6.

I want to share this with you.

What shall we say, Paul says, then to all this, are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

Paul says, by no means.

How can we who died to sin still live in it?

Do you not know, Paul says, that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into His death.

We were united with Christ in his death.

Paul makes that very clear that when Christ bore our sins and he died the death that we deserved, it's as if our being united to Christ in faith, united us with him in his death and death that he died, we died with him.

The old man was covered with the death of Christ.

It was paid for, it was done away with.

And when Christ died, we died with him.

That is the old man.

In verse four he says, we were buried therefore with him by baptism into death in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, notice, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, that it has no more power over us, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

For one who has died has been set free from sin.

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him.

And we know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again.

And death no longer has dominion over Him.

For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all.

But the life that He lives, He lives to God.

so that you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the miracle of the new birth, the regeneration, that we, the old man, the old nature, has been united with Christ in His death.

It has been a dealt with.

It has been a done way with.

But we were also buried with Him in baptism, but we, like Christ, have been raised

being born again by the power of the Holy Spirit and dwelt by the Spirit of God to no longer offer ourselves to sin, but we now can live in the new man, in the new life by the power of the Spirit, living it for the glory of God.

And that is a picture of what is being shared with you this morning.

Dead with Christ in His baptism, raised to walk in brand new life to the glory of God the Father.

That's what we're looking at today.

And these men have come today in order that they might testify to you that they are united with Jesus Christ by faith.

And that's what they are declaring to you as a church body and to the principalities of the power of the air.

That the satanic realm has no more authority over their life, no more power over their life.

They were stripped of their power on the cross of Calvary.

These men are testifying that they by faith have been born again, and they have now known what it means to know Christ and live by the power of the Spirit in this new life called the new life in Christ Jesus.

Amen?

All right.

John, would you come here?

John Howard is coming first.

This is John, everybody.

You can welcome John, right?

All right.

Go ahead and get him, brother.

He's come today in Believer's Baptism.

And so he's coming to declare to you that he has put his faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

And that's what we're here to celebrate this morning.

Do you hear me?

Yeah, that's what we're here to do.

All right.

John, based on your profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are our brother in the Lord, and it is our privilege today to baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

You've been buried with Christ in baptism, and you've been raised to walk in brand new life.

Amen.

Amen.

All right.

Congratulations, brother.

Congratulations, man.

It's awesome.

All right, Steve Garden, would you come on up here?

You all welcome Steve this morning.

Oh, that's awesome.

All right, brother.

Steve, based on your profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, you're our brother in the Lord.

It is our privilege today to baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, buried with Christ in baptism, raised to walk in brand new life.

Amen.

Amen.

Praise God.

Congratulations, brother.

It's awesome, man.

So proud for you guys.

Let's have a word of prayer.

Let's thank the Lord for his goodness this morning in all of our lives.

The greatest miracle of all is to take someone who is dead and only God by the power of the Spirit can raise a dead man.

And we have been raised by the power of the Holy Spirit to new life.

Amen.

That's the good stuff.

All right.

Let's thank the Lord.

Father God, we love you this morning.

And Lord, we want to thank you for the power of the gospel.

That we are not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe.

And Lord, we thank you for these men that have come today publicly to bring before those that are here today and the principalities in the unseen realm that they have put their faith and trust in the King of glory.

And because they have trusted in the finished work of Christ, they have been rescued from the domain of darkness and they've been delivered into the kingdom of the glorious Son.

And the kingdom of darkness no longer has any power over them, any authority over them.

And that they have conquered and overcome by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ today.

Lord, we love you.

We thank you for your incredible word.

We thank you for everyone that is here.

preached and taught.

Lord, may it not return unto you void, but accomplish all that it was set forth.

And Lord, we give you thanks in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Well, we're so glad to see you all here this morning.

And next week, we'll be busy around here, obviously, but we invite you guys to bring some friends and our family with you this next week.

We're going to

kind of finish up and cap this off in this mini-series that we've been teaching on the kingdom.

We're going to wrap it up next week, get into the resurrection and what it all means for us that are in Jesus Christ.

So, just want to remind you of that.

Now, as I begin this morning...

Over the past few weeks, we have been in a mini-series from our series in the book of Corinthians.

We've taken a break and done this mini-series on the kingdom.

That's what we've been looking at.

Now I've been building from the foundation up to where we are this morning.

And so if you have missed the past few weeks, and I want to say this because it's important, you may feel this morning like you've walked into the last few minutes of a movie.

Have you ever done that?

Walked into a movie late and you've missed the whole major part of the introduction and what happened in the early part.

You kind of catch the end, but you missed the rest.

Well, that's what you might feel like this morning if you've walked in here today and you've not heard the rest of these.

And so you may struggle a little bit with trying to make sense of all that we're going to share this morning.

because you've missed much of the storyline, but you can go back and you can listen to the previous messages and you can catch up to gain a better understanding of this incredible truth of what it means to be part of the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus.

These truths that we're learning here have real-time implications for all of us as Christians.

The reason it's so significant is because of the days and the hour in which we're living in.

and also because we need to know and understand how we are to live and act in these incredible days that we're living in.

So, as I mentioned on our first of the series here, you cannot have a good grasp of the book of Revelation.

Many people just want to open the book of Revelation and begin to read it and study it, and there's a blessing that comes with reading or hearing the book of Revelation, no doubt.

