



# CROWNING THE KING

## KINGDOM PRINCIPLE STUDY KP12

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### READ THIS FIRST

The task of bringing in the reign (kingdom) of God is committed to the church, the body of Jesus Christ (the Anointed One), empowered by the Holy Spirit. God's intention is that the reign of Christ should be established over all the nations. Sadly, apart from a short time immediately after Pentecost, Jesus the Lord of heaven and earth has seldom been given His rightful place in His church, let alone amongst the nations. ("Why do you call me Lord and do not do what I say?"). But God our Father is not confounded! He knows who His obedient servants are, those who have made Jesus Lord of their lives. It is to these that he gives His new anointing and on whom rests the call to go and make disciples of the nations. These are those who have found grace to love Jesus enough to just do what He says! There are important principles emerging even in our day that have tended to be hidden from the majority of church members through the history of the church. We need to discern them if we are to be numbered in the vanguard of Christ's mighty army.

**Key scriptures** for this study include:

**Matthew 5:3-12; 10:16-39; 13 and 25**  
**Revelation 12**  
**I Samuel 15; 18 to 24; 26 to 30**  
**II Samuel 1 to 5:1-10**  
**I Chronicles 11 and 12**

**Do not bother to read these scripture first;** rather go through the study reading the scriptures as you go. Answer the questions and forward your answers to us. We will return them together with our comments and the next study.

### LEARN THESE SCRIPTURES BY HEART

"God has raised Him (Jesus) to the highest place and given Him a Name greater than any other name, so that, at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus the Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).

"All authority is given to me both in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18).

"These signs shall follow them that believe... in My Name they shall cast out demons, they shall speak in new tongues, if they pick up serpents or drink any

deadly poison it shall do them no harm, they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17-18).

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### WHO IS LORD?

By far the most amazing thing about the Church of Jesus Christ these days is not its disunity (denominationalism), nor its variety of understanding about clearly defined principles in scripture. The most amazing thing is the almost universal lack of recognition of the absolute Lordship of Jesus the Head of the Church. One almost despairs a times of finding even one local assembly directed and controlled by Jesus **our Lord** (*Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15-16*).

If there are problems in the church (and there are many) they are attributable to one fact – Jesus is not in control. Such problems will only be solved when we abandon everything apart from making Jesus Lord, first in our own lives and then in our collective tower and battle life. We have no excuse from missing the fact that Jesus is Lord. He is described as Lord in scripture 7749 times! Of course, He is our Saviour (mentioned 250 times) but we cannot take Him as Saviour if we do not take Him as Lord. Even the Gospel (good news) that has been preached in recent days has been diluted to be good news about everything except what it is supposed to be – the good news of the Kingdom of God, i.e. the reign (government) of God coming to earth. New Testament writers knew no other gospel. All of Jesus' preaching and parables were about the Kingdom. His instruction to His disciples was that they should preach and proclaim nothing but the Kingdom. (*Rev. 19:11-16; Matt. 3:3, Matt. 4:17, Matt. 6:33, Matt. 24:14, Matt. 5:3, 13:18-19, 24-30, 32-32, 33-35, 44-50; Matt. 20:1-16; Matt. 21:33-46; Matt. 22:1-14; Matt. 18:1-6; Matt. 7:29; Matt. 21:1-11, 23-27; Matt. 8:5-13*).

In His earthly ministry Jesus showed Himself to be King – not only by His mighty acts but by His conversation. He did not beg, entice or in-treat – He commanded! He did not have to explain Himself to those who questioned Him. He rejoiced when he found people who recognized Him. If He wanted to go to Zaccheus's house He told Him: 'Come down, I am going to your house today!' If He wanted a donkey to ride on He told His disciples to get one! He was, and still is, **Lord!** Perhaps the problem is that we who live in so-called emancipated societies have forgotten what a Lord is! Otherwise, how can you explain why even those who claim to love Him treat Him as a servant and not as Lord?

The Bible word for Lord is *kyrios*; the ancient meaning of this word tells us that that if Jesus is Lord then **we belong to Him** and He has a perfect right to

do with us as He wills. He owns us, having purchased us with His own blood, and can dispose of us if He wants to; we do not have any say in the matter. He is our Master, our *despotes* (English: despot), the one who rules over us (His church). (*Acts 20:28; I Cor. 6:19-20; Ps. 24:1; Luke 12:1-10*).

