



uncommon
THE HOLY ONE OF GOD IS COMING

LESSONS:

1. Was Jesus just Common? (12/7)
2. He would be Compassionate and Holy (12/14)
3. His Birth would Announce His Kingdom (12/21)
4. His Childhood Among the Religious (12/28)
5. His Life Growing Up Among the Gentiles (1/4)
6. The Challenges of the Jewish Religion (1/11)
7. The Challenges of Gentile Religions (1/18)
8. The Creator Among the Created (1/25)
9. The Lord Against the Deceiver (2/1)
10. The Priest Among the Worshippers (2/15)
- 11. The King Among the Citizens (2/22)**
12. The Hope of the Nations (3/1)

Lesson 11 | **The King Among The Citizens** (2/22)

Luke 17:20-21; Matthew 12:22-32; Acts 2:22-36; 8:12; 20:25; 28:30-31; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:9-14; 1Thessalonians 2:12.

Objective | If it was “*at the right time*, Christ died for the ungodly” (Romans 6:6) and “*when the fulness of time came*, [that] God sent His Son.” (4:4), there is something helpful for us to understand the culture and the climate of the times in which Jesus lived. And He was born to be King.

- **The angel said to Mary**, ““Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and **the Lord God will give him the throne** of his father David. **He will reign** over the house of Jacob forever, and **his kingdom will have no end**” (Luke 1:30-33).
- **The angel said to the shepherds**, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is **the Messiah, the Lord**” (Luke 2:10-11).

Jesus Christ is the “King” and His reign and kingdom are present – not future.

- When he was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming with something observable; 21 no one will say, ‘See here!’ or ‘There!’ For you see, the kingdom of God is in your midst” (within you, KJV). Then he told the disciples, “The days are coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you won’t see it. 23 They will say to you, ‘See there!’ or ‘See here!’ Don’t follow or run after them. For as the lightning flashes from horizon to horizon and lights up the sky, so the Son of Man will be in his day. But first it is necessary that he suffer many things and be rejected **by this generation**” (Luke 17:20-25).

Because He executed His Power.

- Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and unable to speak was brought to him. He healed him, so that the man could both speak and see. All the crowds were astounded and said, “**Could this be the Son of David?**” When the Pharisees heard this, they said, “This man drives out demons only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.” Knowing their thoughts, he told them, “Every **kingdom** divided against itself is headed for destruction, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his **kingdom** stand? And if I drive out demons (*by my kingdom, dh*) by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons drive them out? For this reason they will be your judges. If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, **then the kingdom of God has come upon you.** (Or, is in your midst, NASB)...” (Matthew 12:22-32).

This was the message which was preached.

- *Peter preached the message to the Jews on Pentecost.* ‘For David says of him: “I saw the Lord ever before me; **because he is at my right hand**, I will not be shaken...” Brothers and sisters, I can confidently speak to you about the patriarch David: He is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that **God had sworn an oath to him to seat one of his descendants on his throne.** Seeing what was to come, he spoke concerning the resurrection of the Messiah... God has raised this Jesus; we are all witnesses of this. Therefore, since **he has been exalted to the right hand of God** and has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit, he has poured out what you both see and hear... Therefore, let all the house of Israel know with certainty that **God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah**’ (Acts 2:25-36).
- *Philip preached the message to the Samaritans.* “After they came to believe Philip, **who preached the good news about God’s kingdom** and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized” (Acts 8:12).

- *Paul preached the message to the Ephesian Elders:* When the [elders, dh] arrived, Paul said to them, “You know that I did not hesitate to proclaim anything to you that was profitable and to teach you publicly and from house to house. I testified to both Jews and Greeks **about repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus...** (Acts 20:20-36).
 - *To the Ephesians he wrote,* “He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and **seating him at his right hand in the heavens**— far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And **he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything** for the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way” (1:20-23).
 - *And again,* “For through him... you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints” (2:18-19).
- *Paul wrote to Colossae:* “He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and **transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.** 14 In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.... He is also the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so **that he might come to have first place in everything**” (1:13-18).
- *Paul wrote to Thessalonica:* “You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devoutly, righteously, and blamelessly we conducted ourselves with you believers. As you know, like a father with his own children, we encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of you to walk worthy of God, **who calls you into his own kingdom and glory**” (1Thessalonians 1:10-12).
- *And Luke writes,* “Paul stayed two whole years in his own rented house. And he welcomed all who visited him, **proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance**” (Acts 28:30-31).

And then to Philippi, Paul wrote: “Brothers and sisters, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even as I weep, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who have their minds on earthly things. **For our citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our lowly condition into conformity with His glorious body, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself” (3:20-21).