But we talked about this in our first message of this series, that it is a challenge to understand the book of Revelation, period, but it's even more of a challenge if you do not have an understanding of the Old Testament.

In fact, especially books like Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah, Jeremiah, Isaiah.

We can go down the list of books that we need to have an understanding of.

Many people try to build the foundation of their eschatology from the New Testament.

But the foundation of our eschatology should be laid in the Old Testament.

That's where it should be laid.

And then it needs to be developed and clarified by what God has revealed to us in the New Testament.

What an incredible truth we find here.

Now, we've already learned, and I'm not going to re-teach all these things, okay?

So let's get going.

From Daniel chapter 2 and Daniel chapter 7, we have learned...

about the remaining Gentile empires that would rule over the world and the people of God from the time of Babylon that was ruled first by King Nebuchadnezzar all the way until

We have the kingdom of God established and set up a kingdom that would be a final and everlasting kingdom that would destroy and wipe out all the kingdoms of this world.

In fact, let's look at Daniel 2, 44 through 45 this morning quickly.

We have a lot of scriptures to cover this morning, but I want for you to really have an understanding of what scripture teaches about these very, very important matters that we are seeing right now come alive in our time.

These are very significant days, Christian.

Very important time.

In Daniel chapter 2, verses 44 through 45, I'm not going to read the entirety of Daniel about Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the image with the head of gold and the silver, then the bronze and the legs of iron, and then into the feet and toes, ten toes of clay and iron.

We've already learned all of that, and that's looking at empires from Babylon on to the Roman Empire, then finally the uprising of an imperialistic empire in the ten toes under ten kings, where one will uproot three...

And he will take the place where all the other seven give all their power, their authority, and their dominion to.

And we learn that that is the Antichrist's new world order system that will rule over the world in the coming days and years, in the future, where Antichrist, the little horn, will actually be the one who will rule that is empowered and filled, possessed by Satan.

He is Satan's man.

And he will rule and govern the world.

That is coming in the future.

But notice, and in the days of those kings, we've already learned about these 10 kings.

We don't know who they are, but it's a federation of 10 kings that rule in the last days.

And we see ourselves setting up for that even now.

Geopolitically, this world is in shambles.

We are watching some things happen right now in real time that we all sit back and scratch our heads and say, what in the world do they think they're trying to do?

You have to understand that this is moving to the day of the Lord, the day of the Lord, remember that.

And the geopolitical system that we have currently in place is going to ultimately fail, and it is failing.

And that's where these kings will arise.

Remember, World War I, League of Nations, World War II, the United Nations, World War III,

We're going to have a federation that will rule over and govern the world where the rule of law supplants the rule of the jungle, according to President Bush Sr., speaking of the new world order, which he said we will be successful in establishing and setting it up.

That's what's going on right now.

Even all that we see with Iran, with Russia, Ukraine, Israel, all the stuff in Saudi Arabia, everything in the world that's going on geopolitically, all the financial stresses going on, the problems of natural gas and oil and all of the commodities that are for food raising and everything that we see happening right now.

Christian, you've got to understand, we're living and we're moving to the day of the Lord.

And no one is going to stop or thwart the plans of Almighty God.

You just have to know this to be true.

You've got to understand it.

God's revealed it to us so that we might know how we should live in this time.

It's a very, very fascinating time to be alive.

And especially as a Christian, as good as this life is, in knowing Christ and living for the glory of God, the best is yet to come, Christian.

That is a fact.

So here we read in 44 verses 44 through 45 of Daniel 2, in the days of those kings, in the future here,

The God of heaven.

Notice who does this.

Who is the all sovereign one?

It's not Satan, by the way.

No, it's not.

Satan's a created being.

Yes, he was an archangel who ministered before the very throne of God.

He was an anointed cherub according to the Old Testament who was in the Garden of Eden, who had so much pride that said, I will ascend into the heavens.

I will be like the Most High.

All that Satan did and he fell.

We understand that he is Lucifer, known as Lucifer.

He's a guardian cherub and he was cast out as a profane thing from among the fiery stones where he walked before the very glory and presence of God.

But oh, his demise is coming.

In fact, do you know that he's already been stripped of his power and authority?

Many Christians do not understand that.

We're going to learn more about that next week.

In the days of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed.

nor shall the kingdom be left to another.

And this kingdom will break in pieces all the kingdoms and bring them to an end.

And it shall stand forever.

Isn't that good news?

Just as you saw in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Daniel telling him, a stone was cut out from a mountain by no human hand.

And it broke into pieces, the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold.

Speaking of the empires, a great God, Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, a great God has made this known to the king.

What shall be after this?

The dream is certain and its interpretation is sure.

Now Daniel 7, 17 through 18.

Daniel sees the same thing, but different imagery here.

God's giving Daniel now a vision of the empires.

Once again, as he gave King Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel interpreted, God's gonna give Daniel a vision in Daniel chapter seven of these four remaining Gentile empires that rule over the world and over the people of God.

That's what Daniel gets in this vision, but this time he sees these beasts.

And we learned about those already, and I'm not going to reteach that.

But here in Daniel 7, 17 through 18, the four great beasts are four kings or four kingdoms.

We've learned all about that.

That's the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian, Roman.

And then finally, we're going to see the revision of the imperialistic Roman empire dominating in the ten toes.

with the ten kings, with the one who rises up and destroys three, and all the rest give their authority to the Antichrist, the little horn.

