

The Kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ – Rev 11:15-16

Introduction – Hopefully, you cannot read these verses without hearing Handel’s Messiah. While there are plenty of historical events which ought to be commemorated, certainly the Ascension of Jesus Christ should be at the top of the list. Sadly, this event is rarely remembered or celebrated throughout the modern church. It is no wonder that it does not act as though it believes that Christ rules today as King of kings and Lord of lords.

What Happened? – It is not simply that Jesus departed 40 days after His resurrection.

The View from Earth (Acts 1:1-11) – Jesus will return in the same manner that He left (vv10-11), but the mode of His departure and the appearance of the angels tells us that this event is very important. Luke notes that “a cloud received Him out of their sight.” They took Him somewhere else; this was not simply a departure.

The View from Heaven (Dan 7:13-14) – Daniel refers to a vision of one like the Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven. Mistakenly, some have referred to this as a vision of the return of Christ to the earth. But the Son of Man, in this vision, “*came to the Ancient of Days*” where the Son is enthroned over an everlasting kingdom.

What Did Jesus Proclaim? (Mark 14:61-64) – The high priest knew Jesus was referring to Dan 7 (and Psalm 110) and was claiming to be God, taking the name of God “I AM” for Himself. This was enough for the high priest to tear his garment and call Christ a blasphemer. And yet he didn’t understand what he was doing (1 Cor 2:7-8). Christ’s death was going to overthrow those very powers that put Him to death. And the high priest would see the effects of this in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in 10 days, the rapid growth of the church and in just one generation, the complete destruction of the Temple and all of Jerusalem. Jesus’ reign had begun.

And So We Pray (Matt 6:10) – Jesus taught us to pray that this complete manifestation in heaven would continue to grow and manifest His dominion all over the world.

King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev 11:15-16) – This is not simply a spiritual truth, deposited away in some spiritual Swiss bank account where no one can touch it or be bothered with it. Jesus is King of Washington State. He is the Governor of governors. He is the President of presidents. He is the authority of authorities. This is not up for grabs. And this is not a promise simply for some future. Jesus said that all authority in heaven and on earth had been given to Him. Believe on *that* Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Response: Worship (Rev 11:17-18) – The worship is given with thanks by the twenty four elders, representing the entire church, falling before Him from their thrones. How had His wrath come? This prophetic book was all about the coming destruction of Jerusalem for her rejection of the Messiah. We are to worship Christ who reveals His glory both in His righteous wrath and in His glorious mercy. It is a worship of God filled with “*reverence and godly fear*” (Heb 12:28).

The Crown Rights of King Jesus (Psalm 110:1-2) – We live in the new earth, under a new Ruler, because of what happened at the Ascension and enthronement of Jesus Christ. He was crucified in weakness and raised in strength. In that weakness, He was conquering all wickedness, and the wickedness did not know what He was doing. He reigns from heaven, but through the ministry of the church, every enemy will be brought under submission. Every knee must bow, every tongue confess. We are calling the nations, at the command of Jesus, to complete obedience to Him. We are not to be a lobby group straddling to find a place at the table of power and politics. We have been sent to declare that the table is the Lord’s.

Personally – You are not invited to make Jesus your personal Lord. He is declared as King and Lord. But His absolute right to complete obedience is not the cry of a power-grabbing dictator who has taken control. The throne that He sits on is the throne of grace and the main way that Jesus puts down His enemies over this age is by making them His friends. The declaration to render your worship and service to this King is not to a king who does not Himself know how to humble Himself and be humbled. Therefore, we are to humble ourselves under the His mighty hand that He might lift us up, just as He exalted the Son of Man. And when we are humiliated, betrayed, mistreated, lied about, or abused, we must remember the Ascension of Jesus Christ our Lord. Just as we learn that there is no crown without a cross for the follower of Christ, so also we must learn that there will never be a cross without a crown.