Just as a king must have a people over whom to reign, the King of God’s kingdom, the Lord Jesus Christ, reigns the world – and His citizens are those who have yielded to His Crown – those men and women who have been called through this good news from every nation and tribe and language and people to be citizens of His kingdom.

The prophets proclaimed this Kingdom as a rebuilt tabernacle of David (c.f. Acts 15:16) where not only will Israel and Judah be united under one King (c.f. Jeremiah 23:3-8; 30:9; 33:7-26; Ezekiel 37:15-28; Hosea 1:11), but that rebuilt tabernacle and nation under the new David would be decidedly Jewish and Gentile (Isaiah 2:2-3; 11:10; 43:8-10; Amos 9:11-15). Jesus Christ came as the true Seed of Abraham (Galatians 3:16), in whom God fulfills all His promises (2Corinthians 1:20). Therefore, all who are united to Christ and have put on Christ in baptism have become true descendants of Abraham and heirs according to the promise (Galatians 3:29; see also Rom. 4:16). Hence to be an heir of the promises to Abraham is to be an heir of the promises to David: Jesus the Christ is the One through who they all intertwine and co-exist. Alluding to Exodus 19:6, Peter calls God’s kingdom people, both Jews and Gentiles, “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for [God’s] own possession” (1Peter 2:9). Thus, a new people of God, comprising Jews and Gentiles, become His kingdom citizens, united together under one head, David’s son, Christ Jesus (Romans 9:24-26). Through the proclamation of that gospel, God gathers the chosen people from the ends of the earth, uniting them as kingdom citizens.

And finally, the new order of eternal celebration in the new heaven and new earth is the ultimate fulfillment of the ingathering of God's kingdom citizens where God dwells among His people, and they enjoy everlasting perfect communion with God and with one another (2Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1-4).

Back to Colossians 1:12-13, Paul said we were conveyed into the Kingdom. He "brought" us (NIV, NCV); He "delivered" us (NKJV, NET); or "transferred" us (NASB 2020, ESV) The word "conveyed" gives a good sense of the Greek word *methistēmi* (Strong's #3179). Other translations, like the King James Version (or Young's Literal Translation 98) renders it as "translated," which is a bit archaic in today's English. It means "to cause a change of position," "to transfer," "to cause to change sides," or literally, "to cause a change in standing."

This verse says something that many of us read over without realizing what it implies. God the Father has transferred, brought, or put us in the Kingdom of God, in His Family! If God is calling us citizens in His Kingdom and His Son's Kingdom, it is because by grace we are His sons and daughters, or younger brothers and sisters, **right now** (see Romans 8:14-17; 2Corinthians 6:17-18; Galatians 4:6-7; Philippians 2:15; etc.)—and we are calling Him Father and even more intimately, "Abba"—we are right now part of the God Family. Certainly, we are not yet what we will be (that will not happen until the resurrection), but *we are already His children*. **He has changed our position or standing from spiritually dead human beings to active members of His Son's Kingdom.**

So, in considering how many members are in the God Family right now, we may not have realized that there are more than just two. Only the Father and the Son know the true count, but it is likely a number in the many thousands from the time of Abel. Perhaps several thousand people alive today are already considered sons and daughters of the Father!

It is easy to see ourselves as citizens of an earthly nation because that is where we have been born and lived our lives. But God's calling and the knowledge of our new loyalties should point us away from identifying ourselves with this world's citizens, events, and organizations. Paul starkly reminds us in Colossians 1:13 that this world, which many of us still keep one foot in, is part of "the power of darkness" from which the Father has removed us. We simply cannot afford to lean back into it.

Jesus says in John 14:23, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." We are part of Them, and They, of us.

Is this how we see ourselves? Is this how we think of ourselves on a daily basis while living in this world? We may remember this fact occasionally, but all too often, not often enough. Sometimes, we find ourselves identifying with an aspect of what this world promotes. But when you remember this teaching is not something to be merely believed – but brought to life in our lives.

Just one thing: **As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ.** Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are *standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel, not being frightened in any way by your opponents*. This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your salvation—and this is from God. For it has been granted to you on Christ's behalf not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are engaged in the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I have (Philippians 1:27-30).

He is the King. We are His Citizens. His Law reigns supreme. And we must together shine as lights in the world – lights of Him. And He, will win the war.

Next Lesson: 11. The Hope of the Nations (3/1).

Read ahead: Luke 1:46-55; Matthew 12:15-21; Colossians 1:26-27; Romans 15:8-13

Compassionate Creator: Becoming Human For Me by Bruce Morton; Chapter 10
Sold on Amazon and 21st Century Christian or other Christian Bookstores.