So here we have now, in the days of those kings, here in Daniel 7, 17-18, it says...

These are the four great beasts, the four kings who shall rise up out of the earth.

But listen, here's the promise.

The saints of the Most High, that would be you and me in Christ Jesus by faith.

We are the saints of God.

But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever, and ever.

By the way, that means forever.

Forever.

Daniel chapter 7, verses 21 through 22.

Now we're going to see the little horn that Daniel was so concerned about that we learned about last week that he was intrigued by and wanted to know those three things about the little horn.

And here's the little horn, and Daniel sees this little horn rising up among the ten horns of the beast, and he learns some more about this.

But look, in Daniel 7, 21 through 22, as I looked, the horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them until...

Not forever, but very short time.

Until the ancient of days came and judgment was given for who?

The saints of God.

The saints of the most high.

That's who our God is.

And the time came, here it is again, when the saints possessed the kingdom.

That's wonderful news.

Daniel 7, 25 through 27.

This is important as we make our way through this this morning.

Speaking of the little horn that we learned more about last week, who is ultimately the Antichrist, we understand that the spirit of Antichrist has been present ever since Christ Jesus ascended to heaven.

The spirit of Antichrist was present, but the Antichrist will come, who is the full embodiment of Satan himself.

He shall speak words against the Most High.

He shall wear out the saints of the Most High and shall think to change times in law and they shall be given into his hand for a time times a half time.

Now that is three and a half years as we're going to learn or 42 months.

or 1290 days we're going to learn this in the book of revelation now here's why this is significant because there are some who are brothers and sisters in christ who devoutly love and serve the lord who have a different interpretation about when the millennial kingdom of god is some believe that we are living in the thousand year reign of christ now although it's not literally speaking of a thousand years but it's speaking of a period of time

Now, we're going to learn more about why I do not believe that that is true, that we are looking at, yes, Jesus Christ is right now ruling and reigning.

Yes, He is, but His kingdom is not yet of this world, as we're going to learn.

But according to Revelation, it tells us that the thousand years, which is mentioned five times in a few verses, we'll learn more about it next week, is a literal physical kingdom that Christ will come and establish upon this earth, and he will reign from Jerusalem, and he will sit on the throne of David, who was promised by God in covenant that there would be one who would sit on his throne, and we know that Christ will be the ultimate one who will sit on the throne of David.

We'll learn more about that next week.

But I'm trying to mention this about the three and a half years because they say that the numbers should be taken metaphorically because there's so much symbolism and metaphorical talk and language in the book of Revelation that we shouldn't take the years to mean what they say.

We should take them metaphorically.

And so that's why they have that interpretation.

They are not wrong in this sense that Jesus is right now Christian.

He is ruling and he is reigning and he is sitting upon his throne right now in the glorious heavens above.

He is there now.

That's what he is doing.

But we're going to learn more about that.

You don't want to miss next week.

We'll get into more about that in detail.

Okay, let's see here.

Daniel chapter 7 verses 13 through 14 says,

I saw in the night visions, Daniel says, and behold, this is incredible.

I want to show how incredible this really is.

It's amazing to me that there's still so many people out there that will try to argue with you that Jesus Christ is not God.

that He's not God, that He's simply the Son of God, but He's not God.

No, Scripture is clear over and over and over through Scripture that Jesus Christ, He is the second person of the triune Godhead.

He is God the Son who has been from everlasting to everlasting.

He is God incarnate is who Jesus Christ is.

He's not just the Son of God, He is God the Son.

Big difference there.

And let me show you here.

This is an incredible vision that Daniel has here in chapter 7.

I saw in the night visions.

Listen to this.

This is going to be awesome.

And behold, with the clouds of heaven, there came one like the Son of Man.

Daniel's seeing this vision.

And he came to the Ancient of Days, and he was presented before him.

And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom that all peoples, nations, languages should serve him.

Now notice, his dominion, that's his rule, that's his reign, is a what?

Everlasting dominion.

which shall not pass away.

And his kingdom is one that shall never be destroyed.

Now I have been showing you through demonstration that the saints will one day possess the kingdom.

That God is going to set up and establish his kingdom that will what?

Last forever and ever and ever.

And then Daniel has this vision of one who looked like the son of man that comes and is presented to who?

The ancient of days.

And that is God the Father.

And this is God the Son here being presented to God the Father.

And we notice that he is given dominion and he is given glory and he's given a kingdom.

And his dominion and his authority and his reign and his kingdom will never pass away and it will be a kingdom that shall never be destroyed.

What are we learning here?

The same thing that Daniel's already been saying and we've been learning about.

This is Christ.

being presented to the Father, and he's given a kingdom, a dominion, a reign that will last forever and ever and ever.

And Daniel sees this in heaven, in his vision.

Now I'm going to blow your mind here in just a moment.

Something even better.

So in Daniel's vision, he sees a future time when Christ, the conquering King of Kings and Lord of Lords, after his victorious death, burial, resurrection, and his ascension, being crowned with glory that he had with the Father before the world began.

And to him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom, an everlasting kingdom that will not pass away nor be destroyed."

This is why we're told, turn with me in your Bibles to 1 John 2, 15-17.

We try to teach these things.

We're going to look at tons of Scripture today.

Why?

Because we're here to learn about the Word of God.

And I tell people we are a Bible-first community of believers here.

