

## “Incarnation - Jesus, You Are King”

Scripture: Luke 1:26-33; 2 Samuel 7:13-14; Micah 5:2

Graphics: manger, stars, crown, king

Big Truth: Just as we desire physical contact and closeness to others, God desired for us to know Him physically and relationally close. God sent Jesus to earth in the form of a child so that we could know Him. He taught and suffered and died so we would know Him. He rose again, bodily, so that we would know Him. All that, also, so we would know ourselves. Jesus is King. Jesus is Savior. Jesus is Emmanuel. Jesus is the Light of the World. Jesus is the Word.

Focus Phrase: Jesus, you are King of this world and of my life.

### 1. Introduction

- A. Well, I’m not sure exactly how we got here, but here we are - it’s Advent...the season that prepares us, leads us, and invites us to Christmas.
- B. For Christians, Christmas is a very special holy day...a day when we celebrate the birth of the one we follow, Jesus.
- C. Yet, when we talk about the birth of Jesus, what does that mean? Is it just that Jesus was a baby boy in his mother’s arms? Or does it hold some other significance for those who follow Jesus?
- D. Well...think about this: for months and months due to COVID, and maybe even longer for some due to other reasons, we have gradually learned what it’s like to NOT have physical human contact. Someone shook my hand the other day, and it literally took me several seconds to even process what was happening! A simple hug is a commodity. For some of the most vulnerable among us, in nursing homes or hospitals, physical contact is almost non-existent besides those in charge of their immediate care.
- E. We’re craving physical contact! Our lives seem LESS THAN because we can’t hug those around us or spend time together like we so eagerly desire.
- F. (pause) Now, what if ‘your’ people - people that you love - lost touch with you? What if, even though you spent time asking them to love you, and showing them how, they simply didn’t? And now that COVID restrictions make that even harder, there’s a hole in your heart.
- G. God called, provided for, loved, and protected His people from the beginning of time. The Jewish people were God’s people...to be a light to the world by showing the world His love and being faithful to Him. They were to talk to him and worship him and teach their children about him.
- H. But, for many years, many of them forgot how. Yet, God’s desire to be in contact with them never diminished - not even a little!
- I. And so, at the right time - God’s perfect time - God made a bold move to once and for all make a lasting connection with His people. The plan - as

outrageous as it was - was to become like one of them, to teach them about God, to suffer and die like one of them (even though He was still God), and then be raised from the dead, physically, in order for them to know that He is able to do the same for each one of them.

- J. That plan, if you haven't yet heard, was carried out to perfection 2,000 years ago, in a place called Israel, through a boy named Jesus.
- K. This is the **Incarnation**, our worship series for Advent. This is the mystery of God becoming flesh, embodying himself into the form of a human, while still being God. For His people.
- L. But not JUST for His people. For you and for me, too.
- M. Throughout Advent, we'll be focusing ALL of our attention on Jesus, the incarnation of God...the One who is God's physical touch in the world and in our lives. If we know who Jesus is, then, because he was human like us, we will know who WE are to God.
  - i. First, today, we will confess, "Jesus, You are King"
  - ii. Next week, we will confess, "Jesus, You are Savior"
  - iii. In week three, "Jesus, You Are Emmanuel"
  - iv. And, finally, right before Christmas, we will confess, "Jesus, You are the Light of the World"
- N. You may have heard each of those titles for Jesus, but may not have taken time in these busy seasons to truly sit with them...sit with Him. Each of those titles was given to Jesus - King, Savior, Emmanuel, and Light of the World, along with many others, throughout the Bible.
- O. My prayer for us during this season is that each of us would be immersed in Jesus...surrounded by who He is and why he came to earth on that first Christmas 2,000 years ago.
- P. The Incarnation. Let's pray and then dive into our first confession, "Jesus, You Are King."
- Q. PRAY!
- R. Here's where we're headed today. Jesus isn't just King today, but Jesus has BEEN the King of Kings from the beginning of time. God spoke of this King to His people. The prophets foretold the coming of this King. The angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to this King. And, we now await the return of this King to reign forever WITH US.

## 2. Scripture

- A. Let me give us a little background to begin. In the history of the world, there have been many kings. Even in our modern world, we might call some rulers, some dictators, some presidents, or prime ministers. These are women and

men who have been somehow elected or have assumed power to lead a nation or group of people.

- B. And without exception, those people ruled for a time, died, and either have been forgotten or have been memorialized in bronze while their bodies lay in a grave to be ravaged by unforgiving time. (pause)
- C. God never wanted the Jewish people - his people - to have a king. In fact, the Jewish people themselves didn't want a king until they saw the pagan nations around them being ruled by kings.
- D. Eventually, God basically said, "Even though I don't want to give you a king, since I'm the One who is to lead you, I will appoint someone to be King." The prophet Samuel, with God's direction, chose a man named Saul to be the first king in the 11th century B.C.
- E. In 1 Samuel 10:1 we read these words about Saul, "Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him; he said, 'The Lord has anointed you ruler over his people Israel. You shall reign over the people of the Lord and you will save them from the hand of their enemies all around.'"
- F. Saul was Israel's first earthly king but not the last. In fact, Israel have several kings before Israel split into two nations...and then had dozens of earthly kings after that.
- G. Yet, God's plan to one day send Jesus to earth to be the last and ultimate King was already in motion, even before Saul was anointed with oil that day.
- H. When David became king, the prophet Nathan basically told David that he would be king, but there is a King coming that would reign forever. 2 Samuel 7:13 records Nathan's words to David, "He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." It wasn't that David was going to reign forever...but that Jesus, who was born from the family and lineage of David, would!
- I. Fast-forward a few hundred years and we read this prophecy from Isaiah 9:6-7: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this."
- J. R. Alan Culpepper wrote: "God's promises to David in 2 Samuel 7:13-14 therefore were about to be fulfilled in a way that David would not have imagined. Jesus' Kingdom, however, would not be an earthly political reign, but a spiritual Kingdom that would never end." (NIB, Volume IX, page 51)

- K. The prophet Micah even told the people what family this forever King would be from. Micah 5:2, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.”
- L. So, the people waited for their forever King. They heard Isaiah’s words...and waited...and waited.
- M. Until one day, an angel appeared to a young woman in the little nowhere town of Nazareth. And this woman, whose family was from the tribe of Judah, happened to be engaged to a man who was also in the line and family of David...from the tribe of Judah. And she would give birth to a son...

