

THE COMING OF THE KING

HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL

2022

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Monday: The Warrior King	5
Tuesday: The Gathering King	7
Wednesday: The Shepherd King	9
Thursday: The Sovereign King	12
Friday: The Healing King	14
Saturday: The Eternal King	16



The following Holy Week devotional guide provides Scriptural texts we can meditate on as a church congregation, in concert with the sermon series each week, to gain a deeper understanding of our sin, a closer look at the beauty of Christ, and the power of the Gospel that saves and redeems.

M O N D A Y

Genesis 3:15



*"And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

The Warrior King

In Genesis 3, we see Satan deceive Adam and Eve. He tempted them to think that God's will was not trustworthy, and that they were better off taking matters into their own hands. As a result, they followed the will of the enemy, disobeying God, and plunging the entire human race into sin and misery.

But God responds with something remarkable. In verse 15, He declares to the devil that He Himself will sovereignly make things right. Instead of leaving humanity separated from Him, God will break their sinful enslavement. How? He would do this through an "offspring" of the woman, a war hero who would rise up and do battle against evil. Though this champion would suffer ("you will strike his heel"), he would ultimately emerge victorious ("he will crush your head").

This is good news, salvation news, proclaimed to Adam and Eve—God has not abandoned them, but will raise up a champion (out

of their descendants) to rescue them. Who is this rescuer? Millennia later, John declares that the reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the work of the devil (1 John 3:8). Jesus is that King, who came to restrain and conquer all of his, and our enemies. Enemies we were powerless to overthrow on our own—sin, death, and the devil. He did it all by dying on the cross for us, and then rising three days later. He is the King, whose victory, is our victory. His reign is our salvation.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we praise you for fighting the battle we could not fight. Thank you for overcoming and saving us. You have redeemed our sin, triumphed over Satan, and liberated us from the power of death—all of this, through your death on the cross, and resurrection from the grave. We trust in you our King to save us and defend us all our days. Amen.

T U E S D A Y

Colossians 1:13



"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

The Gathering King

Many in Israel looked to Jesus, the promised Messiah, to beat back Roman foreign rule and restore the glory of a national Israel. After all, he declared that in his coming, the Kingdom was near. How crushing it must have been, then, for those who pinned such hopes on Jesus to see him fall victim to those very oppressors! How could this be the Messiah, the long foretold King?

Paul tells us: the kingdom Jesus came to establish is set not against Rome, but against sin. Jesus is a King, but he doesn't just deliver his people from political oppression; he gathers them from the enslaving dominion of sin and darkness, into his kingdom of life and light.

Jesus said that he was sent by the Father to go and gather, not the worthy and the righteous, but the wicked and the lost (Luke 13:29). The authority to grant entrance into his kingdom resides

in him (John 17:2), and he freely gives it to all who come to him. Jesus said that it is the will of God that anyone and everyone who comes to him will never, ever be rejected or turned away; they are precious to God, and cannot be taken away from his hand (John 6).

Brothers and sisters, you are not the one who has defeated sin and earned entrance into the kingdom. You are one who has been called out of darkness into marvelous light. You have been gathered by Jesus. You have been ushered into the kingdom by the True King who overcame sin and death. You have been gathered by His hands, because of His great love and care for you.

Prayer

Father, we thank you that salvation is a gift you freely give to all who turn to Jesus in faith. We believe in your promise that anyone and everyone who looks to him will never be put to shame. We know if we are in Jesus, it is because he sought us and gathered us according to your love for us. We know if we are in Jesus, we will never be lost, but that He will lift us and carry us all our days. Help us to be moved by your love, worshiping you with our whole lives in response. Amen.

W E D N E S D A Y

Ezekiel 34:11-16



"For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice."

The Shepherd King

One of the big reasons why the once powerful nation of Israel succumbed to foreign oppression during its monarchy was the failure of its kings. This was especially poignant because Israel was not any old nation, but one specially chosen by God. Therefore, Israel's kings weren't given authority to do whatever

they pleased, but were tasked to steward and administer wise and loving rule over God's own people. They were to shepherd God's precious people. They were to care for, nurture, protect, and defend the flock. But instead, they neglected them, abused them, used them, and misled them. God takes them to task in Ezekiel 34, and then promises an amazing solution.

God promises that He Himself will come and provide the leadership the people desperately need. He Himself will tend to them and be their shepherd. He Himself will bring them into safety and rest. He Himself will lead them and gather them.

How would He do this? Centuries later, Jesus declared, "I am the good shepherd" (John 8:11). Unlike wicked rulers who lined their pockets and broke the backs of their people, Jesus became spiritually bankrupt on the cross, laying his life down for his people. Unlike selfish leaders who abandon the sheep at the sight of peril, Jesus willingly went to the cross, died for their sins, and rose again to save them from the power of death. In Jesus, God comes and fulfills His promise to be the personal shepherd and caretaker of us, His prized people.

We are not competent to run our lives—we are not wise or good enough. When we try to, things turn for the worse. Jesus is the only King in whom we can put our full trust and hope in, knowing that we will never be put to shame. He will never let us down.

Prayer

Our Savior, we love you because you first loved us. You are our true Shepherd, the One who will never let us go, never let us down. You proved that by laying your life down for us on the cross. How will you not graciously give us all things? We trust in you, and we need not fear, for we take great comfort and joy in you, our wise and good shepherd over our lives. Amen.