When they ask about, well, what is your church about?

Well, we are a Bible-first community of believers.

We teach and preach and live by the truth of Scripture.

There's lots of psychology being preached out there today.

Self-help messages.

And the problem with that is it's not the truth of the gospel.

But people have itching ears and they want to hear this stuff because it makes them feel good in their condition of sin.

But that's not what we're to do.

We're to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ because in the gospel that only is the means by where men can be saved.

We don't need any more psychological preachers out there, those that are just inspirational speakers.

We've got plenty of them now, and it's growing in vast numbers.

In fact, most of our megachurches are nothing more than that today.

But people draw and flock to those things because they're not really interested in what God has to say.

1 John 2, 15 through 17, here's the thing.

We're told here, do not love this world.

Not that we don't enjoy the things of this world that God has given us to enjoy.

It's not what it means.

Loving it and enjoying it are two entirely different things.

Do not love the world or the things of the world.

Why?

Because if anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, if you want to get down to the brass tacks of what the world is, here's what it is.

It is the lust of the flesh

The lust of the eyes and the pride of life is not from the Father, but it is from the world.

The lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, the pride of life that the enemy uses in life to what?

To draw us away, to keep people in the darkness of their understanding and all those things.

People in this world that love the world, this is what they love and this is how they live.

Why?

Because they don't know Christ and they still are part of this fallen domain.

And so we're not to love the world or the things of the world.

We're to love Christ.

That's who we're to love.

Because notice what he says.

The world, guys, is what?

Passing away.

It's passing away.

And its desires are also passing away.

But whoever does the will of God abides forever.

The reason we don't love this world is because we're not of the world any longer.

now if you still love this world and you don't know christ there's reasons you still do because your flesh appeals to the lust of the eyes the lust of the flesh and the pride of life remember the passions of our flesh that we all walked in according to the pattern of this world following the prince of the power of the air of the sons that is working the sons of disobedience that's how we all once lived but that's not who we are in christ any longer because we understand that the things of this world are not of god many of them they're of the flesh they're of the the sinful nature of man

And that we are to what?

We're to live to the glory of God, knowing now that we are of the kingdom of God, no longer of the domain of darkness.

We see things entirely different in this world.

Therefore, we live entirely different from the rest of the world in order that we might be able to share with them the hope and the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

So we don't love the world.

Now turn with me to Ephesians chapter 1.

In verses 15 through 21.

Ephesians 1, 15 through 21.

Now these seven verses right here are one sentence, by the way.

My English teacher would have had a real problem with this kind of language.

My wife will often say, John, that is one of the longest run-on sentences I've ever seen.

You need to fix that.

This is actually a prayer.

It's actually got 169 words in its one sentence.

Pretty long.

It's one of Paul's longest sentences, I guess you could say.

The reason I know there's 169 words is because I'm weird enough to count them all.

So, anyway.

And that's in the ESV translation.

Let me put that out there.

Now, we have in this prayer God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, all three presently mentioned in this prayer.

Now, let's pick up in verses 19 through 21.

This is Paul's prayer for the saints in Ephesus, but let's move through here.

And what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe?

according to the working of his great might, that he, that is God, worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in heavenly places far above all rule.

Notice where Christ is seated in heavenly places and he is seated above all rule and all authority and all power.

Is that not incredible?

That's where Christ is seated.

He's above all power, all dominion, all authority, all reign.

all rule.

He's above every name.

He is Christ the Lord, the King of kings, the victorious conqueror, the one who came and provided a means of salvation for all who have been lost in Adam and are part of the domain of darkness under the power of the evil one.

We are of those who are part of his kingdom, guys.

And our king reigns now.

He has all power, all authority, all dominion, and all rule.

And he actually rules over the kings of the earth.

And I want to show you something incredible here about our God.

And I think this will encourage you as we make our way down through here.

But let's get started.

Colossians chapter 1, flip there.

Go to 15 through 20 today.

15 to 20, please.

We need to understand more about the reigning power of our king.

Why?

Because we need to understand that Satan was stripped of all his power and authority over us.

Do you not know that when Christ came and he died on the cross of Calvary, it was not defeat, but it was the greatest victory in the history of all history.

The shame, the death, the beatings, everything that the cross brought.
The road to Golgotha, every step was a step of victory.

Do you understand that?

It was not defeat, Christian.

It was victory.

And by the way, no one took Jesus' life.

Scripture tells us that He alone has the power to lay down His life and He also has the power to raise it up again.

He came for a purpose that He would reconcile men to God by redeeming them with His blood.

This is why He came.

Not to fix the social problems of the world.

They are simply part of the problem of sin.

That's all they are.

Sin is the issue.

It's not poverty.

It's not that there's...

or there's these people at different levels and it's just not everyone equal and inequalities.

No, they're nothing but the symptoms of the root problem, which is sin.

Jesus Christ didn't come because of injustice.

He came because sin had kept man separated from God and the wages of sin were death.

And what awaited man and all men was hell, the judgment and the lake of fire.

Jesus came so you and I don't have to go to hell, but that we could be receiving the gift of God in salvation and his imputed righteousness so we can be saved from what we had merited in our sin.

Amen.

You don't hear that today.

No one wants to preach about sin.

They think Jesus just loves them and wants to be part of their life.

