

# Jesus the Crucified King

2 Samuel 7:8-16    John 19:1-19

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Pastor Dave Bolte



**Matthew, Mark and Luke**, called the Synoptic Gospels<sup>1</sup>, all tell the story of Jesus' passion: His suffering and death. They each tell the story in a similar way without too much variation. They are the 2 or 3 witnesses that establish the truth <sup>Dt 19:15</sup> that Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior of the World.

But the **Gospel of John** tells the story of Jesus' passion, His suffering and death, from a different point of view. In the Gospel of John, the emphasis is that Jesus is the **King of the Jews<sup>2</sup>** who is rejected by the Jews and crucified by the Romans. The Lord came to His own, but His own people did not receive Him (John 1:11). The long awaited, Old Testament, Messianic King of Israel is rejected, persecuted, and killed by His own people. It is a **tragic irony** in the Gospel of John and in the history of God's People.

But of course, *it was all according to God's plan*; and the Lord made the Jew's rejection of their King the *centerpiece of His plan of salvation!*

Jesus is indeed the long awaited, Messianic King of Israel, but in His suffering and death, this King dies for all people and all nations! The King of Heaven and Earth and everything in them takes our place on the cross and pays the penalty for our sin. *The King of the Jews dies --- so the people of the earth can live!*

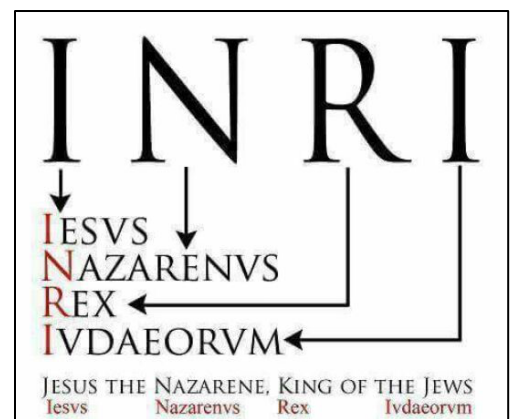
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<sup>1</sup> The word "Synoptic" means to "see together". In theology, it's a way to describe how similar Matthew, Mark, and Luke are written. All three of those gospels "see together", they write about similar things. Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell the story of Jesus using many overlapping stories, miracles, and teachings. They function as the Old Testament's principle of "2 or 3 witnesses that establish a truth" (Deuteronomy 19:15). Because they are so similar, they are called the "Synoptic Gospels," that is, they see together.

<sup>2</sup> "King of the Jews" is a Messianic Promise (= *prophecy*) from King David's days. It is recorded in 2 Samuel 7:8-16, where God promises that one of King David's sons will be a great King with an eternal Kingdom. The designation "Son of David" is a close synonym to "King of the Jews". Jesus fulfills this prophecy, as His genealogies prove (Matt 1, Luke 3) that He is the Son of David (according to His human nature.) He is the "Messianic King" of the Jews who was promised in the Old Testament and has an eternal Kingdom. There are many places where the New Testament show us this prophecy coming true in His life.

This is how John teaches the passion story of Jesus. From start to finish, it's all about Jesus is the King, but He is rejected by the Jews and crucified by the Romans. Here is the **Kingly tread** through John's passion account ... I am sure you will recognize these events:

- ⇒ On Palm Sunday, the believers in Jerusalem acclaim Jesus as the **King of Israel** in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" (John 19:15) As Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a colt, the people respond with outward signs of faith and honor for their King --> they wave palm branches and they sing songs of joy!
- ⇒ After Jesus is arrested, He is interrogated by Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. The interview with Pilate is based solely on the theme of Jesus the King. Jesus teaches Pilate that He is indeed a King, but **His Kingdom is not of this world**. Pilate, Caesar, and the Roman Empire have nothing to fear.
- ⇒ Later, the Roman soldiers pound a **crown** of thorns into His head; and throw a purple **robe** on Him. The **crown** and the **robe** are signs of a King. The Roman soldiers then beat Jesus and mock Him by saying, "**Hail, King of the Jews!**"
- ⇒ The Roman Governor Pontius Pilate then presents the beaten, flogged, and bloodied Jesus to the Jews – Jesus is still wearing the **crown** of thorns and the purple **robe**. Pilate says to the Jews, "**Behold your King!**" and later he will ask them, "**Shall I crucify your King?**"
- ⇒ The Jews reject Jesus, their long awaited, Messianic King of Israel, one more time, by saying, "**We have no King but Caesar!**"
- ⇒ And the **final, climactic moment** is when Pontius Pilate places a sign over Jesus on the cross that says, "**Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews!**"