**N. READ Luke 1:26-33**

- O. God’s plan...at the perfect time. God’s plan to send a forever King, who would be named Jesus...who will be great...and will be called Son of the Most High...and who would be given the THRONE of his ancestor David...who will reign over the house of Jacob FOREVER...and his KINGDOM will have no end!
- P. THIS is KING JESUS! God...in the flesh! THIS is the One the prophets said would come! He is the One that was the end-game in God’s playbook from Day 1. He’s the reason history shifted and our calendar pivots.
- Q. But, he wasn’t raised up and anointed with oil...he was INCARNATED - embodied - as God, into a baby boy of humble, yet special, lineage.
- R. He came to be King of the Universe not so that he could be wealthy or powerful on earth, but so that he could die in our place, and rise again to lead the way to everlasting life.
- S. He came so that in a world of disconnect, we could connect with God himself. In a world of separation, King Jesus could be the bridge to a life with God, through God. When everything around us is physical and social distance, Jesus came to be IN US through His Holy Spirit.
- T. He came to establish His kingdom so that we could live IN IT!
- U. And, so, our confession is: “Jesus, You Are King”

**3. Application**

- A. But, when you make that confession, what does it really mean? With the holidays, COVID, the elections, in addition to all the things that are wrong with this world, what does, “Jesus, You Are King” compel you to do?
- B. First, that confession compels you to **Bow Down to King Jesus**
  - i. When Jesus was born, there was a king in Israel whose name was Herod. And he was so threatened by the rumor that Jesus was a new king born to the Jews, he immediately had all the young boys killed. Jesus escaped, of

course, with his parents. It's not that Herod was threatened by a baby, but by a loss of his own power or pride.

- ii. This season, let me invite you to allow God to search your heart to lay down every shred of power or pride. Humility comes when we bow down our lives to King Jesus.
- iii. All other leaders or idols in your life must be submitted to the kingship of Jesus, the king forever. Maybe it's fear for what's to come. Maybe it's a leader who you disagree with. Maybe it's pride or feeling like you were unjustly targeted.
- iv. Bow down to King Jesus, worship Him, and allow Him to tell you who you are to Him.

C. Second, that confession compels you to **Be a Citizen of Jesus' Kingdom**

- i. John Wesley wrote, "Would to God that all party names, and unscriptural phrases and forms, which have divided the Christian world, were forgot; and that we might all agree to sit down together, as humble, loving disciples, at the feet of our common Master, to hear his word, to imbibe his Spirit, and to transcribe his life in our own." (John Wesley Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament [London: John Mason, 1755])
- ii. We may experience great division among the citizens of this nation or world, or even in your own family, yet Jesus calls us to be one in Him.
- iii. To be a citizen of Jesus kingdom is to work for, defend, and be identified as a member of the Kingdom. You aren't called to walk around being primarily a citizen of the USA. You are called to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God, living that out temporarily as a citizen of the USA.
- iv. This country will be gone someday. This world as you know it will be gone someday. But, right now, the Kingdom of God is breaking in, pulling people into it through faith in Jesus Christ, the King. And until that day comes when we see Jesus face-to-face, you're to keep bowing down, serving him, loving God, and worshiping with passion.

D. Finally, that confession compels you to have **Hope for Jesus' Return as King Forever**

- i. Jesus is coming back!
- ii. Revelation 19:11-16 gives us this vision: "Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems; and he has a name inscribed that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, wearing fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth

comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, 'King of kings and Lord of lords.'”

- iii. And, in the end, Jesus wins!
  - iv. As His follower, you're on the right side of justice. He paid the price on the cross. In fact, the sign that was nailed to the cross with Jesus read, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." Pontius Pilate had no idea how true that was. And when He returns, He will read your name in the Book of Life and you will be with Him forever.
  - v. If you don't yet know Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, I pray today is that day you surrender your life to Him for eternity by turning your face to Him, confessing your sin, and receiving His forgiveness.
  - vi. The fact that Jesus is King now and forever gives us hope for today as we live in this mess of a world.
- E. God did not leave His people in their mess, and He won't leave us in ours. His plan, from day 1, was to send Jesus to us, for us, to be in us.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- A. R. Alan Culpepper: "The ultimate scandal is that God would enter human life with all its depravity, violence, and corruption. There, the annunciation ultimately is an announcement of hope for humankind. God has not abandoned us to the consequences of our own sinfulness. Rather, God has sent Jesus as our deliverer. There is another way, a commonwealth under Jesus' Lordship that is without end." (NIB, Volume IX, page 53)
- B. God's Incarnation, Jesus, is King - the forever King!
- C. As we stand to sing and close this worship time, I want us to, with one voice together, lift up the confession, "Jesus, You Are King!" As his people, this confession doesn't come from here (head), but from here (heart).
- D. So, let's stand and, three times, confess together: "Jesus, You Are King" (3 times). Each time, we should feel it well up more and more from the deepest parts of us. Confess this with me... "Jesus, You Are King!"
- E. Let's pray...