No, if you're in your sin, you're dying and going to hell, facing the judgment and the resurrection, and you will be thrown alive into the lake of fire where you will suffer forever and ever and ever in the absence of God, His goodness, and His presence.

No, Jesus Christ came for sin.

That's why.

Why?

That's the problems of what we see.

We see all these fringe things that are going on.

They're nothing, they're not the root of the problem.

The root is sin.

That's what it is.

Now notice, speaking of our Redeemer, who is He?

He is the image of the invisible God.

In other words, Jesus said, if you've seen Me, you've seen the Father.

For by Him, He's the firstborn of all creation.

For by Him, by who?

Christ.

Christ.

All things were created by who?

Christ.

You need to get a hold of this.

Who is Jesus?

All things were created by Christ.

He responds to the will of the Father.

Do you see what I'm saying?

The Father wills it.

The Son performs it.

He created all things in heaven and on the earth.

Notice also this, things visible and things invisible.

You know a lot of these things that science is just now figuring out that exists that is invisible to the eye, that we can't see?

Even those things were all created by who?

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God the Son.

This is who did it.

Notice, whether thrones or dominions,

rulers or authorities all things were created through him and for him and he is before all things and in him in who in Christ all things hold together do you understand that this is incredible this is our King this is God the Son

Now notice, he is also the head of the body, the church.

He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be first or preeminent.

In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell and through him to do what?

Reconcile to himself all things.

whether on earth, in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

John 1, 1 through 3, we've learned this many times.

In the beginning was the Word.

And the Word, capital W for a reason, we're speaking of the eternal Son here.

And the Word was with God.

When?

In the beginning.

Before the world ever began.

Before there was a beginning.

Because God is the uncreated creator.

Christ, the eternal Son of God, and the Holy Spirit, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, have always existed together.

Always.

Eternal.

In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

You understand that?

He, who, the Word, who was in the beginning, who was with God, who is God, the Word was

He was with God in the beginning.

He's a he, by the way.

Pronoun given to him, right?

Personal pronoun.

All things were made through him.

The word, the he.

Who is that?

That's who we read about just a moment ago.

Jesus Christ who created all things.

He is God.

And he didn't cease being God when he took upon flesh.

Oh, he emptied himself of the glories of what he had in his divinity.

But he never ceased being fully God and also fully man.

You have to understand that.

It's very important.

He is eternal.

In the incarnation, he took upon flesh, but he didn't cease to be God.

He emptied himself or divested himself not of his attributes, but of certain aspects of what he had the power to do and the glory aspect of his being.

But he didn't cease being God.

He is the God-man.

But in order that he'd walk in full obedience to the Father, he came for one purpose, that he might reconcile us to God.

It's a beautiful thing.

Now, in John 1.14,

John's going to tell us more about the Word, who is the Creator, who is God.

This is Jesus.

And the Word became flesh.

This is the incarnation.

And He dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, John says.

Well, when did John see His glory?

Well, we're going to learn more about that, but you remember that Jesus told those standing there, not many days from now, some of you will not taste death until you see the glory of God in the kingdom.

And Jesus took up Peter, James, and John with him on the Mount of Transfiguration.

And John right here is one of them who was there and saw Jesus Christ.

The veil pulled back and his glory was seen by John.

He saw the glory of Jesus Christ before his death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

His glory was veiled.

Philippians 2, 5-11 says,

This is the humiliation aspect of what we learn about what Christ did here in order that he could take upon flesh.

Paul says this to these believers in Philippi, he says, have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, notice this word, but he emptied himself by taking the form of a servant of God.

being born in the likeness of men.

This is God.

Remember, don't forget this.

And this is the only way that reconciliation between man and God could ever happen.

It had to be done this way.

All the way back in Genesis 3.15, we have this prophecy about the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent right after the fall of Adam and Eve.

That is speaking of this right here, that Christ would come, the seed of the woman who would crush the head of the serpent and completely dethrone Satan.

Notice, though, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore, because Christ, in His humiliation, notice what God has done.

Therefore, God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus Christ, every knee should bow in heaven and on the earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father."

Go with me to John chapter 17.

I'm going to show you a few more things as we go down through here.

We've got to get to the good stuff here in a moment.

I want you to miss it.

John chapter 17 verses 4 through 5.

Speaking of this glory, I want you to know something about our Redeemer.

This is his high priestly prayer.

This is a prayer that we were included in.

If you read all of chapter 17, you're going to notice that you were included in Jesus' prayer.

Pretty incredible to think that, but that's the reality.

He prays for his disciples.

He prays for all those who would believe their message.

That includes us, by the way.

We're included in this prayer in chapter 17 of John.

But I want you to notice something here about Jesus before he goes to the cross.

and he's crucified.

In other words, he's going to become what God has done, that he who knew no sin would become sin so that we could become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

This is going to be this aspect of atonement before he goes to the cross.

Notice it says, I glorified you, Jesus said, on earth.

He's praying to the Father.

Having accomplished the work that you gave me to do, and now, Father...

Glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

This is Christ praying to God the Son, praying to God the Father, that he would glorify him with the glory that he had with God the Father before the world ever existed.

It's pretty incredible, right?

And we see that he has now been given every name above all names and he has been given a kingdom and all this stuff.

This is what we're talking about.

Did you know, though, that God has always reigned?

Let me show you something really, really beautiful here.

Go with me back to the Old Testament now to Isaiah chapter 6.

