

Your Kingdom Come
Matthew 1:6-11

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Recently, we just had an election—I can reference it now, right?—and, obviously, some people were hype, others were distraught. We saw people in fear of losing our democracy, people were stressed and anxious, and people even lost family and friends over their differing opinions! And I just got to reflecting on how this kind of thing happens EVERY 4 years here. And it happens every four years...why? Because none of our leaders are ever wise enough, good enough, just enough, moral enough...to ever make things the way we want them!

It got me thinking...Wouldn't it be nice to have a leader who never had any moral failures, who was always wise and just, and who could bring about the kind of world we long for?

We're in a series right now called Kingdom Come. But like, "King?" and "Kingdom?" Weird, no? We don't have kings anymore (My fiancé is a *queen*, of course, but no more kings). Yet, as I read the New Testament, one thing is crystal clear: Jesus isn't just a good teacher or a Savior for individuals. He's the King over everything—the universe, the nations, and yes, my life and yours. And he's the King our world *needs*. This is undoubtedly clear in **Matthew 1**. Let's read...

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

What in the world is Matthew trying to show us about Jesus the King from THIS? Three things...

1. Jesus is the long-awaited King.

Let me take you back to a promise God made to King David and Bible-nerd out on you...

2 Samuel 7:12-16: "When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son...Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

There are three parts of this promise that God makes I want to point out. God promises...

- (1) To establish an eternal kingdom** – it won't be here today, gone tomorrow; it's eternal!
- (2) To allow David's son to build God's temple** – the place where God will permanently dwell
- (3) To create an unfailing father-son relationship** – unceasing intimate covenant relationship

This was the promise! These were the hopes of Israel! Only, because of the *kinds* of kings Israel had, it didn't seem like these promises would come to fruition! Let's go through our genealogy...

- Consider **David** himself: Was he a “man after God’s own heart?” Yes! But was he also rife with sin? Also yes!
- Or Consider **Solomon**: In many ways, Solomon ushered in a “golden age” for the people of Israel. Material abundance? Check. Wise political leaders? Check. Newly built Temple for worship? Check! But eventually Solomon fell into idolatry and sin. Take a look... “As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods...He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites...he did not follow the Lord completely...” (1 Kings 11:4-6).
- Or consider **Rehoboam**: Rehoboam was the son of King Solomon and you'd think that he'd learn from dad and granddad. But no. He enacted harsh policies and when the people asked for him to lighten their load, he responded: “My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions” (1 Kings 24:14). You see the pride? The arrogance? Rehoboam broke Israel's back with his exploits. Not a great king!
- Or consider **Jehoram**: This is on down a ways chronologically from Rehoboam, but Jehoram reigned for 8 years in Israel and you know how he's characterized in Scripture? 2 Kings 8:18, “He did evil in the eyes of the Lord.”
- Or, last one, consider **Ahaz**. Ahaz was a wicked king. Couple examples for you: (1) He engaged in child sacrifice: “He...sacrificed his son in the fire, engaging in the detestable practices of the nations” (2 Kings 16:3); (2) He led Judah into Idolatry: “He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the high places, on the hilltops and under every spreading tree” (2 Kings 16:4); and (3) He made alliances with Assyria: he said to Tiglath-Pileser, “I am your servant and vassal” (2 Kings 16:7), in hopes that Tiglath would save him from his enemies instead of relying on God!

Need I go on?! Each king that came to the throne was like each time we inaugurate a new president. People would think, “Maybe THIS is the guy!” But none of the kings of Israel, even the decent ones like **Hezekiah** or **Josiah**, could enact God's law perfectly, free the people from oppression, establish the kingdom forever, and bring about justice, peace, and righteousness in the land. Instead, as the kings went, so the people went. Israel, originally one, split into two. The people fell into idolatry and sin. The poor were oppressed. Until FINALLY, the people ended up under the rule of **Jecooniah**, which led to their exile.

Now, what's interesting is that the poets of Israel *pick up* on these promises and would confidently celebrate it when things are good...

Psalm 2: “Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed (that

Davidic King figure), saying, 'Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.' The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them."

Or and yearn for it when things are bad...

Psalm 89: "I have bestowed strength on a warrior; I have raised up a young man from among the people (talking about this Davidic King figure)...But you have rejected...your anointed one. You have renounced the covenant with your servant and have defiled his crown in the dust...How long, Lord? Will you hide yourself forever? How long will your wrath burn like fire?"

Or how about we transition to the prophets who, in the middle of chaos, prophesied of a time when God would *fulfill* His covenant with David and establish his Kingdom through a *Messiah!*

- Consider Isaiah 9:6-7: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever."
- Or Jeremiah 33: "In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land..."
- Or Ezekiel 34:23-24 "I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken."

This is what the people longed for! Now, let's re-read **Matthew 1:1**. It's in this context Matthew writes: "This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham..."
A.K.A. "PEOPLE OF ISRAEL! THE WAIT. IS. OVER! THE KING HAS COME!"

You know what Matthew is saying?? He's saying all those promises...

The promise for an eternal throne, fulfilled in Jesus;

The promise for a temple built, fulfilled in Jesus;

The promise for an unending father-son relationship, fulfilled in Jesus!

Jesus is the *long-awaited* King. Which leads to point #2. He's not the long-awaited anybody...

2. Jesus is the long-awaited King.

I was talking with my fiancé the other day and she essentially asked me the question, "Why do you follow Jesus?" I said, "Honey, that's easy...because ministers only work one day a week!" Just kidding.