When we are baptized we recognize that we are buried with Christ and made alive with and through Him that we might no longer be slaves of sin but servants (slaves) of God. There is no place in between where we may serve ourselves. We only have a choice of masters – God our Father or the devil. The church needs a new vision of who Jesus is – personally and collectively. (*Rom. 6:1-23; Rev. 1:9; Dan. 10:9*).

## TWO REASONS WHY JESUS IS NOT LORD OF THE CHURCH

**BABYLON:** We have shared before that the principles of false religion developed at Babel by Cush, Semiramis and Nimrod are found, not only in pagan religion but even within the church of Jesus the Christ. Paul recognized this early in church history. He also recognized that there would be a great showing forth of these principles in the last days. When Constantine, Emperor of Rome, officially adopted Christianity as the religion of the Empire, the outworking was the amalgamating of Christianity with the existing Babylonian worship and priest structure of pagan Rome. The invasion was thus completed. The Pontifex Maximus became the Vicar of Christ! Was Heaven confused as man was? (*I Thess. 2:1-12*). Looking back we might wonder how such a union was possible if we did not understand the nature of the mysteries. For the religion ceremonies of Babel, though revolting and hideous, exactly parallel the principle of Christ. To the uninformed they can easily be made to appear to fit scripture. Within these trappings the initiated priesthood hides the basic deceptions of the system from which they gain their power and authority. The main diversions from the truth can be defined as:

- Regeneration by water baptism (as opposed to the work of the Spirit).
- Justification by works (as opposed to faith)
- The need for regular confession and partaking of the mass in order that we might be forgiven – rather than total trust in the completed, once and for all, provision of forgiveness, past and future, provide for us by the cross.
- Extreme Unction for the dying (instead of anointing the sick that they might recover), and
- Provision of Purgatory and prayers for the dead – leaving open the possibility of salvation after death when scripture plainly teaches us that we are appointed once to die and then the Judgment, and are therefore called to holiness in this life.

The purpose of these dreadful errors is two fold: (1) to deflect us from the benefits opened to us through the cross (escape from the hands of the enemy, the washing of regeneration and the anointing of the Holy Spirit); and (2) to render us priest dependent (*Jer. 31:11; Titus 3: 5-6*).

In case anyone concludes that this is a case against the Orthodox and Roman Churches, let us say immediately that the principles of error are also found in many Protestant Denominations, especially the non-Evangelicals. The Lutherans, Anglican, Presbyterians and Methodists (Uniting Church in Australia) and the like, while outwardly modified from their parent Catholicism – rejection of the Papacy, the Queen of Heaven and the efficacy of Saints – still hold to the main element of the Babel system. For instance, Lutheranism still teaches regeneration through water baptism; Luther himself fiercely persecuted the Anabaptists, believers who practiced baptism as an act of obedience in response to a direct word of the Spirit. In summary, lest we be in haste to judge others, let us say that none of us are totally free from the antichrist traditions. They come to us in extremely subtle ways and we desperately need our Savior and the blessed Holy Ghost to help us in our extremity. Thanks be to God that Jesus is our Deliverer.

**THE ARM OF FLESH:** While there have been attempts by people to break away from Babylonian traditions throughout church history it has been the great Evangelical movements of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries – including the Holiness and Pentecostal movements – that have been the most successful. It has not always been easy – persecution has often been intense; many fled from their homelands to the ‘wilderness prepared for them’, to New Zealand, South Africa, Australia, the Americas. Europe, the home of Gentile Christianity, apart from small remnant groups, is relatively spiritually dead today. The UK is perhaps the main bastion of basic Christianity in Europe, thanks the Wesleyan revival, the Salvation Army Movement and preachers like Moody and Sankey, and Billy Graham in our day. (*Rev. 12:13-17*).