Isaiah chapter 6, and I want to show you verses 1 through 5.

I think it's such a shame that we Christians do not really truly understand who we are in Christ Jesus.

We don't understand our true identity and who we have been united with.

Isaiah chapter 6, I know it's a long ways back there, verses 1 through 5.

Isaiah now is going to see something here.

The prophet Isaiah.

Now notice.

In the year that King Uzziah died.

Watch this.

I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne.

High and lifted up.

And the train of his robe filled the temple.

Above him stood the seraphim.

Each had six wings, with two they covered their face because of the glory of God.

Can't even look upon the glory of the Lord seated upon his throne.

So they covered their faces to somehow shield them from the glory of the Lord.

Two they covered their face, two they covered their feet in humility.

Humility.

The absolute humility of covering their feet.

They cover their face because they can't even be in the presence openly of the glory of God.

They cover their feet because of the humility of being in the presence of God.

And with two, they flew.

They're not going to stay in one place, set, stand.

They're flying here.

And one called to another and said, listen.

Listen.

Holy, holy, holy.

We see this in the book of Revelation, do we not?

Is the Lord of hosts.

We read it also, holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty who was, who is, and who is to come.

These angels are speaking to one another and declaring that the Lord, He is holy.

He is holy.

And the whole earth, they said, is full of His glory.

And the foundations of the threshold of the temple is what he's referring to.

They shook at the voice of him who called.

And the house was filled with smoke.

And I said, woe, Isaiah says, woe to me for I am lost.

for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips.

And why did he say, woe is me?

Because notice, for my eyes have seen who?

The King!

Isaiah, way before Christ comes in the incarnation, he sees the Lord, mighty, lifted up and seated on the throne.

And Isaiah declares that he has seen the glory of the Lord.

And he has seen the King.

The King of glory.

Who is the King of glory?

The King of hosts.

He is Christ God, the Son.

He's the King.

And He brought His kingdom to earth.

And you, Christian, you are part of this King's kingdom.

Jesus didn't come to conquer the world.

He came to redeem the lost world.

Our message is not about conquering this world.

Our message is the message of reconciliation about how man can be redeemed unto God and reconciled to Him and be rescued from the stinking domain of darkness and delivered to the kingdom of this glorious King, Jesus.

Do you understand

This is Christ.

He's always been king.

Always been king.

We have such a pathetic view of Christ.

Turn in your Bibles now.

I'll show you this in John chapter 12.

It's going to bless you.

At least I hope it does.

It blesses me.

That's why I get excited.

Turn with me to John chapter 12, verses 36 through 38.

And you can hold your finger if you want to in Isaiah chapter 6 if you'd like to.

I want to show you just a couple things so you can see it with your own eyes.

Listen, I tell you guys all the time.

Do not take what any preacher, podcaster, Bible teacher says for the truth.

Always go to the Scriptures.

I don't care if it's me.

I don't care who it is.

Do not fall into the conditioning that we've all been conditioned.

It's just tell me what I need to know.

That's how you're deceived.

Do the work.

Use your brain.

You have the word.

Go to the word and examine the scriptures for yourself to see that what is being taught is true.

But most people are so stinking lazy.

All they want is for someone to tell them what I need to know.

That's why we go through so many scriptures.

Why?

So you can see what the word of God says.

In this day of deception, we can't overcome it now.

I realize that I'm so limited in what I have even the ability to do among you all, the people that I pastor.

because you're far more influenced by so many other voices during the week.

I can't combat that.

All I can do is be faithful to do what God has called me to do every week, and that is to preach the truth of Scripture.

And even then, go to the Word and examine it to make sure that what is being taught is of God.

We have this pope and priest mentality in the church.
Some guy who's on stage, he's the most important fella.
No, he's not.

He simply has a calling and a responsibility within the body of Christ.
And far too many people just listen to him like he's some pope.
Don't do it.

In these days, do your work.

Do the work.

Know the word so you're not deceived in this time.

Okay, I say that because I want you to know these things because it's very important in these days of deception.

So many people are sitting under these preachers, man, and they're just getting three points and a punt, and it's a little psychology here, a little self-help here, and a little inspiration over here, and people leave there going, wow, wasn't that wonderful today?

They didn't get anything.

And they're just going to live in a deception in these crazy days.

And we have churches in this community and other communities who are full of people like that.

Praise God we have a handful that still preach the gospel.

The true gospel.

It's getting very scarce in our time though.

We're an endangered species.

Endangered species.

We're more worried about numbers in the seats than we are about honoring Christ.

I can grow a crowd, folks.

I could start a church in this community right now.

And I can follow their little program.

And I can gather a great mass of people and tell them it's all about church and Jesus.

And I can tell you what, I can never even preach the gospel and grow a large number of people.

All I got to do is have a good speaking voice, have some excitement, have some great entertainment up here because people are all about being entertained today in the church.

We are not here to entertain anyone.

We're here to learn.

So we can go into this world and be a light and share the truth of the gospel with people who are going to a sure and real hell.

Time is of the essence.

It's of the essence.

But anyway, don't want to get too sidetracked here.

So in Isaiah chapter 6, we've read this incredible vision that Isaiah gets.

But in John chapter 12, we're going to see this.

Look at this.

While you have the light, Jesus said.

This is what he's told his disciples.

I'm going to the cross.

I'm going to be crucified.