This is how John teaches the passion story of Jesus. From start to finish, it's all about

Jesus, the **Messianic King of the Jews**  
is rejected by the Jews and crucified by the Romans.

It is a **terrible irony**, but yet, this is how your salvation was accomplished. Jesus was born in Bethlehem<sup>3</sup> knowing that He would die in Jerusalem. That is why He came into the world, to save the world through His life, death, and resurrection. He will bring eternal salvation to all people through His *rejection by the Jews* and *crucifixion by the Romans*.

The King shows His love for you by giving His life on a cross so that you are cleansed from your sins and will live with Him forever in His Heavenly Kingdom. *John's emphasis on Jesus the King shows you how much God loves you and what He will do to rescue you from your sin.*

Today be assured of God's love for you, be confident that your sins are forgiven, be certain that you have a home in heaven. The King of the Jews, who is also the Almighty God of Heaven and Earth, gave His life for you. You are that important to Him. He loves you that much.

In the Gospel of John, the Jews reject Jesus, and force the Romans crucify their Messianic King. *The Jews hostility and rejection of Jesus serves as a warning for all of us to make sure that we do not reject Jesus.* He is the only way of salvation, there is no other way. Without Christ, you are lost forever. Without Christ, you have no hope of eternal life. Don't reject Him. Don't ignore Him. Don't minimize Him. Jesus is the King who died in your place because of His great love for you. Trust in Him and believe in Him; make sure you are not rejecting Him. If you find that you are rejecting Him or the truth of His Word in some way or somehow, then repent, acknowledge your rejection as sin, confess it to God, and trust in His love and mercy for you. Don't reject Jesus like the Jewish leaders did in the Gospel John!

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<sup>3</sup> Bethlehem is the "City of David," the King of Israel (Luke 2:4). From King David's city comes David's Son, the Messianic King of the Jews who has an eternal Kingdom!

As those who are baptized in Christ, we know and believe that Jesus really is a King, and in faith, we live in His Kingdom. The “King” image highlights that all things are under His control. He promises to use His power and authority for good in your life. He is watching over you; He provides for you; He defends you; He strengthens you; the King of Heaven and Earth, the Messianic Son of David, knows you and cares about you. He promises to use His full, divine power and authority for good in your life!

You can depend on the Lord Jesus and His promises. Here are some examples

The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him <small>Nahum 1:7</small>
For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Fear not, I am the One who helps you.” <small>Isaiah 41:13</small>
Cast your cares on Him, because He cares for you. <small>1 Peter 5:7</small>
When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. <small>Psalms 34:17-18</small>

The King of Heaven and Earth, the Messianic Son of David, knows you and cares about you. He promises to use His full, divine power and authority for good in your life!

You now live in His Kingdom. Your daily life is lived in the Kingdom of God. Just as much as you are a citizen of United States of America, so too, you are also a citizen of God’s eternal Kingdom. *Your baptism is your passport that proves your citizenship!* Your life reflects your faith! Your goodness reflects God's goodness to you. Your kindness reflects the Lord's kindness. Your generosity reflects God's generosity. Your love reflects God's love for you. We live holy lives in the Kingdom of God; *you live in the world, but you are not of the world.* Ever since your Baptism, you have been a citizen of the Kingdom of God, and the Lord Jesus Christ is your loving, all-powerful, crucified, risen, and saving King!

The passion of Christ in the Gospel of John is all about Jesus the King. The Jews rejected Him and the Romans crucified Him; but God made Him the Savior of the world! You belong to him; you live your life in His Kingdom, and your allegiance is to your King!

**Amen!**