- Here's ONE reason: In my room at home I have a picture called "Christ Pantocrator" which is a Greek phrase that means "ruler of all" or "all-powerful. Part of why I do what I do is because he's my King and I live to serve Him! THIS reality has changed everything for me. My life isn't just mine anymore, it's HIS! Sometimes I'm disloyal, sometimes I'm disobedient. Sometimes I'd rather live for myself. But HE is King!
- And this is what Matthew says in Matthew 1:1, "This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David..." Jesus is **Messiah**. Jesus is *King* whether you like it or not. Sorry not sorry. He makes the rules. Not you or me.

But that's not the only reason. It's not like I do ministry begrudgingly! Here's a question for you: That phrase, "Son of David," is used all throughout Matthew. But WHEN it's used, do you know what one of the KEY characteristics of Jesus' character being displayed is? Strength? Power? Righteousness? None of those. *It's his mercy.*

Over and over again, broken people, hurting people, poor people approach Jesus seeking his compassion. And when they come to him, what do they say? They cry, "Son of David, have *mercy* on me!" Just one example: Matthew 9:27-30: "As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, 'Have mercy on us, Son of David!' When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?' 'Yes, Lord,' they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, 'According to your faith let it be done to you;' and their sight was restored."

When I heard that, I was blown away. Because you know what this means?? It means...

MERCY for those who need it; *MERCY* for those on the down and out; *MERCY* for the broken; *MERCY* for those at the end of their rope; *MERCY* for the guilty; *MERCY* for the embittered; *MERCY* for the failures; *MERCY* for sinners; *MERCY* for you; *MERCY* for me!

Now, let's apply this: SOME of you need to recognize Jesus is King and surrender. One of my favorite Bible verses is Romans 14:8-9. OTHERS of you need to hear that Jesus is merciful right now. And the good news? He is *both* of these things.

So, Jesus is the long-awaited King. And, finally, point #3...

3. Jesus is the long-awaited King who *brings the heavenly kingdom.*

What's the kingdom?? The Kingdom is this idea centered on God's reign, which entails this idea of Him making right everything that's sad or bad in this world (or your world)!

But here's reality: *there is no kingdom without the King.*

Over Thanksgiving, I was up in Michigan with the fam and with Ashley. And we wanted to go see Christmas lights. So, mom gets to searching around. Oh, there's a place in Grand Rapids. Oh, this place opens TONIGHT! Oh, this'll be fun because they also have a little Christmas Market!

So, we made our plan: Drive to grand rapids (1 hour away), go to Christmas market, eat out, do lights. Sounds great, right?? You want to know what happened?

We get in the car. We drive to Grand Rapids. We get to the Christmas market and...THEY'RE CLOSED. Ok, ok, no worries. Still have the light show. We go to dinner. Dinner is good. We're amped for lights. We drive to the ballpark for lights AND...THEY WERE CLOSED! Mom's face fell. All our hopes went crashing to the floor! And there was nothing on their website, no warning!

Guess what happened? Later we found out: someone had gone in and vandalized the place by cutting wires!

Here's why I share that: just like how the lights were cut for Christmas light party 2024, in a similar way, no matter how much we long for a perfect world, SATAN plots to steal it, SIN corrupts to ruin it, and DEATH destroys to prevent it. *And none of our human strategies will fix it* – not ramping up education, not voting in new politicians, not eschewing religion for “pure rationality,” not redistributing wealth. And no matter how much you long for your world to be perfect, nothing you can do will make it so. NOTHING.

You want swords turned into plowshares? *there is no kingdom without the King.*

You want lions to lie down with lambs? *there is no kingdom without the King.*

You want no more mourning, crying, or pain? *there is no kingdom without the King.*

You want no more death? *there is no kingdom without the King.*

You want satisfaction, purpose, and meaning? *there is no kingdom without the King.*

You know, it's amazing—when we read the genealogy in Matthew 1, and we get to King Asa, in Greek Matthew actually spells it not A.S.A., but rather ASAPH. And in the genealogy, when we get to King Amon, Matthew doesn't spell it A.M.O.N., he actually switches out the “N” for an “S.” So, in Greek, it spells AMOS. What? Asaph is a poet. Amos is a prophet. You know what Matthew's doing here?? Matthew is *winking* at us. In a literary way, he's saying, “Jesus doesn't just fulfill Israel's hopes for a King, but also the hope of the Psalms (Asaph) and the hopes of the Prophets (Amos).”

Only Jesus can bring the kingdom. Without Him, justice fails, hope fades, and peace is impossible. **There is no kingdom without the King. Jesus is the long-awaited King who brings the heavenly kingdom.**

Now, to end: And I hate that I'm ending like this, but I want you to think about the waiting and anticipation and the longing wrapped up in Taylor Swift coming to town recently! Seriously.

Our city prepared to receive her, our city planned for her arrival, people waited to see her. So, for Taylor Swift, a bunch of PREPARING, PLANNING, and WAITING (I even know some gals who worked Colts games and other events as ushers to get into the concert for free) – but the city waited...until FINALLY...the wait was over! T-Swift came and all of our longings were fulfilled!)

Friends, Christ has come as the long-awaited King. He will come again to bring the fullness of His Kingdom. How do you need to prepare now for that reality? What plans do you need to make? Or adjust? Are you waiting in purity, in hopefulness, in eager anticipation of his arrival?