T H U R S D A Y

Psalm 110:1-2



*"The LORD says to my Lord:
'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.'
The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion;
you will rule in the midst of your enemies."*

The Sovereign King

David was the greatest of all Israel's kings. Though not without flaws, he is portrayed throughout Scripture as the ideal ruler, a man after God's own heart.

It is this fact that makes Psalm 110 all the more startling. For here, David is speaking of another king, and addresses him as, "my Lord." Who is this Lord, so great that even David is compelled to fall before him and acknowledge his absolute rule? Who is this king that David saw, so exalted that he occupies the highest position in the universe—seated at the right hand of God? Who is this ruler, so powerful that even sin and death will be brought in humiliation before him?

The New Testament tells us. It is One greater than David, for David never ascended into heaven (Acts 2:34). It is One greater than even the angels, for none of them ever received the title and

honor of sitting at God's right hand (Hebrews 1:13). It is Jesus, the Son of God. This Jesus, though he was God, willingly took on human flesh, obeyed the Father's will, even to the point of death on a cross (Philippians 2:5-11). Therefore, God exalted him just as emphatically as man rejected him (Acts 5:30), and before him every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Christ is Lord (Romans 14:11).

In *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, the children are thrilled when they are told about Aslan, the great King, but a bit intimidated to learn that he is a powerful lion. "Is he safe?" they ask. The animals respond, "Safe? Who said anything about Aslan being safe? Of course he's not safe! But he is good. He's the King I tell you."

Often, the reason why the gospel doesn't grip us is because we do not know how sinful we are. But sometimes, it's also because we don't know how great Jesus is—we don't see Him as the King. Who is Jesus? He is none other than the high and exalted Lord of the universe. It is this One who has saved you. It is this One who commands your loyalty and obedience.

Prayer

Jesus, we acknowledge that you are the risen and ascended King. There is none like you in dominion, majesty, and power. Thank you for having humbled yourself for us, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. We exalt you forever. Be glorified in your triumphant work and in the praises of your people. Amen.

F R I D A Y

Luke 4:18-19



"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

The Healing King

Jesus kicks off his earthly ministry with a sermon based on Isaiah 61, telling of a coming deliverer anointed by God to bring good news of God's favor upon the poor, the oppressed, and the broken. After reading it before the synagogue, Jesus declares to the audience that in his arrival, that very Scripture has been fulfilled. Meaning he himself is the one that the Scripture is talking about.

Jesus came not simply to save individual souls into heaven, but to heal and undo all the effects of sin and devastation upon creation. We see this demonstrated so powerfully in his extensive healing ministry while on earth. Wherever he went, people came to him to be helped in their various afflictions. His legitimate kingship in the Kingdom of God is proved through the power of his healing. He came to create a new universe in which there will be no more pain and sorrow, and every tear will be wiped away (Revelation 21). Psalm 96 tells us that this happens through the reign of God

brought by Jesus. In his kingdom, under his good rule, the heavens rejoice, the earth is glad, the fields are jubilant, and the trees of the forest sing for joy at the coming of the King, for he brings healing in his wings. But today, living in this fallen world, we do experience suffering, frustrations, and pain. And then after all that, we die. How do we understand this? Because of Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the grave, sin does not have the final word over us. Though we experience pain and suffering in this world, we fully belong to another world—a world in which all those things are but a faint memory. That world, that kingdom, is already here because Christ is really and truly present at work in us! But we still wait for the day when it will fully come. Therefore, we do groan and we do grieve, but not without hope.

Prayer

Jesus, you are the great Physician. Thank you for coming to save us in every possible way. Help us to reflect the message of your gospel in our words and our deeds. Break our hearts with the things that break yours, and may we be agents of reconciliation and healing, as you have come to reconcile and heal us, by your own death and resurrection. Amen.

S A T U R D A Y

Revelation 5:11-13



"Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: 'Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!' Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, forever and ever!'"

The Eternal King

History shows us that kingdoms come and go. Civilizations rise and fall. All of the most powerful nations in the world have their day, and then give way to even greater powers. Not so with Jesus' kingdom. In his heavenly vision in Revelation, John sees the Lamb seated on the throne of the universe, the only one worthy of all praise, honor, glory, and power. His kingdom does not come and go. His power does not come to an end. He does not give way to something greater, because there is no one greater or more glorious than him.

God promised that Jesus' reign as king will be made sure

forever, and that his throne will be established forever (2 Samuel 7:16). Isaiah pointed to the coming Messiah and declares that “the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end... from this time forth and forever more” (Isaiah 9:6-7). The angel announced Jesus’ birth to Mary saying, “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:32-33).

There is no more sure foundation for your life, both now and forever, than Jesus. In the midst of all your sins, hardships, struggles, toils, and temptations, he is the only King who will not forsake you nor leave you, but love, defend, and protect you. And he will do so forever. We come to a king who is eternal, meaning that all your sins, hardships, struggles, and toils, are seen in light of your redemption and renewal. Let that give you hope as we worship an eternal king who has overcome the cross and grave, so that we would have the ability to overcome our sin through Him.

Prayer

Lord, there is none higher than you, nor will there ever be. Awesome and majestic are your works. May your will be accomplished on earth as it is in heaven. May you be glorified in all that you do. Your rule will never come to an end, your power never cease, your glory never fade. We give you the worship that is reserved for you alone. Amen.

