

2 Samuel 23.1-7

¹ These are the last words of David:

'The inspired utterance of David son of Jesse, the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, the hero of Israel's songs:

² 'The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue. ³ The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: "When one rules over people in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, ⁴ he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings grass from the earth."

⁵ 'If my house were not right with God, surely he would not have made with me an everlasting covenant, arranged and secured in every part; surely he would not bring to fruition my salvation and grant me my every desire.

⁶ But evil men are all to be cast aside like thorns, which are not gathered with the hand. ⁷ Whoever touches thorns uses a tool of iron or the shaft of a spear; they are burned up where they lie.'

Psalm 93

¹ The Lord is king, and has put on robes of glory:
the Lord has put on his glory,
he has girded himself with strength.

² He has made the world so firm:
that it cannot be moved.

³ Your throne is established from of old:
you are from everlasting.

⁴ The floods have lifted up, O Lord,
the floods have lifted up their voice:
the floods lift up their pounding.

⁵ But mightier than the sound of many waters,
than the mighty waters or the breakers of the sea:
the Lord on high is mighty.

⁶ Your decrees are very sure:
and holiness, O Lord, adorns your house for ever.

Revelation 1.4b-8

⁴ John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

⁷ 'Look, he is coming with the clouds,' and 'every eye will see him, even those who pierced him'; and all peoples on earth 'will mourn because of him.' So shall it be! Amen.

⁸ 'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.'

John 18.33-37

³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' ³⁴ 'Is that your own idea,' Jesus asked, 'or did others talk to you about me?'

³⁵ 'Am I a Jew?' Pilate replied. 'Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?'

³⁶ Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.'

³⁷ 'You are a king, then!' said Pilate.

Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.'

Sentence

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing. Revelation 5.12

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God,
whose will is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son,
our Lord and King:
grant that the people of earth,
now divided and enslaved by sin,
may be freed and brought together under his gentle and loving rule;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.



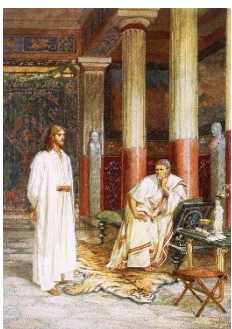
To the six churches in the parish of Cooma/Monaro: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Don't you find it stunning to realize that we worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords? And not only that but he cares about each and every one of us and wants us to be in his family and close to his heart.



King David was the prototype of a king of Israel, he was not perfect by a long stretch, he made some major mistakes in his life, but he was a man after God's own heart. Whenever, he made a mistake and then realised what he had done he would repent and throw himself on God's mercy in full remorse and God would forgive him.

When King David was alive one of the things that our Lord promised him was that one day a descendant of his would be the anointed King. As he said in today's Psalm: One who is the fruit of your body: I will set upon your throne. The Jews were always longing for God to give them another King like King David, not only from him by genetics but like him in faithfulness and honour and had come to see that this King would also be their Messiah.



In our gospel reading today, Jesus has been arrested and is supposed to be on trial before Pilate, but Pilate has a bit of trouble interrogating Jesus because Jesus keeps asking the questions and not answering what Pilate wants to know. Although Jesus is nominally on trial here, he is the one who testified to the truth, and the world is judged by its response to his witness,

The chief priests wanted to get rid of Jesus so they had picked up on his talk about the Kingdom of God and accused him of claiming to be King so that the Romans would see him as a threat and dispose of him. So, Pilate asks, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' and then 'What is it you have done?' And finally, Jesus answers 'My kingship is not from here', Our translation says My kingdom is not of this world, but the word translated as Kingdom more accurately means kingship or reign. He is referring to the origin of his authority not its

present location. Jesus originates from God and his kingship has the same origins.

He also doesn't say my kingdom is not of this world although it has been translated like that, but 'My kingship is not from this world', if it was not of this world it would imply that it was other worldly, spiritual or heavenly reality that had nothing to do with this world at all. That is patently not true. Jesus after all taught us to pray that God's kingdom would come 'on earth as it is in heaven'. The point is that Jesus' kingdom does not come from earth but has come from heaven. Just as Jesus himself came. This is why he sends us into the world. His kingdom doesn't come from this world but it is for this world.

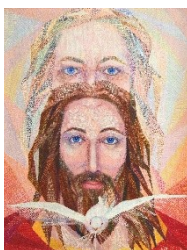


His Kingdom is not a worldly kingdom with authority held by might but a kingdom of service and truth. Earthly kingdoms are political entities, they rely on strength of might and the Roman empire was no different. The atmosphere in Jerusalem was always explosive; during passover it was dynamite, so the Romans drafted extra soldiers into Jerusalem at Passover but in reality, there were not that many soldiers available. If Jesus had wanted a political victory, he could easily have defeated them. The victory Jesus wanted was a victory of love in people's hearts. Throughout this passage the writer is constantly contrasting political kingship with theological kingship.

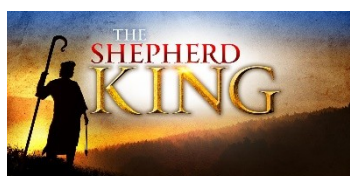


"The reason I was born' and I came into the world to testify to the truth" is referring to Jesus whole mission to the world. Jesus came not to have a military, short term Kingdom but to show everyone that God the creator loved them and wanted to have a relationship with them. If he had overthrown the Romans and established a Jewish empire, it could only last a generation or two before some other military conqueror came and overthrew them again. No earthly Kingdom lasts for ever, but our God is sovereign throughout all the generations and for eternity. That is the essential truth coupled with his love for us humans, who live such a transitory life on earth and wanting to give us eternal life so that we can reign with him for ever.

Think again for a moment about the greatest Commandment: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.



The Lord is one, The Creator Father, our Saviour Jesus and the Counsellor Holy Spirit are one, and in being one they are the sovereign Lord. And we are called to love God, the One with every aspect of our being, our complete selves. Not just a little part of ourselves, the spiritual bit that we bring out on Sundays but the lot, our brains, our bodies our hearts and everything that makes us who we are, because we are nothing without him, he made us, he saved us and reconciled us to himself, and he walks with us and guides us every day. He is God, he is the King, how could we not love and worship him and love our neighbour as he commands.



In Biblical times there was a very strong connection between the image of king and the image of Shepherd. The King of Israel was always supposed to be the shepherd of his people and when Jesus says: "Everyone on

the side of truth listens to me.' we are reminded of when he told us that he is the good shepherd, and his sheep listen to him. To belong to the truth is to be one of Jesus' sheep.



Knowing the truth and being Jesus' disciple are synonyms. To belong to the truth is to recognise in Jesus the truth of God, to see the fullness of God revealed in Jesus and to hear the words of God in Jesus' voice. Jesus is the King, Jesus is the good shepherd, the one who lays down his life for the sheep

Truth is not something you can get out of a test tube, or a mathematical formula. We don't and can't have truth in our pockets. It is a gift, which like Jesus comes from elsewhere. It is meant to take up residence in our world. Jesus is the truth.

King David said: "When one rules over people in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, ⁴ he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings grass from the earth." Isn't that a wonderful description of our Lord and king? Jesus is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings grass from the earth. He is, So beautiful so incredible not in some pretentious way but in a way that just feeds our souls and makes us whole.



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