Even the religious leaders are saying, hey, the Christ is supposed to live forever.

Jesus says, no, I'm going to go to the cross.

That's what's going to happen to me.

This is the very purpose and reason for which I have come.

Jesus wasn't trying to work his way out of having to go to the Calvary.

I hear people preach about that, that Jesus, you know, was just sweating drops of blood because he just was, he said, I have come for this very hour, for this very purpose.

No, the weight of what he was getting ready to do in his humanity, you ain't kidding.

To take upon the sin of the world?

To be crushed and receive the wrath of God upon his body?

To bear the sin?

To be separated from God in sin and darkness and die the physical death that we all merited?

We don't even comprehend what happened on Calvary.

Let me tell you something.

He kept working to the hour.

Because the hour was the essence of the purpose and the reason for which he came.

Absolutely.

Now, in John 12, 36-38, while Jesus says, by the way, while you have the light.

He says, I am the light.

I'm here, but I'm only here for a short while.

Believe in the light.

that you may become sons of the light, Jesus said.

Now listen.

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and he hid himself from them, though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him.

So that the word that was spoken by the prophet Isaiah would be fulfilled.

And here's Isaiah 53.1.

Lord, who has believed what he heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

Then you go down to verse 39 of the same chapter.

In this section here, Jesus is quoting from where?

Isaiah chapter 6.

Where Isaiah sees the Lord, the King of glory.

This is what John's trying to teach us here.

Listen to this.

Therefore, they could not believe.

This is actually Isaiah 6.10.

Therefore they could not believe, for again Isaiah said, he has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.

Notice what John says.

Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke to him.

Who did Isaiah speak to?

In chapter six, John tells us when he, Jesus quotes this, Jesus quoted this and he says that this is what Isaiah saw and who Isaiah saw.

He saw me.

Isaiah saw Christ before his incarnation, the king of glory.

And John makes it known to us here in the words of Christ that what Isaiah was doing is he had seen Christ all the way back then.

Isn't that incredible?

That's why when Jesus came, the demons, they obey the words of Jesus.

They tell him, please, don't send us to that dreadful place yet because the time of our judgment has not yet come.

Please, send us into the pigs.

Don't do away with us now, Jesus.

Jesus gives them permission to go into the pigs.

You notice they ask for permission from who?

The king of glory.

That's why the demons obey him.

He heals the sick.

He takes a paraplegic who has never walked and the man gets up and he walks as if he's never had an ailment.

Why does that happen?

Because he's the king of glory.

He gives sight to the blind.

He raises the dead.

Why is He able to do this?

Because He is the King of glory.

He is God the Son.

Jesus begins His ministry in Mark 1.15.

It's fascinating to me what Jesus says.

Jesus speaking here right as He begins His earthly ministry, and this is what He goes around and starts preaching.

The time is fulfilled.

And the kingdom of God is at hand.

Why would he say that?

Because the king of hosts is here.

That's why.

Because the king of the kingdom of God is presently in their midst.

And Jesus says, hey, the kingdom of God, it's at hand.

Repent and believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

John sends out his disciples two by two in Matthew chapter 10 verse 7.

And he said, go and proclaim as you go saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Why?

Because the king of heaven had come to earth.

John 18, 33 through 37.

This is right before Jesus is actually taken to the cross, flogged and then taken to the cross.

He's now been brought before Pilate.

He was already brought before the Sanhedrin and the high priest prior to that.

And now they bring him before Pilate and says, Pilate, we want to have him killed.

This is what he's done.

So Pilate here in verses 33 through 7 of chapter 18 of John, listen to this.

So Pilate enters his headquarters again and he calls Jesus and says to him, are you the king of the Jews?

And Jesus answered, do you say this of your own accord or did you say it to, or did others say it to you about me?

Pilate answered, am I a Jew?

Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me.

What have you done?

Jesus answered, listen, my kingdom is not of this world.

If my kingdom were of this world, my servants, all the myriads of angels, they would have what?

Been fighting.

that I might not be delivered over to the Jews.

But my kingdom, he says, is not of this world.

Then Pilate said to him, so you are a king.

And Jesus answered, you say that I am a king?

Listen, for this purpose I was born.

And for this purpose I have come into the world to bear witness to the truth.

Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.

We have been delivered, Christian, from the kingdom, the domain, and the power of darkness.

You have been brought into the kingdom of the King of hosts, the King of glory.

Jesus Christ.

His kingdom is here now.

It is still advancing.

The kingdom of God will advance and the gates of hell will not prevail against the kingdom of God.

The domain of darkness is still here.

Satan is still working.

Things are still happening.

But the king of glory is on his throne and you and I are here in order that we would continue to take the kingdom to the world who is lost in the kingdom of darkness.

We are kingdom people to go into the world of the fallen kingdom to tell lost people how they can come to know the king of glory.

So many of God's people are still living as if they belong to the kingdoms of this world.

It's not our purpose, folks.

Our purpose is to live for the glory and the honor of our King and to tell these people how they can come to know the King of glory.

Matthew 28, 18-20.

I want you to notice something here.

Sometimes I think Christians think, oh, we just don't know.

We can't.

There's no.

No, listen.

You don't think you have a correct identity of who Christ is.

In Matthew 28, 18 through 20, we read these words, Jesus now commissioning his apostles.

We also have this same thing, that we are to do this.

This is what we're doing.

