

## The Nature of Christ's Kingdom

*Gospel of John, Part LXIII*

John 18:28-19:4

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### I. The Home Stretch

John's purpose throughout His Gospel has been "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (Jn 20:31). Jesus is God's Anointed King who offered Himself a willing sacrifice for His people (1:29).

### II. The Roman Trial of Jesus

#### A. Prelude (18:28 cf. Lk 22:1)

The term \_\_\_\_\_ can be used two ways: to refer to Passover proper or to refer to the entire Feast of Unleavened Bread (cf. Lk 22:1). John uses the latter sense.

#### B. First Act (18:29-40)

##### 1. Scene 1, *Outside*: The Accusation (18:29-32)

##### 2. Scene 2, *Inside*: Are You the King of the Jews? (18:33-38a)

Pilate wants to know if Jesus really does claim to be the King of the Jews (33). Pilate's question indicates that John has abbreviated the dialog. We receive the Jews' accusation in Pilate's question: "Jesus is making Himself out to be the King of the Jews. In other words, He is a \_\_\_\_\_, urging Israel to rebel against Rome."

Jesus responds by insisting that His kingdom does not have a human origin. If His kingdom were like their kingdoms, kingdoms built on the desires and ambitions of men, then His servants would fight. His kingdom is not "from here."

##### 3. Scene 3, *Outside*: The Choice (18:38b-40)

#### C. Intermission: Mocking and Scourging (19:1-3)

#### D. Second Act (19:4-15)

##### 1. Scene 1, *Outside*: Behold the Man! (19:4-7)

##### 2. Scene 2, *Inside*: Where are You from? (19:8-11)

##### 3. Scene 3, *Outside*: Behold your King! (19:12-15)

#### E. Postlude (19:16)

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
  - A. Introduction: He knew His hour had come (13:1)
  - B. Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Departure (13:2-17:26)
  - C. Jesus Departs this world to the Father (18:1-20:29)
    - 1. Jesus' Arrest & Trials (18:1-19:16a)
    - 2. Jesus' Crucifixion & Burial (19:16b-42)
    - 3. Jesus' Resurrection & Appearances (20:1-29)
  - D. Conclusion: Purpose of the Gospel (20:30-31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

### III. The Nature of Christ's Kingdom

#### A. Not Earthly but Earthy (cf. Dan 2:35, 44-45)

First, we learn that the Kingdom of Christ is not *earthly*, but it is *earthy*. On the one hand, the kingdom of Christ is not \_\_\_\_\_. In other words, its *origin* is heavenly. Jesus does not derive His authority from among men.

What this means, therefore, is that His kingdom does not exist on the same plane as earthly kingdoms. His kingdom is \_\_\_\_\_ to all the kingdoms of men *not in competition* with them. All men and nations are called to bow before Him. "*The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!*" (Rev 11:15) The kingdoms of men now belong to Jesus.

While Christ's kingdom is not *earthly*, it is *earthy*. Because Christ has risen, *there are no more autonomous kingdoms on earth*. Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. He now summons all nations to acknowledge His sovereign rule (cf. Acts 17:30-32).

#### B. Not Militaristic but Militant (2 Cor 10:4-6)

Second, the kingdom of Christ is not *militaristic*, but it is *militant*. On the one hand, the kingdom of Christ is not \_\_\_\_\_. Because Christ's kingdom is heavenly, it does not utilize carnal weaponry to advance (18:36). There is nothing incompatible with being a loyal subject of Christ and a loyal subject of Rome. On the other hand, His kingdom is *militant*. He is going to war against the powers of darkness (cf. 18:32): "*Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself*" (Jn 12:31-32).

So we are called to imitate our Lord Christ. Paul writes to the Corinthians:

*"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled."* (2 Cor 10:4-6)

#### C. Not Compulsory but Compelling

Finally, the kingdom of Christ is not *compulsory* but *compelling*. On the one hand, the kingdom is not \_\_\_\_\_: He does not forcibly subdue His enemies. He is not that type of King. Rather, the kingdom is like a sower who goes out to sow. How does the kingdom of God grow? Through the preaching of the \_\_\_\_\_, the Word of God (37b). Jesus comes to bear witness to the truth, to speak the truth, to adorn the truth. And the truth compels all those whom God in His grace and mercy touches to *hear His voice*.

### IV. Conclusion