It is the Evangelicals who have preached the Gospel and re-instated many Biblical truths – repentance from dead works, justification through faith in the finished work of the Cross, baptism, etc. But the Evangelical have found their own problem in **New Testament pattern legalism**, (slavish and intellectual appropriation of the scriptures, particularly Paul’s letters) and **self effort** (the ‘arm of flesh’ as opposed to Holy Spirit effort). At the heart of this has been the substitution of the scripture (the ‘Word of God’) for Jesus the **WORD**. Study of the Bible replaces a relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Satan has been very active as men have pursued this ‘mind trip’ – intellectual pride, philosophizing, ‘vain

disputation', having a form of Godliness but denying the power of it. This in turn has led to massive sectarianism and cults by the thousands. **If Babel takes the blame for corrupting the church, the Evangelicals must take the blame for segmenting it!** What appeared to be honest efforts to 'get back to God' proved mostly to be man getting back to himself, his own ideas and abilities. However, God our Father rewards honest hearts and in His own timing he released His Holy Spirit in new anointing power on those who sought His face. Out of this has come about the great Pentecostal and Charismatic movements. These movements have also experienced persecution from both Babylonian and Evangelical denominational leaders, and this has resulted in some reversion to New Testament legalism and, in some places, a new Pentecostal traditionalism. However the movement has survived to be the springboard for God to pour out his latter rain Spirit on **the whole church** beginning with the Catholics(!). Not surprisingly it has been the evangelicals who have been the most resistant to the Spirit – having taken the stand that spiritual gifts disappeared with the original apostles to explain their own powerlessness. (*Jer. 17:5; II Tim. 3:1-10; Joel 2:23; Zech. 10:1*).

The Babylonians treat the 'charismatic problem' more casually – quietly absorbing the move of God with their usual subtlety, diluting it to powerlessness with a web of ecclesiastical control. Chorus singing and dancing are allowed to keep the Charismatics happy but nobody in the new anointing may operate in areas reserved for the initiated clergy!

Above all else, the Evangelicals have deceived themselves and us through their preaching a **man centered gospel**: 'Will you accept Jesus' (!!!?). Jesus is proclaimed as 'healer, saviour, fixer of every problem situation' but not as Lord. Public results can be good but the retention rate is usually less than 5%. Where do the 95% go, having 'given Christianity a go' but found it powerless to do the things that they were told it would do for them? The Lord help us to repent for causing them to stumble. We must bring people in on the right foundation – repentance from dead works and faith towards the power of God within us as we receive the Holy Spirit and allow Him to be released to work in and through us.

## OUR ATTITUDE AND RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM

Despite the Evangelical and Pentecostal movements, the Babylonian branches of the church remain strong today. In fact in some quarters there is a strong counter-reformation movement back to unity with Rome. In Australia, the Methodists have absorbed the Congregationalists and most of the Presbyterians, and are busy preparing to re-unite with the Anglicans. The Anglicans in turn are talking to Rome. Remarkably even the Churches of Christ are considering joining

the movement, having failed to bring about unity by setting up their 'back to the Bible church order' as they originally naively supposed. Babylon is strong! And so is the arm of flesh! What are we to do about it?

Firstly we need to remind ourselves that, despite the Babylonian errors and human government, the church is still the Church of Jesus Christ. Whatever its faults it is still His – He bought it with His blood. We dare not judge it or any of our brethren. Certainly we can discern nothing from what church denomination our brethren belong or do not belong to. We are brethren through one thing – our common unity with Jesus by the Holy Spirit. God's people are found in every branch of the church and beyond it. The last thing that will be helpful is for us to try to re-judge the issue of who is in the Kingdom and who is not. Better that we pay attention to the errors in our own life - but not by self-effort please, only as the Holy Spirit discloses them. (*Rom. 8:9; Matt. 7:1-5; Rom. 14:4; I Cor. 4:1-5; Luke 13:1-5*).

This leads us to the second point: Our calling is to personal obedience and to let God deal with the brethren. We must release our brethren totally so that they can pursue their walk with Jesus which may be quite different from our own at a point in time. The more we walk with the Lord personally, the more we realize what tremendous grace has been operating in our lives for a very long time. God is not condemning us; realizing this we are less liable to call down fire from heaven on others, rather look for their salvation. Jesus is the Judge, not us! He knows exactly the condition of His people. He also told us what He would do about it in the parable of the tares. He will deal with it at the end of the age. Who amongst us is ready for the judgment? Therefore, do not judge your brother, even if he persecutes you and says all manner of evil against you for Christ's sake. (*Luke 9:51-56; Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43; Zeph. 3:8-20; Joel 2:28-32, 3:2-21; Matt. 7:21-23*).

