

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2
ESV)

22ND DECEMBER 2013

IS CHRIST KING?

MATTHEW 1:18-2:2

[Dr. John Joseph

Mathew 1:18 -2:2

18 Now the birth of Jesus [r]Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been [s]betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned [t]to send her away secretly. 20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for [u]the Child who has been [v]conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for [w]He will save His people from their sins.” 22 Now all this [x]took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name [y]Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.” 24 And Joseph [z]awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, 25 [aa]but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Mathew 2:1,2

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, [a]magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

All over the world people are trying to remove the Christ element – trying to take Christmas out of Christmas holidays and make it just holidays. If you do this i.e. take the Christ out of Christmas, and then you remove the need to be saved from sin. If you take Christ out, there is no need for a Saviour. The moment we take out a law no more a king is needed. Joseph had an angel come to him and say, “Don’t be afraid to take Mary because that which is of her is born of the Holy Spirit.” If we take the Saviour out, the need for salvation from sin is out, and if we take the saviour out then we take out the rules of God that says the wages of sin is death. We take the commandments out which are given by a lawgiver or a king, but the moment you say you don’t need a saviour you take the need for Jesus out and the need for

a king and you take the stand that I am my own king.

Some Christians say the Word of God is the final word, others say the Word of God is good but times have moved on and they have no problem with offending the King of Kings. Is Christ king? Is He coming today as the Saviour? The moment I say I acknowledge His commandments you acknowledge Him as king. You have to acknowledge the entire word of God. In fact, Christmas is not this time of the year; Jesus was born around Easter time actually.

But the question remains: **Is He the Lamb of God?** Is He able to take away our sins? Is He coming as a child in a manger? Or as king in all areas of our life? The magi said, *“Where is He that is born the king of the Jews?”* The first declaration about Jesus was that **He was the king of the Jews**. And I thought of His crucifixion and there it was inscribed: the king of the Jews. There was no two ways about it, no negotiation. But this king was not born in the fine background of rich clothes, palace etc. Jesus did not come being born in a palace, He did not have a place to lay His head, and His death was on a cross where hardened criminals died. His birth, life and death were not kingly. One thing He did not doubt was that He was the king of the Jews.

When we look at ourselves we do not seem like sons of god, kings, priests etc but that is what scripture says we are. My son asked me when the king of Travancore died, “Who is the next king?” I said, “Well he does not have a kingdom because we are a democracy.” So he said *I wish you were the king.!*

You may not seem a king but you are a king. Christ’s first coming was not so majestic but one day He is coming back as king. For a king to come what He needs is not majesty, but every word that proceeded out of His mouth was the words of a king. He was always setting a standard. The word king says, **“The one who sets a standard”** and when God calls you and me to be kings and priests and to go out into the land, He says **I want you to go out and set a standard in this world.**

When I was in college, there was a group of Muslims who would organize these debates basically to prove that Muslims were better than Christians. It was also a practice in college that you have to pay a bribe of Rs 10,000 to pass. I wouldn’t. The Muslim said, “Hey religion and reality are separate.”

Psalm 20:7.

*Some boast in **chariots** and some in horses, But we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God.*

I passed but he failed. I said, “For us reality and religion are the same.”

Christmas has little to do with reindeer, Santa, receiving Christ as a helpless child. The wise men did not say we are looking for a baby but for the King of the Jews. Have you and I come for a King? Does he have prominence in your life? Does the King’s word have prominence in your life? Does the King’s word matter or shall we put it in a manger with hay and lights?

By the way, they were just wise men and not three but a few of them. **Look at their commitment, they pursued for a king for two years, left all their business etc. and they followed the star.** Why would someone who had another king in the east try to find a new king? Unless something told them in their hearts that this king would be the King of Kings? That this king would be a different king and his kingdom would not be of this world.

When we go to Jesus and say, *“Give me these blessings of the world.”* Remember another king said that to Jesus, *“I will give you all the kingdoms of the world.”* But the wise men did not ask anything of the king they gave all to him.

In Romans, it says, *He who did not spare his own son, will he not give us all things?*

Can we pursue God? Can everything we do be a pursuit of God? One pastor was happy that his son went to Gulf. I asked him why and he said, “I don’t want what happened to me to happen to him.” He was saying what my God could not provide for me the sheiks can for my son. I understand him because he was a missionary in North India but I do not understand him too. Because the King did not come to promise house and cars etc but life and life abundantly. Many of us are living in the kingdom of the king but not aware of it. The violent take the kingdom and so we must pursue the King.

In Daniel, it says, many kings came many kings went. The last few chapters – God tells Daniel **you just do what you are supposed to do and I will bring all this to pass.**

It bothered Herod that the wise men told him a new king is born. If you and I need to have a new king walking into our kingdom it’s going to disturb our life as usual. The king will walk in with a new world order that disturbs our life as usual.

When we are in full time ministry we are very clear about the call of the King. The wise men were very clear about why they came – we have come to worship. We have not come for some contracts from him – if you give me this, I will give you tithes. He will come calling us to be followers of his kingdom. This king never had a throne. He isn’t looking for a kingdom of this world. He is looking for your heart as his throne. No throne on earth is enough to enthrone him. The best of thrones would only be his footstool. Heaven is his throne and the earth is his footstool. We can enthrone him outside the footstool when we enthrone him in our hearts. The extension of the kingdom is here in our heart.

They did not come to give him gold, frankincense and myrrh, they came to worship him.

Where is this king that we can worship Him?

Herod was a king with a small k and Jesus, the King of the Jews with a capital K. Small k has a lot of friends who will get upset if it worships big K. Herod was troubled and along with him – all of Jerusalem was troubled. The King is coming to save us from our sins, but that troubles people. Until big K came up, small k was the standard. Now that the King of the Jews came he was going to lose his position and throne. Herod did not know that Jesus did not come for his throne. Many of us think that when big K comes He is going to ask us for many things. He neither came for Herod’s throne or the other things. Jesus is not coming to take away your I-phone but he is coming to be enthroned in your heart and then these other things won’t matter anymore. Your prestige and ours won’t matter anymore. What really matters is whether He is king in our lives or not. Even today when we declare Christ, some are excited that He is coming while others are unhappy.

Herod’s pain became everybody’s pain. Today if Jesus is coming to your heart, is it going to be a pain for you? And are people going to be pained because He is enthroned in your heart?

Jesus says, *“Come unto me all who are weary and heavy laden.”*

When you come to him God will open the heavenly hosts to speak to you. They told the wise men to go another way.

It's not the cake and holly and fun etc but about the King. Gold, which the wise men brought him was the dust on the streets of heaven. But what the king actually got was worship.

Enthroned Him in your heart, this King Jesus, this Christmas.