And Jesus came and said to them in verse 18 of chapter 28, this is now after the ascension and all that, this is what, not after the ascension, but after the death, burial, resurrection, this is going to be the great commissioning where he sends them out into the world.

And let me tell you something, there's never been anyone in all of history that has turned this world upside down like Jesus did.

And why did he do that?

Because he is the king of glory.

Some of you out there think the kingdom of darkness is winning and prevailing.

No, it is not.

No, it is not.

And Jesus came to them saying this.

Listen to these words.

All.

Now, I know that some people are impressed by people who have doctorate of divinity degrees and Greek and all those things.

But let me tell you what all means in the Greek.

All.

So you're already there with them.

You got it.

All authorities.

In heaven and on earth.

Did you hear me?

Has been given to me.

Who has all authority in heaven and on earth?

Your king.

Your king.

Think about it.

Go therefore, knowing and understanding that I have all authority, all power, in heaven and on the earth.

He tells these common ordinary men, and I mean common and ordinary men.

He says, you go therefore, understanding this truth, who I am, and you are in me, and I am in you.

He says, you therefore go, and you make disciples of me in all nations.

baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded.

And behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Christian, is that your view of your King?

That He has all power, all authority in heaven and on the earth?

That's why you can boldly go and proclaim his gospel in this world because he has all power and all authority.

This is why we don't run from the kingdom of darkness.

This is why we bring it to light and we bring it forth in order that light would shine and it would lose its power because Jesus on the cross of Calvary stripped Satan of all of his power and authority over all who believe the gospel.

He has no authority over your life.

He has no power over your life.

the one powerful God and King of all.

He is whom you serve.

He lives in you by His Spirit.

Do you understand the magnitude of what this means to be in the kingdom of God?

If we did, we'd turn this town up for Jesus.

If we did, I'd be preaching ten times on Sunday.

But Satan has us deceived, thinking that he is all-powerful.

That He's winning.

That He is victorious and that He's behind every corner and every leaf.

No, He's not.

No.

My King.

He is the ruling King of kings and Lord of lords.

Right now!

He will one day set all His enemies underneath His foot though, one day.

Even Satan himself as we're going to see next week.

He is going to be thrown alive into the lake of fire.

God will destroy this being.

No.

The gates of hell shall not prevail against the kingdom of God.

And violent men take it by force.

What are we doing?

We stand only against the kingdom of darkness.

We stand.

The king has already prevailed.

Do you understand that?

And what we do is we take the light of this beautiful gospel

And the message of this incredible king of all creation.

And we with his authority and his power.

Working through us by the spirit of God.

In boldness and in courage and in love.

We go into this world.

And we share this powerful message.

That actually has destroyed the power of the enemy.

This is what we do.

This is who we are.

This ought to change the way you think about your life.

It's incredible.

I need to wrap this up today.

Thank you for your patience, but let me read this here to you.

Philippians 3, 20-21 says, But our citizenship is in heaven.

Because where Christ is, that's where we are seated with Him in heavenly places.

And He is living in us now.

But if we were to die today, where do we go?

We go to be in the presence of our King.

And from it we await someone, a Savior.

Jesus didn't come to save you from your ailments or from the difficulties of this life or from the challenges you face on a daily basis.

No, Jesus came here to rescue you from the wages of your sin.

He died for sin.

That's why He came.

He saved us from our sin and the punishment and the wrath and all that was coming.

It's incredible.

The Lord Jesus Christ who will transform our lowly bodies.

Aren't you waiting for a day that these old bodies, one day they're going to be transformed into a body like that of our risen and glorified Savior.

by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

We, Christian, we are the kingdom.

Did you know that?

You're the kingdom.

I'll show you here in Revelation 1, 4 through 8, and I'm going to end here.

I've got more we could cover today, but I don't want to lose you.

I've been here too long as it is.

Revelation chapter 1, verses 4 through 8, and then come back next week, and we're going to do the bell ringer of it all here this next week.

John is on the island of Patmos for the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He's exiled there by the emperor.

And now he's on the island of Patmos and God comes to him and gives him this vision.

Jesus is going to give him the revelation of himself.

In chapter 1, verses 4 through 8, John actually is going to see the king of glory.

And you can see the depiction there in chapter 1 of who Jesus Christ is.

And let me tell you something.

He's incredible.

And yes, there's symbolism there, but it shows you the magnitude, the might, the glory, the splendor of who our king is and who he is and what he is and his presence and all that.

But listen here, it says, John, to the seven churches that are in Asia, grace, notice Revelation is written to who?

Something to always keep in mind when you're studying the book of Revelation.

It's not written to just any old people.

It's written specifically to the seven churches of Revelation, which also is to the church of God.

It's written to the people of God.

Think about that as you go through Revelation.

He says, grace to you and peace from him who is, who was, and is to come.

Christian Jesus is coming again.

And the seven spirits who are before the throne and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, of the dead.

And notice, and he is the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom.

We are the kingdom and priest to his God and father to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

If you're here today and you were in Christ Jesus, let me tell you something.

You are so blessed.

You are so blessed.

Christian, if you could just grasp who you are in Christ and who Christ is.

you will walk in victory in this life.

Because of what he's done, because of what he's doing, and because of what he's going to do in the future.

Listen, we are the kingdom.

And we have a great king.

Let me ask you a question.

Are you living for the glory and the honor of your great king?

He's worthy of it.