Scripture speaks explicitly of the Final Judgment (the Day of the Lord). At that time Jesus will separate what is under the government of God (the Kingdom) and what is not! Jesus, Himself gave plenty of guidance as to how He will judge us – so we are without excuse even if we, who are God's unprofitable slaves, had any rights in the matter. Many unfortunately will be surprised to find themselves never having come under the government of God; others will be surprised to be received; many of us who have judged others according to our own ideas will be surprised also! (*Matt. 13:40-43; Matt. 25:1-13, 14-30, 31-46*).

How then should we live? Jesus instructs us – in lowliness of spirit, meekness, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, living in mercy and purity of heart, having peace with God within and making

peace with others our aim, accepting with joy the persecution and false accusations which are sure to follow us. Above all, let us see that none of this is possible in our own strength. Let us walk in the power of God's Spirit as His sons. Let us seek to bring ourselves under His government that we might be resurrected to reward and not to everlasting punishment. In particular, let us be extremely careful that we are not operating according to our own ideas; let Isaiah's instruction be our guide absolutely in the matter of where we should be in the church – if the Spirit says 'stay – STAY; if He says 'move out' – MOVE OUT. Obedience is crucial here as in all things. It is very easy to repeat the mistakes of the Evangelicals! (*Luke 17: 7-10; Luke 18:9-14; Luke 12:41-48; Matt. 21:28-32; Matt. 5:3-12; Matt. 10:16-19; John 6:1-3; Phil. 3:11; Rev. 20:11-15; Rev. 21:1-8; Is. 52:12*).

### **GOD'S PLAN TO DESTROY BABYLON AND THE ARM OF FLESH**

Our Father always has His men. Elijah thought he was alone but the Lord still had 7 000 who had never bowed the knee to Baal (Nimrod). We also need to know and remember that 'they that are with us are more than they who are with them'. Even if we are on our own, we are much more powerful than the host of the enemy while we hold on to Jesus' hand! The eventual fall and destruction of Babylon (study KP4) is described in scripture. Ecclesiastical Babylon will be destroyed first; God using political Babylon to destroy her. Finally, King Jesus will destroy political Babylon and the power behind it, Satan himself. But the judgment (separation work) will begin with the church (*I Kings 19:18; II Kings 6:13-17; Rev. 17:15-18; Rev. 19:11-21; Rev. 20:1-15; I Peter 4:17*).

The key to all of this is found in Isaiah's prophecy, Is.13:3: 'I have commanded (not invited) my sanctified mighty one... even to them that rejoice in My Name! The separated 'mighty ones' of God serve Him with gladness of heart. God's army is built on LOVE RELATIONSHIPS; Satan's hordes are controlled by fear of his fierce anger. Jesus says, "If you love me, keep my commandments". What a privilege and a joy to serve such a Master. Let us rejoice that we no longer serve the other one! Also, let us not take Jesus' love for granted less we crucify Him afresh by willful disobedience. (*Is. 13:1-5; John 14:15; Heb.6:4-12*).

Scripture gives us a detailed picture as to how the Lord will bring down Babylon and the arm of flesh, and come Himself to rule the Church and the World. This is found in the early history of David, King of Israel. When Israel asked for a King (although God Himself would have been their King), God gave them Saul. Saul was anointed to be King by God and given every help and encouragement in that office. Despite that anointing, his obedience was incomplete and this

led him on a slippery path to a terrible death. Saul was a head (intellect) and shoulders (arm of flesh) man. He failed but God already had His new-anointed in the system. At first Saul welcomed David's charismatic chorus singing but when the new anointing proved powerful in the battle he opposed David in fits of jealous anger. It can be very uncomfortable to be the new anointing! Saul was ambivalent, loving and hating at the same time; there will be times when you think that he is receiving you with honour – do not believe him or you may find yourself with a javelin in your belly! As many are finding these days, with head and shoulder men in control of churches, the new anointing either has to leave through the back window or be pinned to the wall by Saul. For the Spirit led believer it is a testing time but the Father ensures we are lovingly guided and cared for if we are open to Him. We should read the history of David again and again until we have completely absorbed the spirit of this man who heart was after God's own heart. (*I Sam. 15, 18 to 21,26-30; II Sam. 1 to 5:1-10; I Sam. 16:1-13; I Sam. 18:10-11; I Sam. 19:12*).

Many who have received the Spirit's anointing in recent days do not appear to know the way forward. They are like those in Israel under the Judges who have experienced a refreshment but have returned to their own tribes, families and traditions. They feel free to do what is right in their own eyes – there being no King in Israel! They know the refreshment but have not yet come to obedience. There is much teaching by charismatic leaders that God is sending His Spirit to renew the old wineskins of the denominations; there is no scriptural pattern for such an event, whatever these leaders say about it! The only pattern is Saul/David. (*Judges 21:24-25; Mark 221-22*).

While Saul is in Jerusalem, David/Jesus is in Adullam and Ziklag. Those whom God separates to Himself must also find themselves in Adullam and Ziklag. They are clasped in His hand like stars; they carry His marks of disciplines upon them but love Him enough to want nothing else but to be with Him and to serve Him only. (*I Cor. 12:1-22; Rev. 1:16; Gal. 6:17*).

Perhaps the greatest revelation David ever had was that God would kill Saul and it was definitely not his responsibility. So we also need to be careful that we do not touch God's anointed. God will deal with the head and shoulders men while we are at Ziklag with Jesus. It is God who puts everything under our feet and gives us the Kingdom. As Saul is destroyed, we will move to Hebron. (A great many more our brethren will join us there. What a reunion!). Then, finally, we will move to Zion where God has commanded the blessing for evermore. Where are you? Are you with Saul in Jerusalem or with David at Ziklag? Do you have idols that disallow you from following God's call to separation? Babylon has

always been God's provision for idolatry. That is probably why He does not deal with Babylon immediately today. Examine your heart in quiet consultation with the Holy Spirit and the scripture (*I Sam. 28:16-22; I Chron. 12:23-40; Jer. 31:10-14; Ps. 133:3; Rev. 6:10*).

No-one who belongs to Jesus need miss the new anointing that the Spirit is bringing today. For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect towards Him! Let those of us who have received the anointing remember on our part that it is extremely important what we do with it. Of whom much is given, much is expected. So do not let 'head and shoulders' men talk you out of it. (*II Chron. 16:9; Luke 12:48; Matt. 25:14-30*).

### THE MIGHTY ONES

Throughout the history of Israel we meet God's mighty leaders: Joshua, Gideon, Deborah and Barak. But what about ordinary soldiers like us?

See Zebulun and Naphtali who:

- Risked their lives in the fiercest parts of the battle;
- Who took no money but fought with instructions from heaven,
- Who knew that the battle was not against flesh and blood but against wicked spiritual forces in the air.

Look at those with David:

- They were balanced, two handed men. Balance is vital in spiritual warfare. All scriptural principles are finely balanced so that we **do not** stand on principles but on the rock of our relationship with Jesus. For example, take the two statements: 'Without me you can do nothing' and 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me'. These are both positive instructions but one without the other easily leads to weakness and inactivity on one hand or presumption on the other. The balanced man has both thoughts in his mind at the same time (*I Chron. 11:10-47; John 5:5; Phil. 4:13*).
- They were trained in the weapons of warfare and had their armour on. Do not leave the battle tower until you have completed your training. Even then it is wise to move with experienced men. (*I Chron. 12:18, 24, 33-37*).
- They knew how to keep rank. Those who cannot accept discipline in the tower are useless in the field. Learn to keep your inner victory so that you

can readily submit to your brethren who are over you in the Lord (*I Chron. 12:8-14; Eph.5:18-21*).

- They had an understanding of the times. They knew what God was doing and did not listen to men (*I Chron. 12:32*).
- Their heart was perfect towards their Lord to make Him King (*I Chron. 12:17-18, 31, 33, 38*).
- They were men of valour, proven in the fight (*I Chron. 12:21, 25; Rev. 7:9-17*).
- They are a great host, like the host of God, even at Ziklag; how much more were they a mighty army at Hebron and Mount Zion! If you sometimes feel alone it is an illusion!

If we have allowed the Holy Spirit to prepare and equip us; if we have soaked up the shared life freely given to us by those over us in the Lord, we too may be amongst those who go out to do exploits and make Jesus King. These signs shall follow them that believe! (*Mark 16:17-18*).

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### QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, describe what is meant in scripture by the phrase 'Jesus is Lord'.
2. What would you expect the church to be like if Jesus was physically present and ruling over it?
3. How can we individuals make Jesus Lord of our lives?
4. What things in the church suggest that Babylonian principles are present? What things suggest that the arm of flesh is operating?
5. What caused Saul to fall? What saved David?
6. Where do you think the church of Jesus is at the moment? Where are you? Why are you there?

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*Post your answers to:*

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